SARE Producer-Cooperator Project: Cattle Feeding Management Changes on our Farm

Lucas and Jolene Hoff November 5, 2014

Changes?

- Relocated handling facilities
- Wanted to change the way we managed manure and feeding for backgrounding

Mhys

Old facilities were too close to Hwy 8

Neighbors property line - no way to expand to the north

Too close low lying watershed

Didn't want to confine calves during background





What We Did

Handling Facilities:

- Relocated to well drained virgin land and diverted drainage
- Reconstructed cattle holding and sorting corrals
- Tapped into SW Water supply for year ground fresh water
- Located adjacent to cropland



What We Did

Modified Backgrounding after Weaning

- Weaned in confinement as usual for calves to recover from weaning (10 Days)
- Fed stress barrels and whole corn during the 10 day period
- After 10 days, Calves were put into a 30 ac. corn field next to the new corrals
- Calves grazed corn and some additional long grass hay as needed
- After an average 37 days, as corn was grazed off, more hay was fed along with a corn grain ration and supplement (Distillers Pro – DDGS balancer).
 - Year 1 Fed DDGS
 - Year 2 Fed Modified Wet distiller's grain





Calf Performance

Performance	2012	2013
Start Weight	507	511
32 Day Weight	549	
44 Day Weight		581
32 Day Gain	42	
44 Day Gain		71
32 Day ADG	1.31	
44 Day ADG		1.61



Ending Sale Weight and Calf Performance

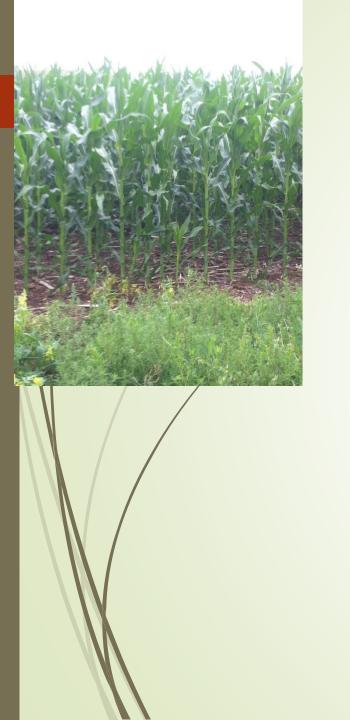
	2012	2013
Sale Weight & Perf:		
Feb 7, 2013	711	
Feb 6, 2014		695
Total Gain (98 days)	204	
Total Gain (96 days)		176
Total ADG	2.08	
Total ADG		1.84
2-Year Average Gain	190	
2-Year ADG	1.96	

Corn Grazing Economics

	2012	2013
32 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value 8,652# Gain @ \$1.55/Cwt	\$13,411	
44 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value 14,086# Gain @ \$1.78/Cwt		\$25,073
Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay	-\$1,589	
Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay		-\$2,742
Estimated Net Return (Yr 1, 32 days)	\$11,822	
Estimated Net Return (Yr 2, 44 days)		\$22,331
Corn Grazing Cost/Lb of Gain With Land Cost @ \$40/Ac	\$0.69	\$0.50
Gross Return/Ac	\$447	\$836

Net Return/Ac: Corn vs Beef

	2012	2013
Gross Return/Ac	\$447	\$836
Expenses:		
Farming Cost/Ac with Rent	\$147	\$147
Cattle Expenses (Per Ac Basis)	\$53	\$91
Total Cost/Ac	\$200	\$238
Net Return/Ac	\$227	\$598
ND Farm & Ranch Business Mgmt. Gross Return/Ac	\$505 (74bu)	\$374 (96 bu)
ND Farm & Ranch Business Mgmt. Net Return/Ac	\$178	\$28
Corn Grazing Advantage/Ac	\$49	\$570

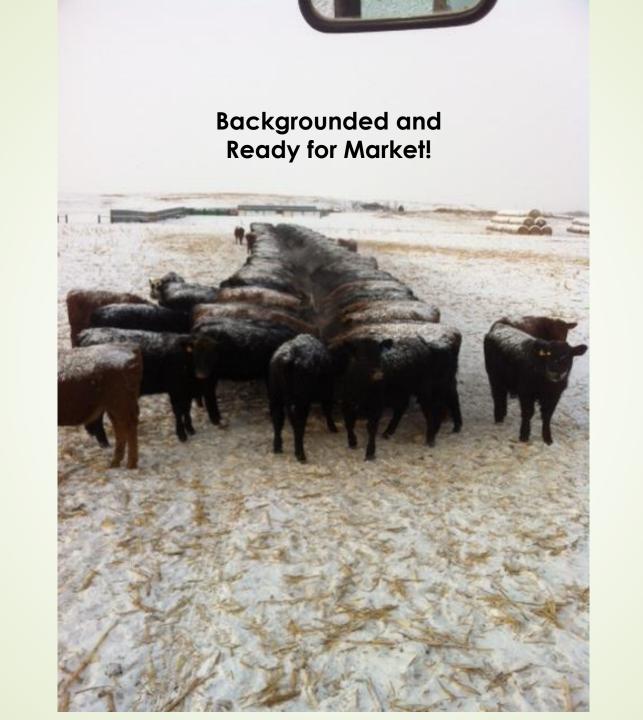












Even Hudson likes the returns!!

