



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

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# Changes?

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

## Why?

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 around 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
<b>32 Day ADG</b>	<b>1.31</b>	
<b>44 Day ADG</b>		<b>1.61</b>





# Ending Sale Weight and Calf Performance

	2012	2013
Sale Weight & Perf:		
Feb 7, 2013	<b>711</b>	
Feb 6, 2014		<b>695</b>
Total Gain (98 days)	<b>204</b>	
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)	<b>\$11,822</b>	
Estimated Net Return (Yr 2, 44 days)		<b>\$22,331</b>
Corn Grazing Cost/Lb of Gain With Land Cost @ \$40/Ac	<b>\$0.69</b>	<b>\$0.50</b>
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
<b>Corn Grazing Advantage/Ac</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$570</b>





**Backgrounded and  
Ready for Market!**



Even Hudson likes  
the returns!!

