


**PEACE AT HOME,
PEACE IN THE WORLD**

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 1931/Turkey

Hoşgeldiniz Toplantımıza
Welcome To Our Meeting

**THE EFFECT OF AN EXTENDED
GRAZING SEASON
ON GRAZING & FEEDLOT
PERFORMANCE**



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**IN THE CATTLE FEEDING
INDUSTRY**

Feedlot capacity is effected
by various factors

- Drought
- High Grain Prices
- Ethanol Production
- Calf Supply

(CattleFax, 2013)

**Yearling and long-yearling cattle
make up 45-55% of total
feedlot placements.**

(Brink, 2011)

**Previous research at the Dickinson
Research Extension Center**

Early-weaned calves backgrounded
grazing fields of unharvested corn
have a competitive
economic advantage compared to
calves weaned normally.

(Landblom et al., 2010)

Grazing Higher Quality Forages

- Improves weight gain
- Reduces labor
- Reduces mechanical harvesting costs

(Landblom et al., 2010)

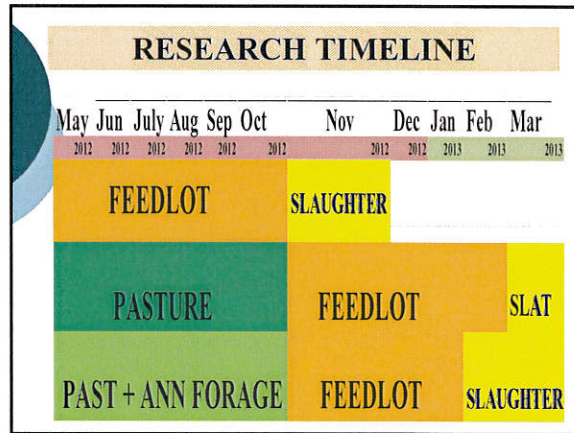
Research Objective
To compare two long-term yearling steer grazing systems with conventional feedlot to determine animal performance, carcass traits, meat quality and economics.

Methods
ANIMALS

- Three system treatment groups
- 141 steers, 5-7 frame score
- Based on age, frame score and starting weight

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

- **Feedlot Control (FLT)**
- **Perennial Pasture (PST)**
Crested Wheatgrass (CWG) → Native Range (NAT)
- **Perennial Pasture + Annual forage (ANN)**
Crested Wheatgrass (CWG) → Native Range (NAT)
Field Pea-barley (PBL) → Unharvested Corn (UCN)



GRAZING PERIOD PST (Avg.181/Days)

- **In Early May**
Steers were moved to Crested Wheatgrass (39/Days)
- **In Mid-June**
Steers were moved to Native Rangeland (142/Days)

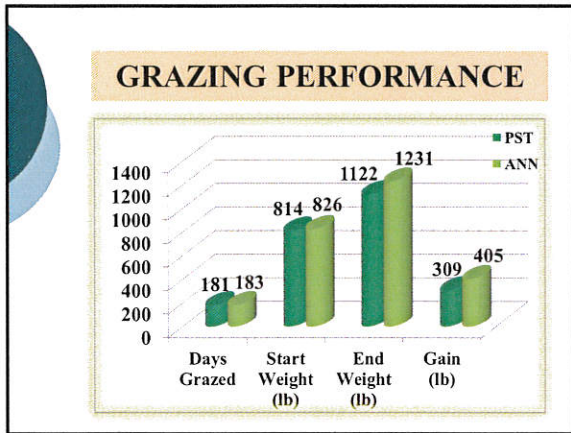
GRAZING PERIOD ANN (Avg.182/Days)

- **In Early May**
Steers were moved to Crested Wheatgrass (39/Days)
- **In Mid-August**
Steers were moved to Field Pea-barley (27/Days)
- **In Mid-June**
Steers were moved to Native Rangeland (61/Days)
- **In Mid-Sept**
Steers were moved to Unharvested Corn (55/Days)



**Effect of Grazing Systems
on Yearling Steer Grazing Performance**

	PST	ANN
Number of Steers	48	47
Days Grazed	181	183
Start Weight, lb.	814	826
End Weight, lb.	1122 ^a	1231 ^b
Weight Gain, lb.	309 ^a	405 ^b
ADG, lb.	1.71 ^a	2.21 ^b



- Live Carcass Measurements**
- Rib-Eye Muscle Area
 - External Fat Depth
 - Percent Intramuscular Fat

**Effect of Extended Grazing System
on Carcass Traits**

	PST	ANN
Rib-eye Area (sq. in.)		
End	8.66	10.86
Fat Depth (in.)		
End	0.23	0.33
Intramuscular Fat (%)		
End	3.22	4.13

