



Grazing Annual Forages, Cover Crops & Residues to Improve Your Bottom Line

GROWING BEEF WITH FORAGES

LUCAS AND JOLENE HOFF STOCK AND GRAIN FARM

DOUG LANDBLOM

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Today's Goal

- ▶ 1. Backgrounding Calves with unharvested corn (Drought Mgmt)
- ▶ 2. Yearling steer graze to slaughter using forage sequence
- ▶ 3. Forage developed replacement heifers
- ▶ 4. Extending the grazing season for stock cows with cover crops, stockpiled tame grass, and crop residues
- ▶ 5. Fattening cull cows for slaughter grazing unharvested corn

Drought Strategy: Background Calves with Unharvested Corn

- ▶ Early weaned calves grazed unharvested corn starting in mid-August
- ▶ Normal weaned calves grazed unharvested corn starting in early-November
- ▶ Similar early and normal weaned groups were put into the feedlot at the same time
- ▶ Control calves were not weaned



Applying Information to the Farm

Cows

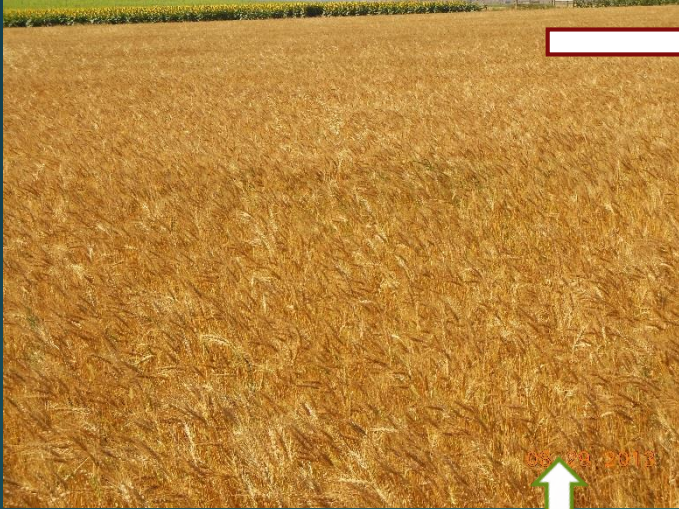
- ▶ Corn grazing can be used as a management technique during drought for early weaning
- ▶ Early weaning reduced cow and pasture stress. Terminating lactation reduces cow nutrient requirement by approximately 30%.
- ▶ Early weaning will reduce native pasture forage disappearance by 30 -36%.

Backgrounded Calves

- ▶ ADG: 2.2 Lb/day
- ▶ Acres of Corn/Steer/Month:
 - ▶ Early Wean – 0.21 ac/Str/Mth
 - ▶ Normal Wean – 0.44 ac/Str/Mth
- ▶ After frost, corn shrinks 1.25 T/A
- ▶ Calves grazed the highest quality material
- ▶ Cows followed the calves and grazed corn stalk residue.
- ▶ Stalk residue provided 28 days of grazing for a 1200 lb cow

Graze to Slaughter Crop Rotation

Year 1 - Spring Wheat



Year 2
Winter Triticale/Hairy Vetch
(Hay)



Year 3 - Forage
Corn
(Yearlings)



7-Way Cover Crop
(Dry Gestating
Cows)



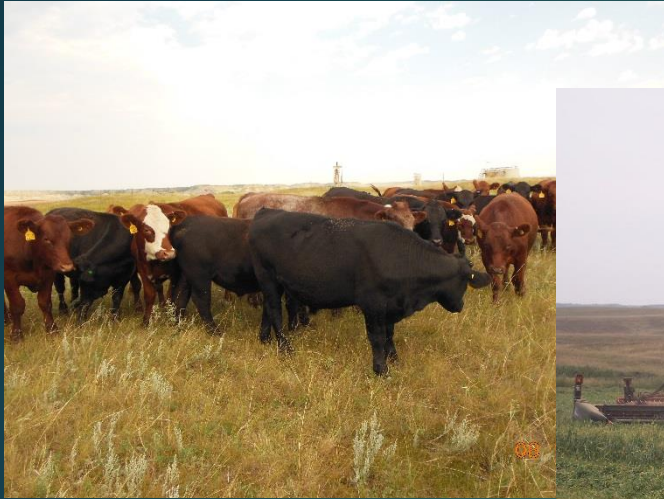
Year 4 - Pea-
Barley
(Yearlings)



Year 5
Sunflower



Graze to Slaughter Forage Sequence



Grazing Sequence

- ▶ Perennial Pastures
 - ▶ Crested Wheatgrass
 - ▶ (39 Days)

- ▶ Mid-June
 - ▶ Native Range
 - ▶ (61 Days)



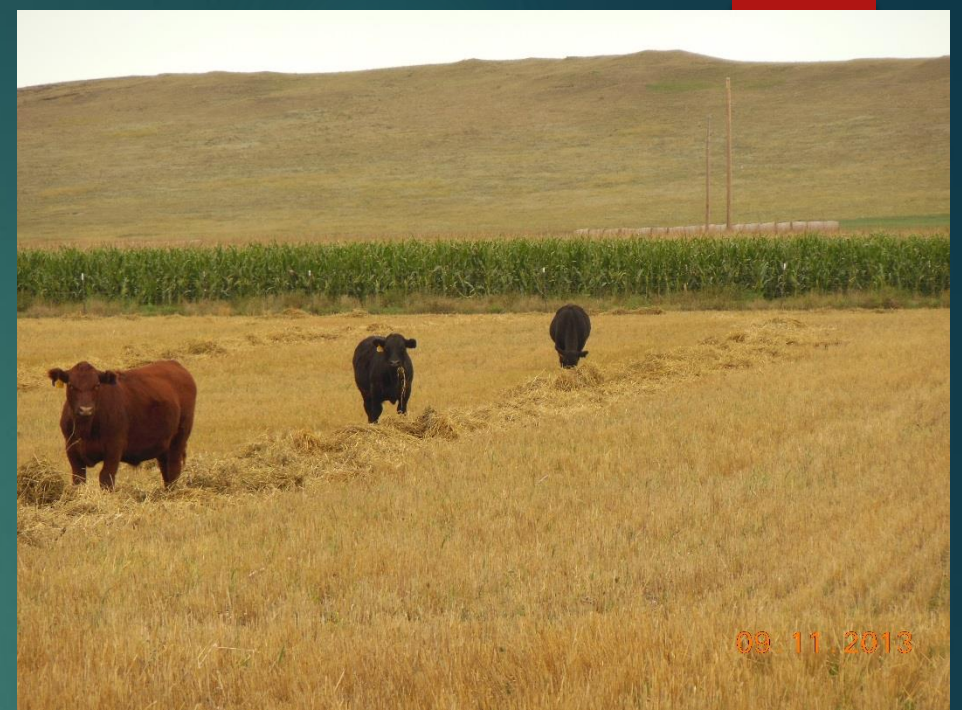
Grazing Sequence

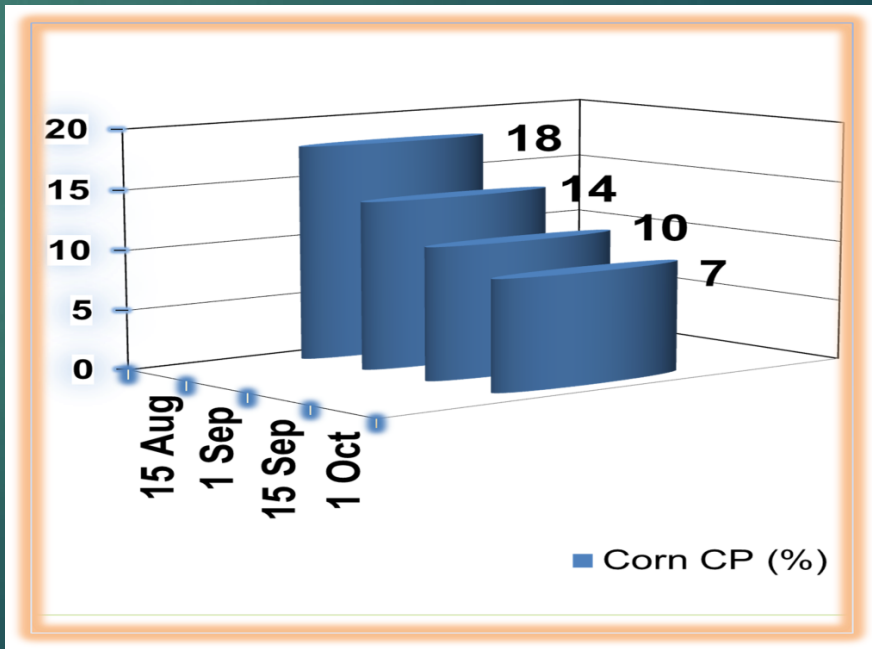
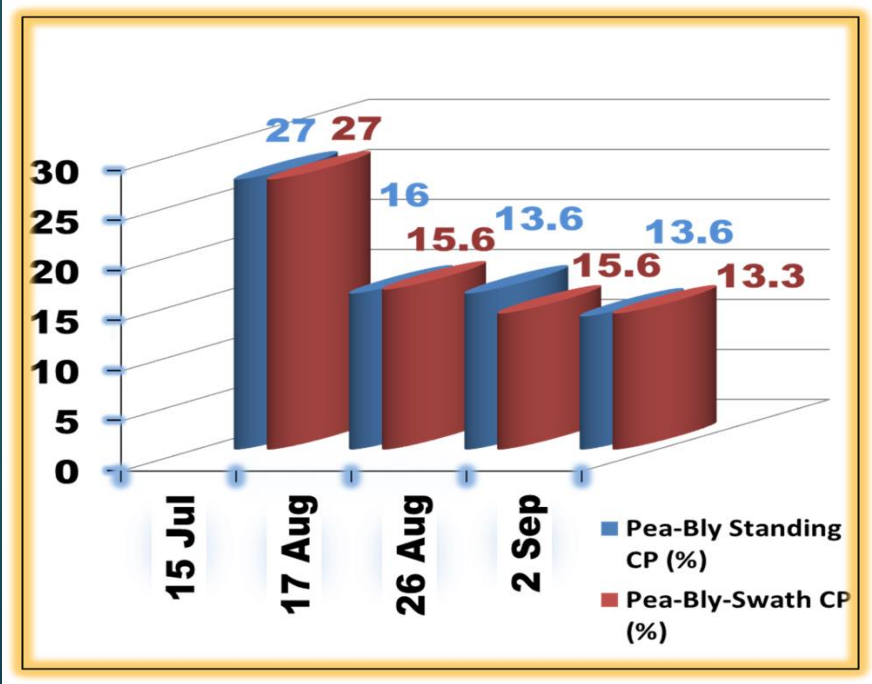
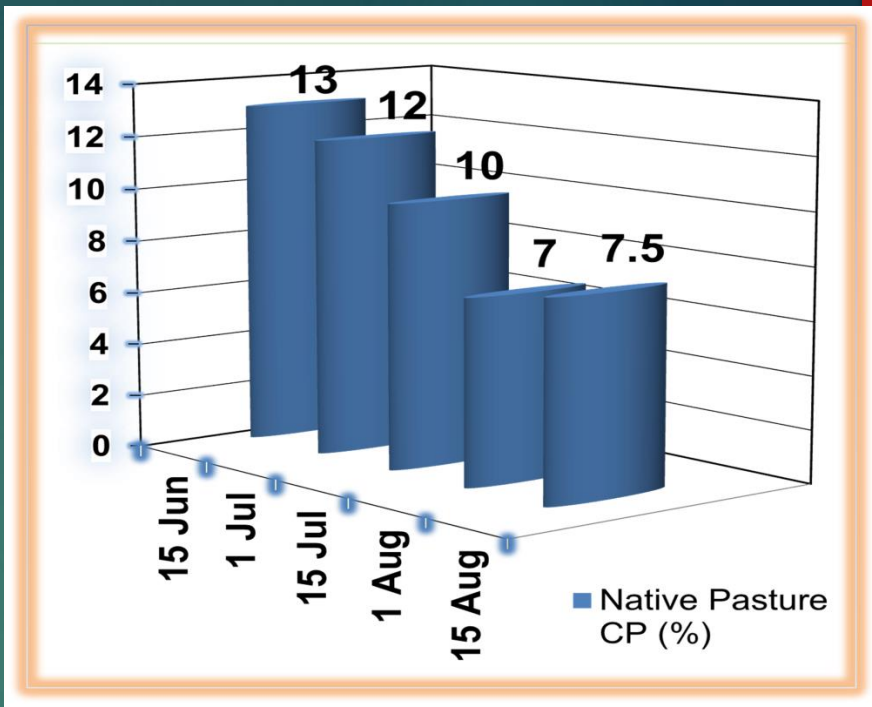
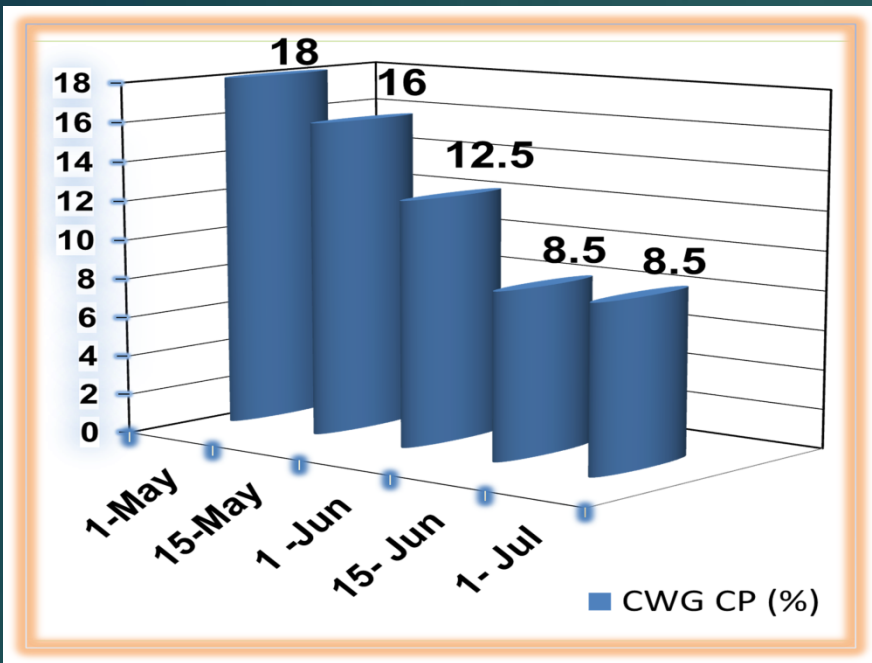
▶ (Mid-August Forage)

- ▶ Pea-barley
- ▶ Protein bridge
- ▶ (27 Days)

▶ Mid-September

- ▶ Unharvested corn
- ▶ (55-77 Days)



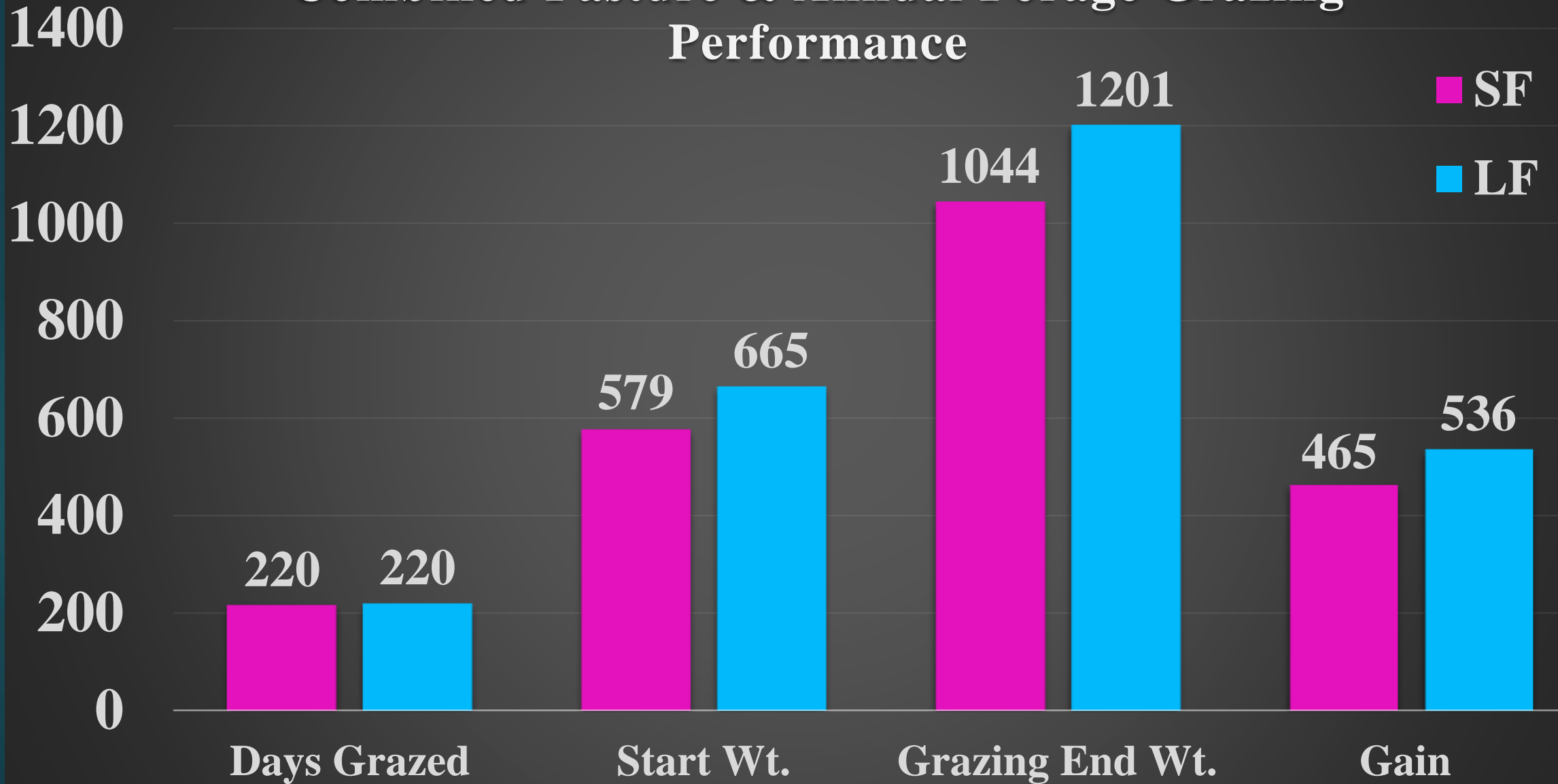


Grazing and Annual Forage Effect on Muscling and Intramuscular Fat Deposition

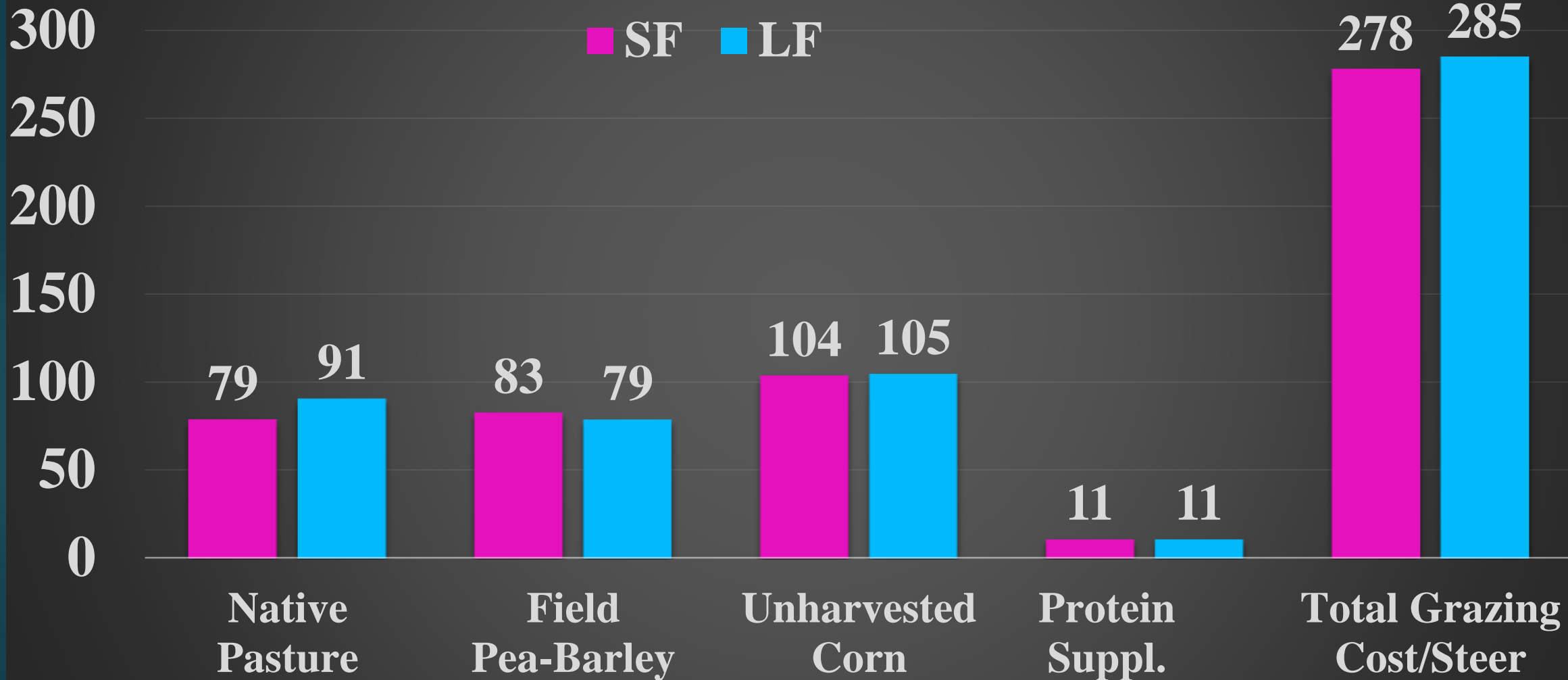
	PST	Ann
Rib-eye Area, (Sq. In.)	8.66	10.86
Percent Intramuscular Fat, %	3.22	4.13
Feedlot DOF, days	91	66

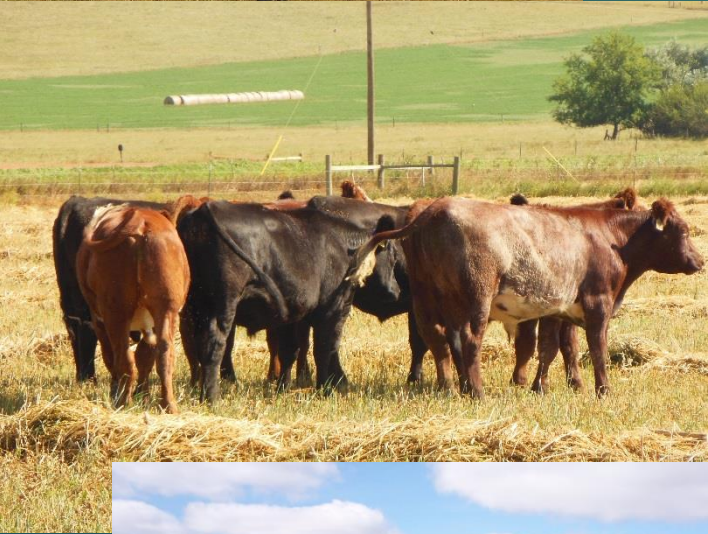


Combined Pasture & Annual Forage Grazing Performance

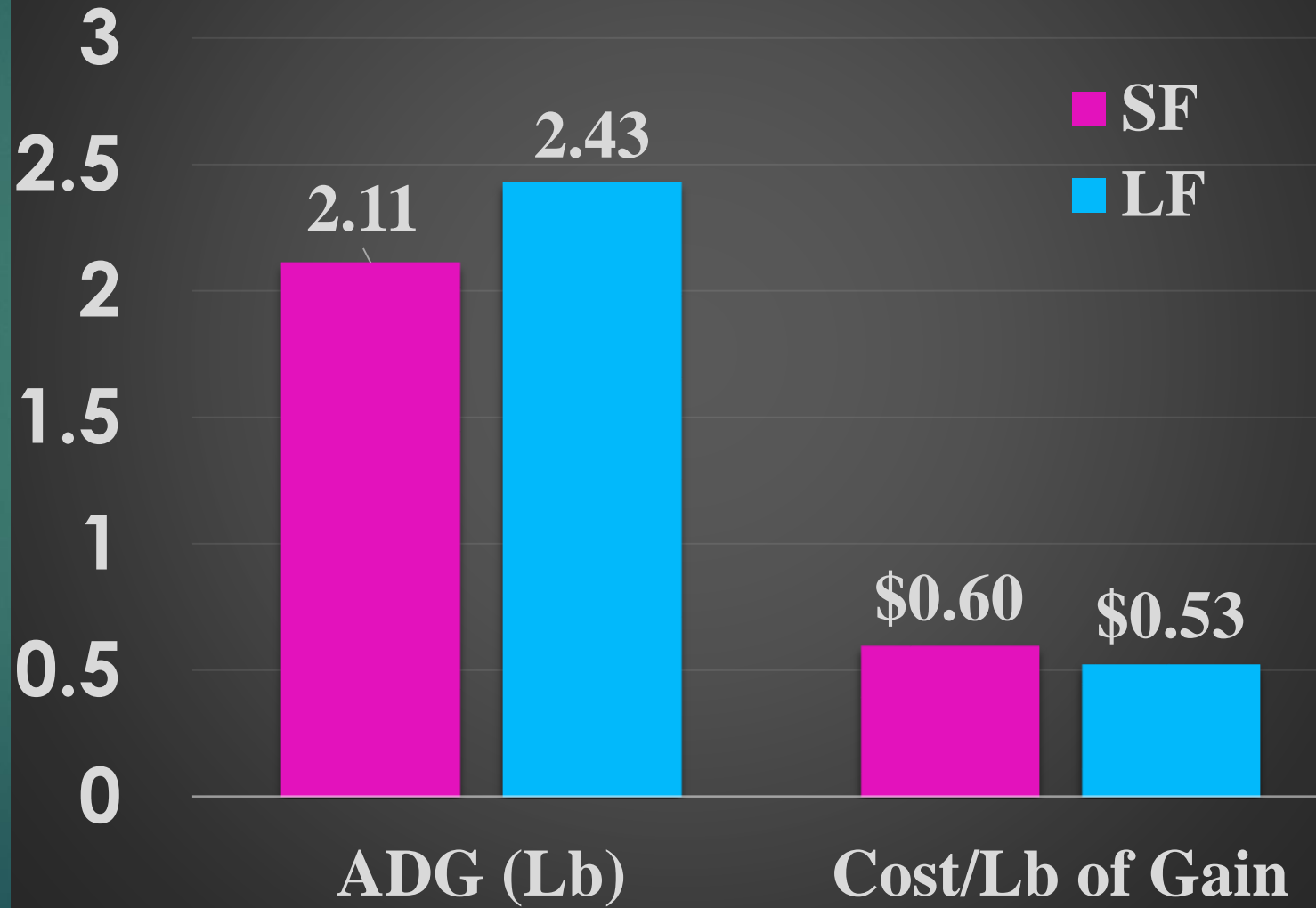


Grazing Costs/Steer, \$

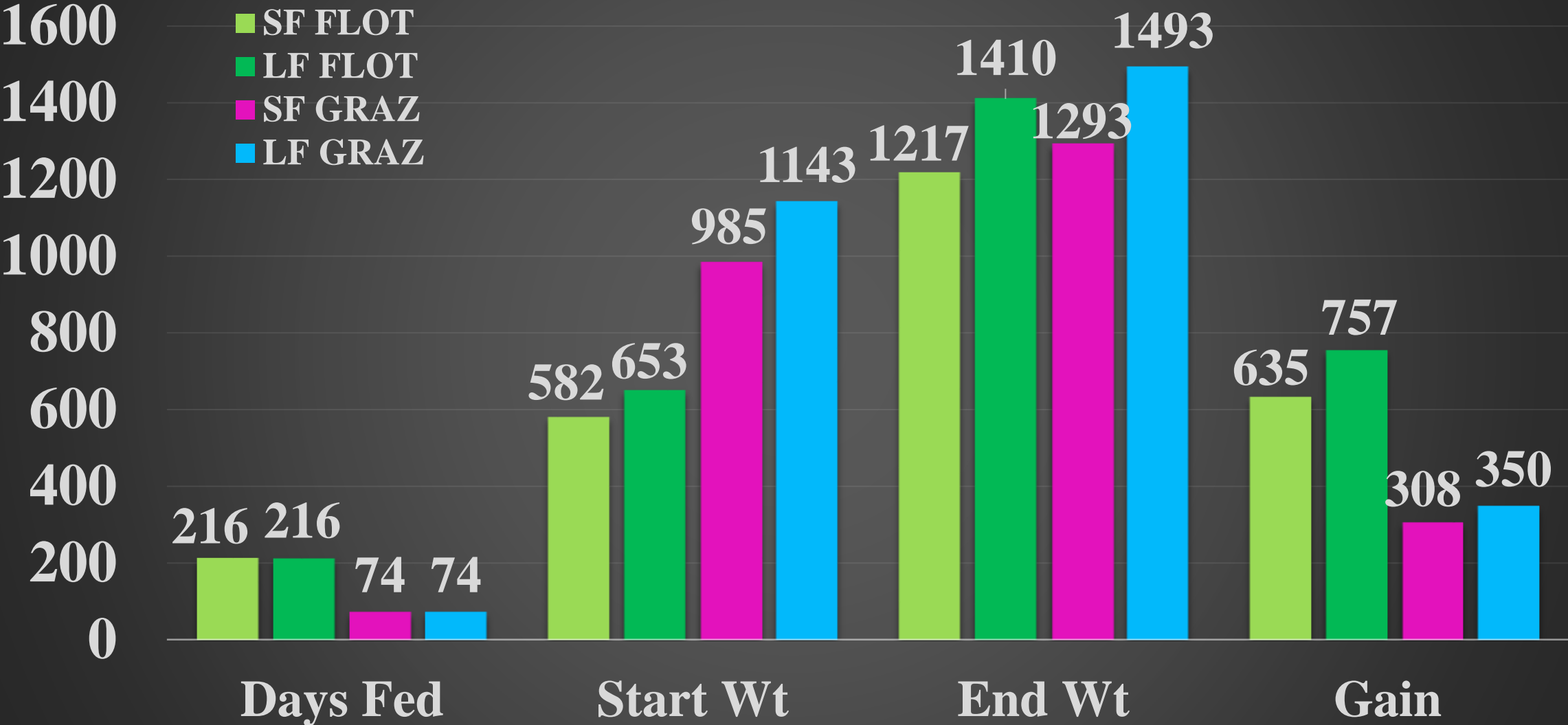




TOTAL GRAZING ADG & COST/LB GAIN

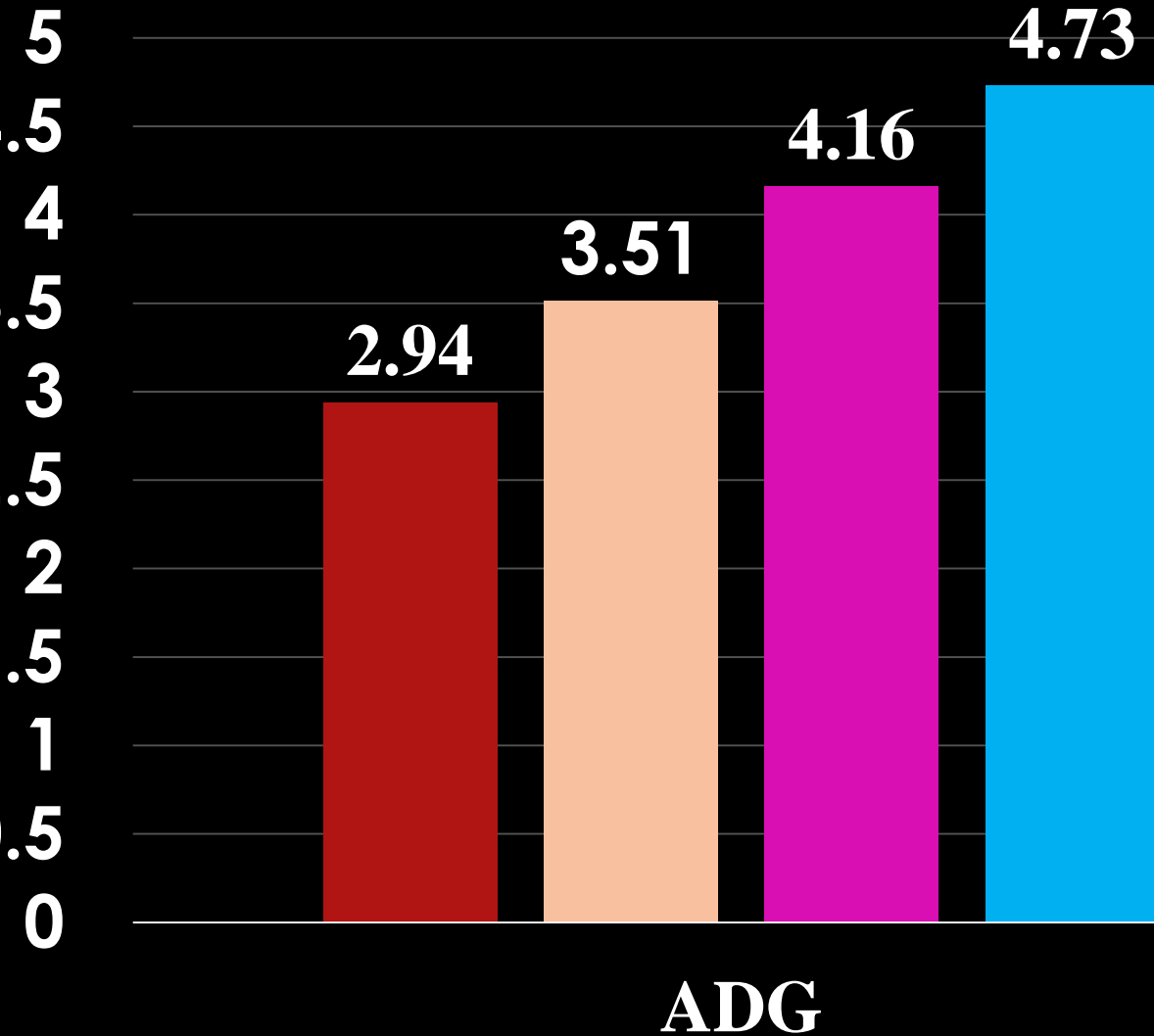


Feedlot Performance

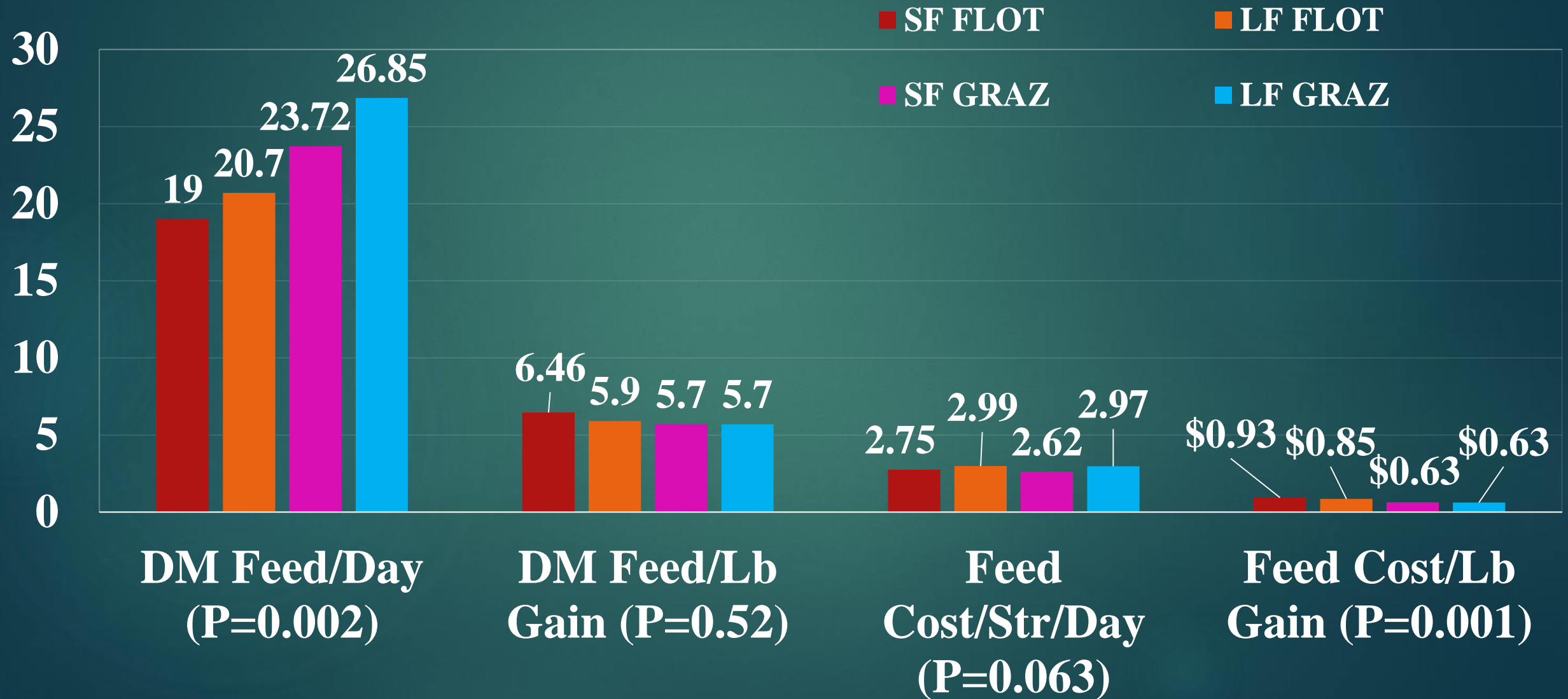


Feedlot ADG

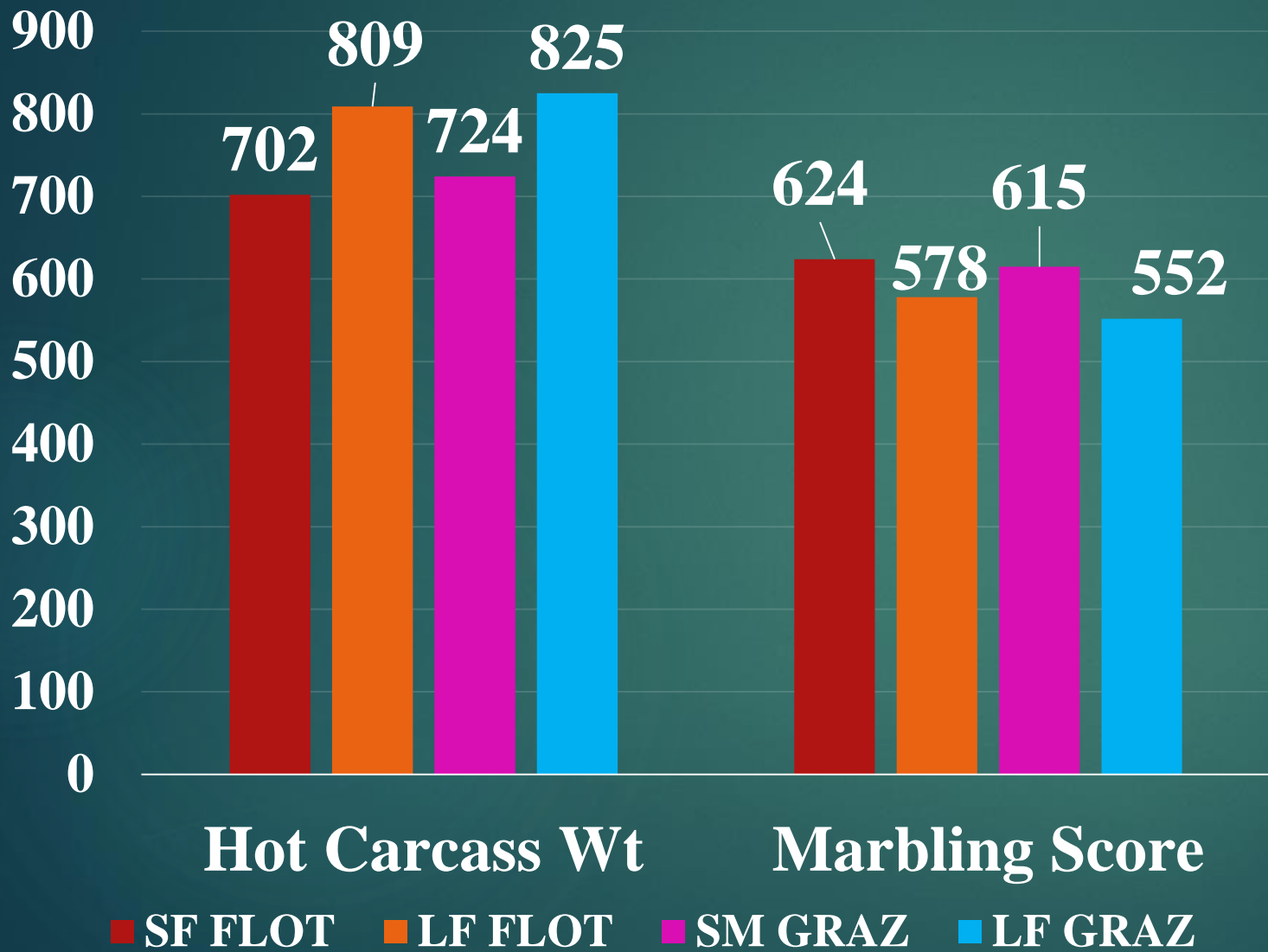
■ SM FLOT ■ LG FLOT ■ SM GRAZ ■ LG GRAZ



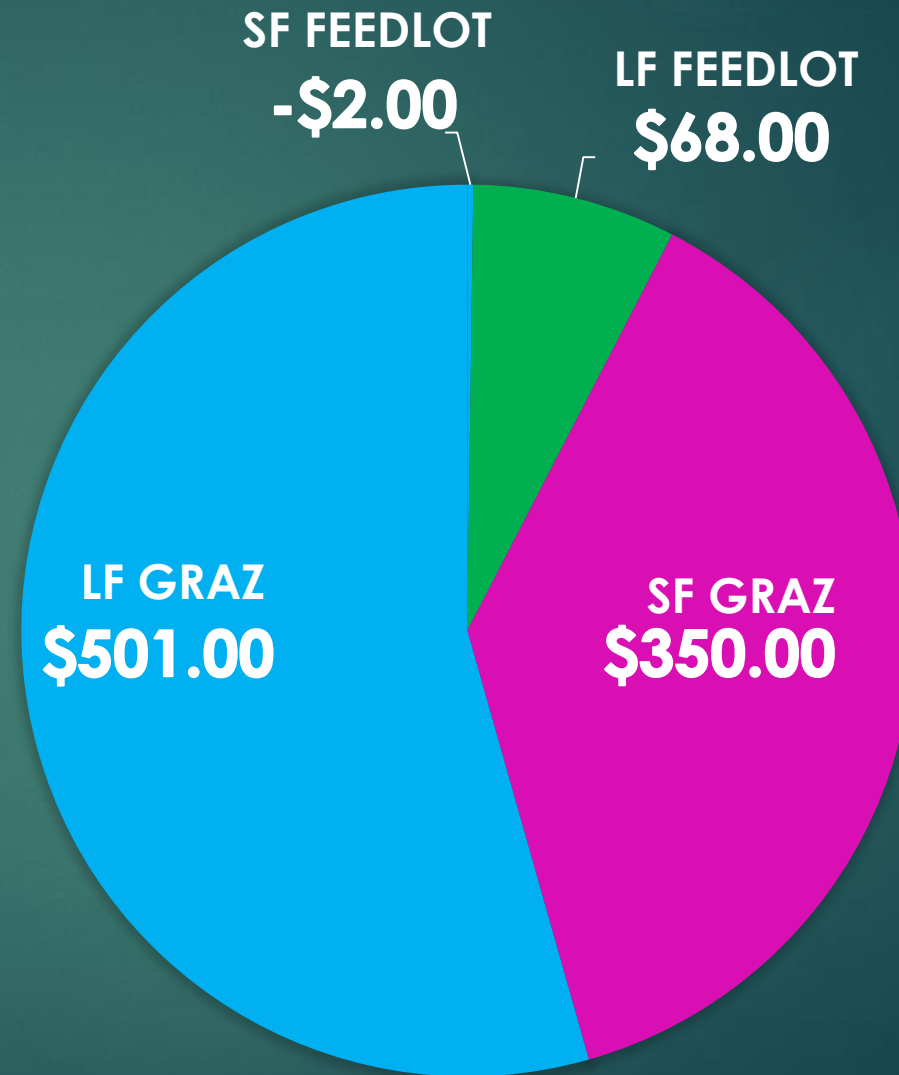
Feedlot DM Feed Intake and Efficiency



Hot Carcass Weight & Marbling Score

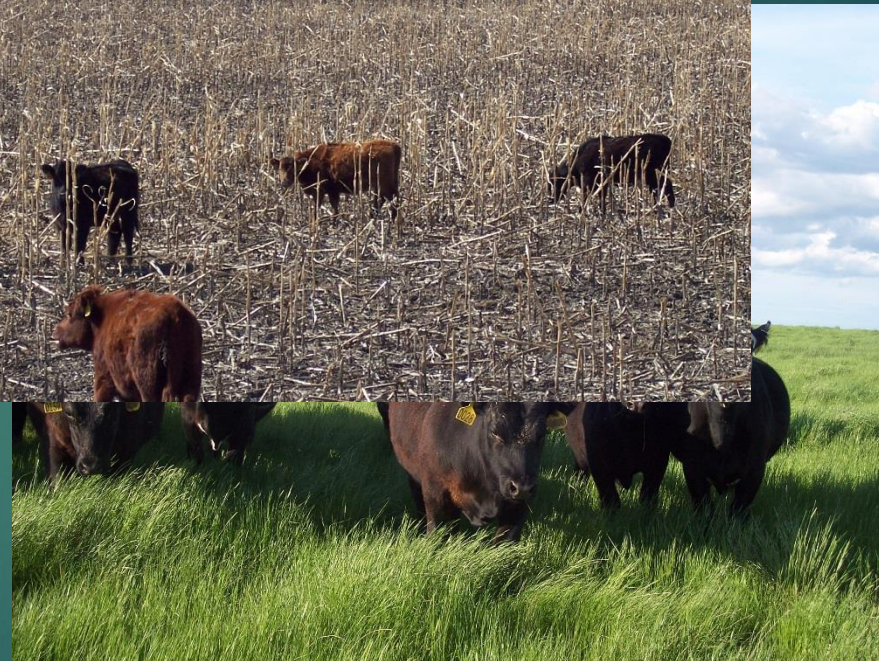


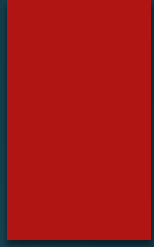
SYSTEM NET RETURN



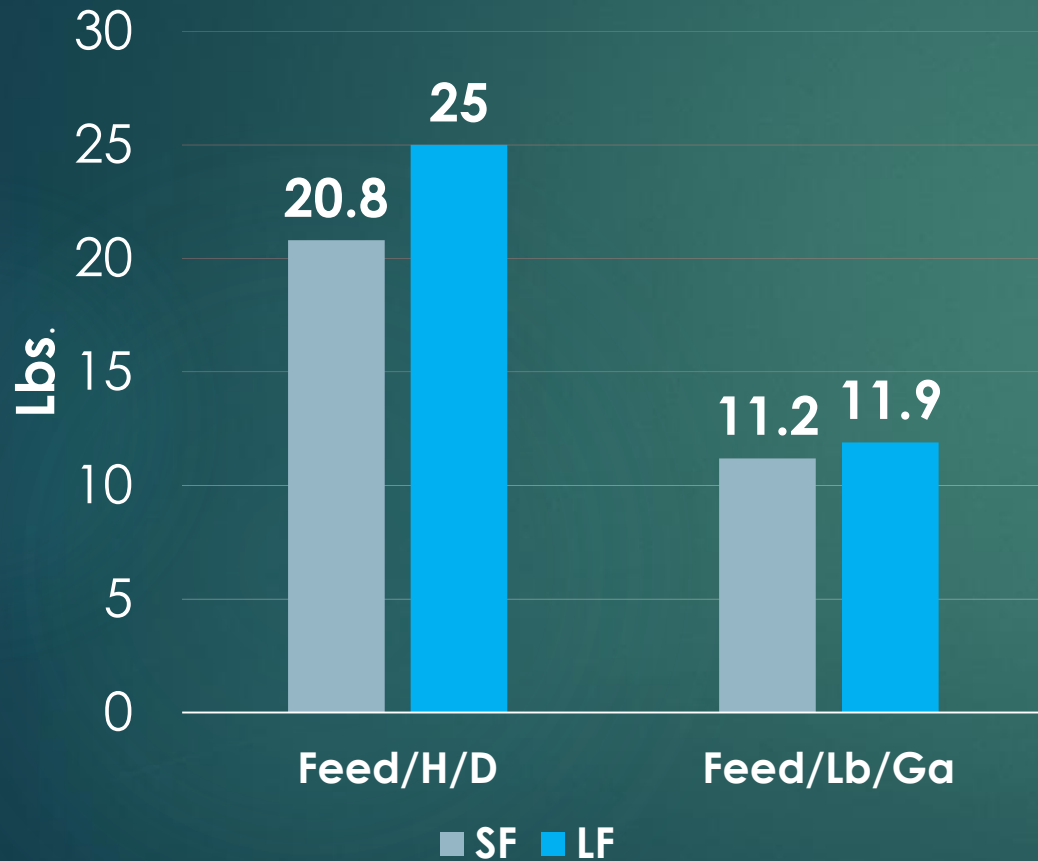
Forage Developed Replacement Heifers

- ▶ Frame Score Groups:
 - ▶ Small 3.5; Large 5.6
- ▶ 3 increasing gain growth phases:
 - ▶ **Phase 1** (209 days: Oct 13 – May 10)
 - ▶ Wintered at modest gain – 0.60 Lb/Day
 - ▶ Unharvested corn and hay
 - ▶ **Phase 2** (58 days: May 10 – July 6)
 - ▶ Grazed crested wheatgrass
 - ▶ ADG: SF – 1.03; LF – 1.33 Lb/day
 - ▶ **Phase 3** (85 days: July 6 – Sept 29)
 - ▶ Feedlot: TMR - 80% alfalfa and 20% (21% CP Supplement)
 - ▶ ADG: SF – 1.87; LF – 2.14

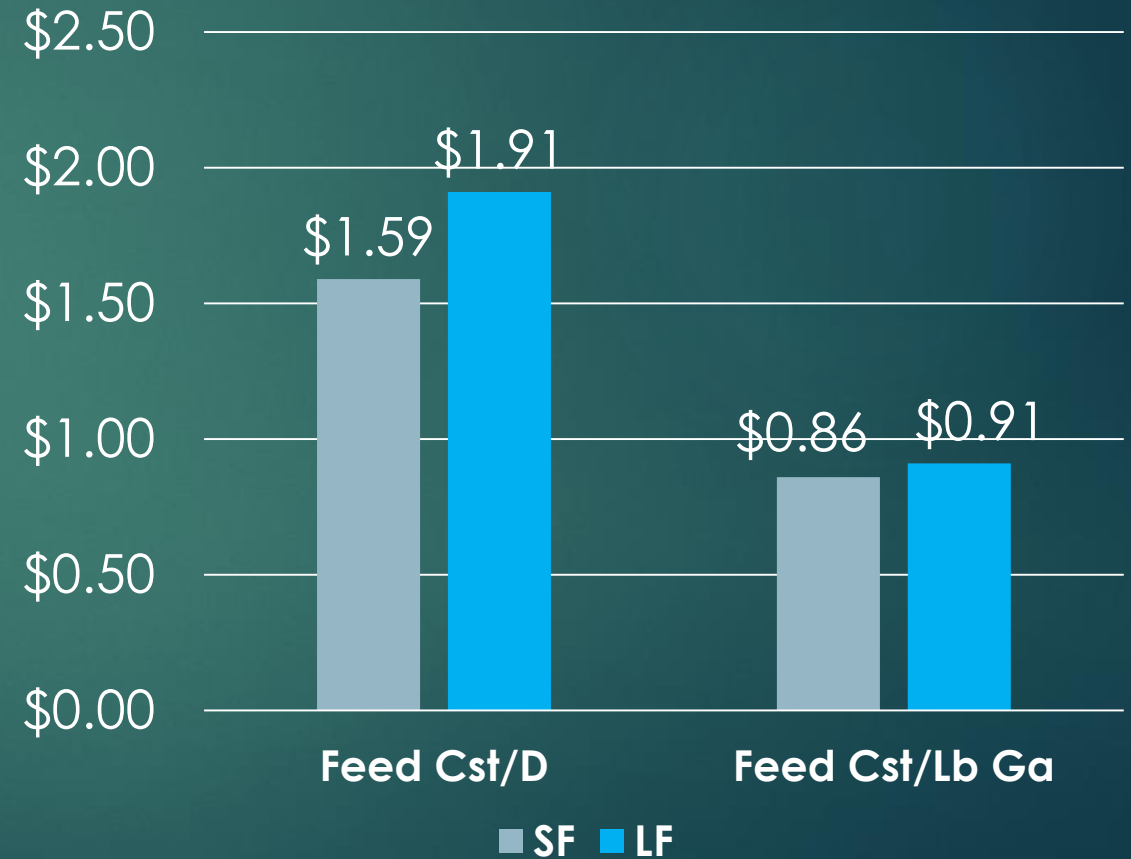




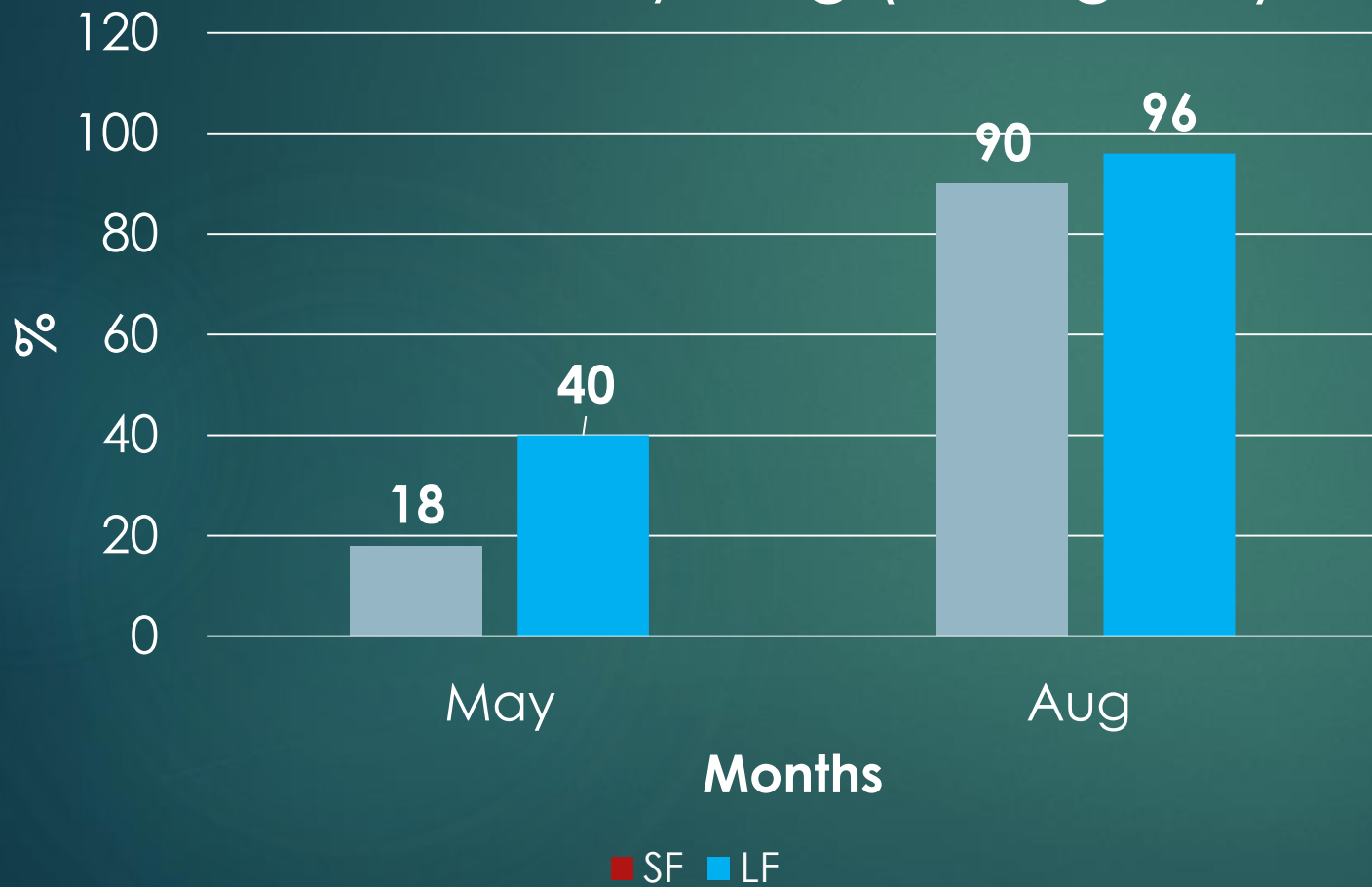
Feed Intake & Efficiency



Feed Cost & Cost Efficiency

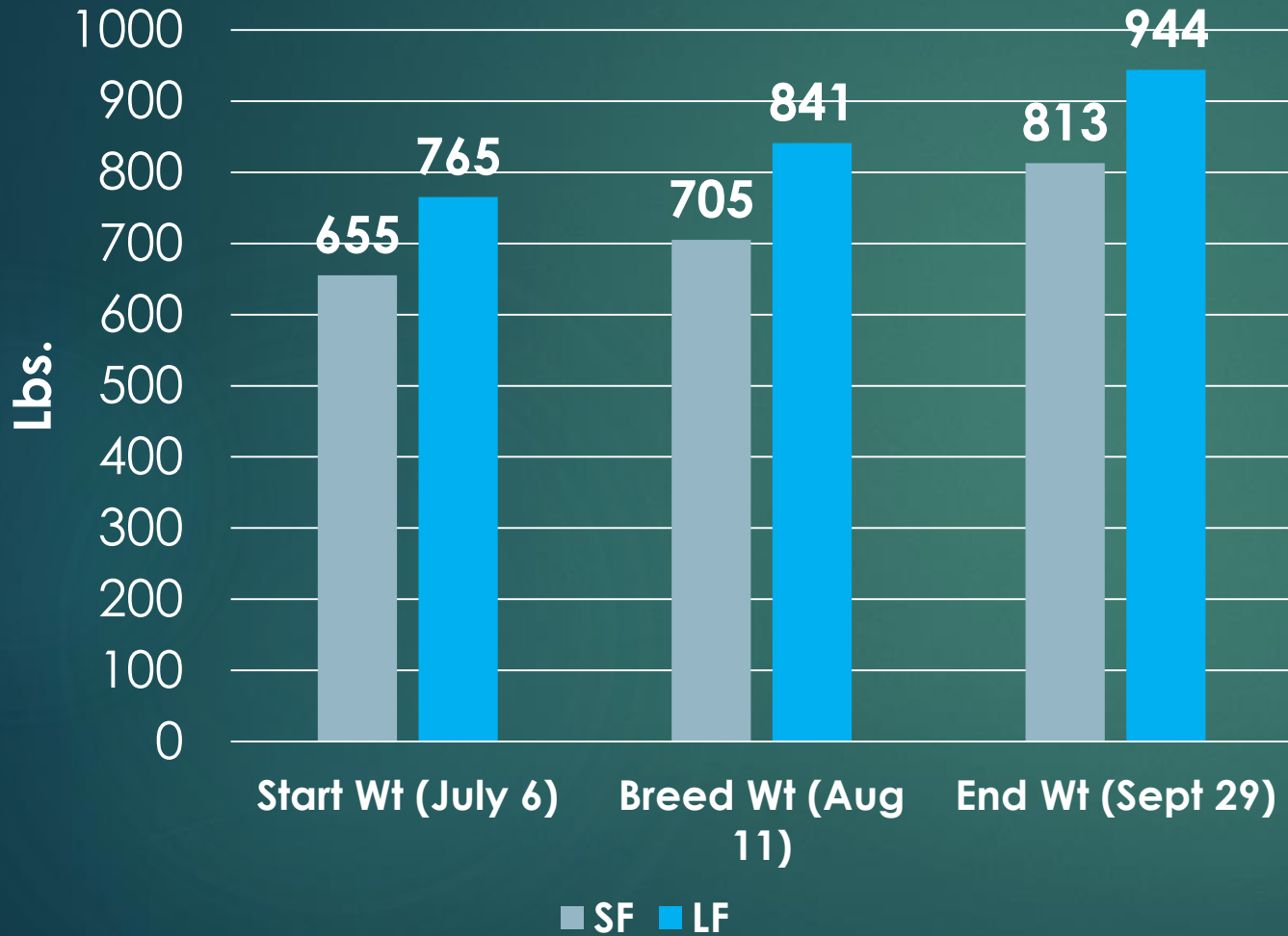


Percent Cycling (> 1 ng/mL)

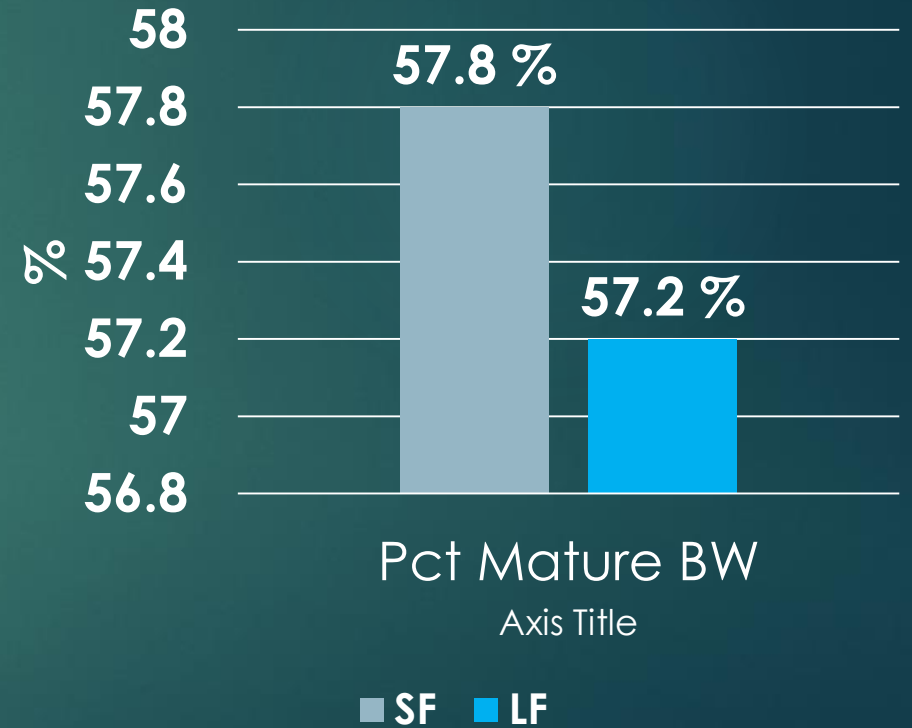




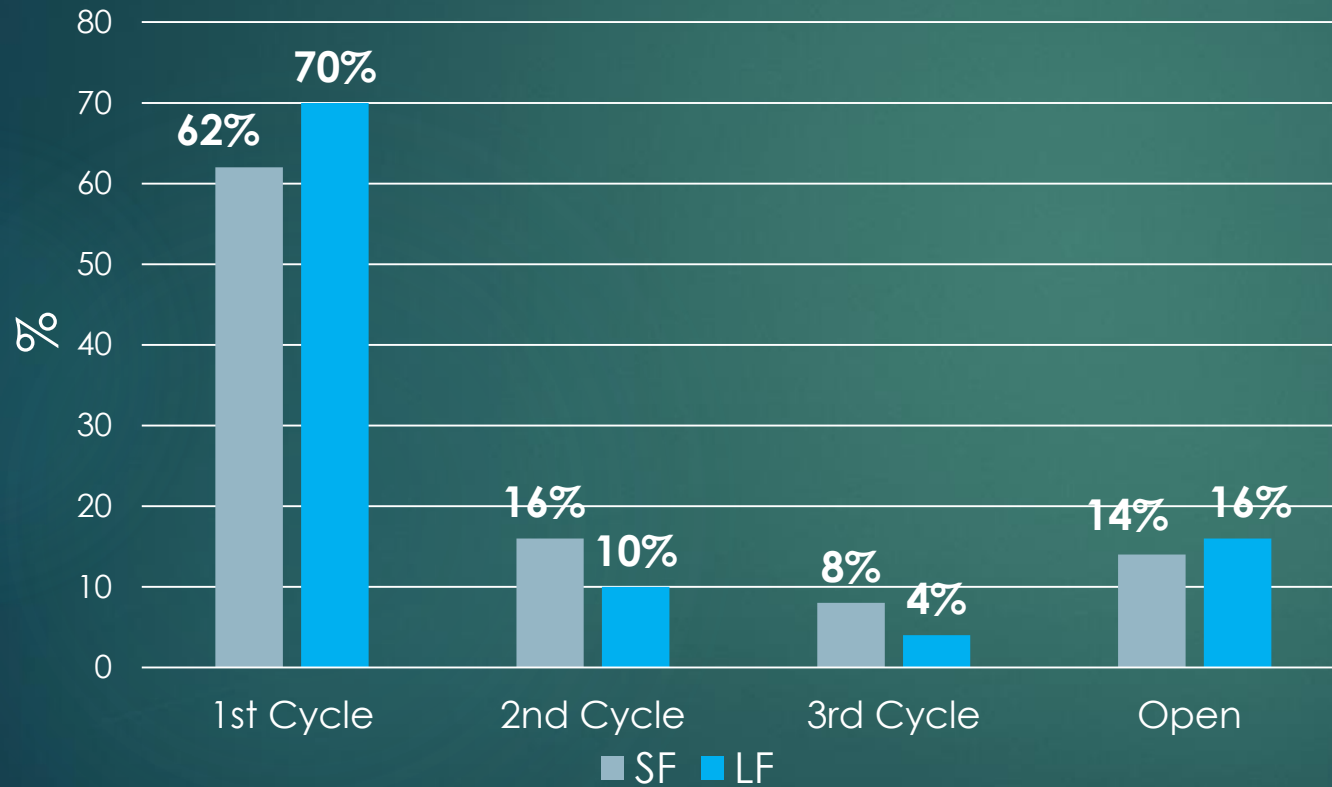
Feedlot Breeding Weight Change



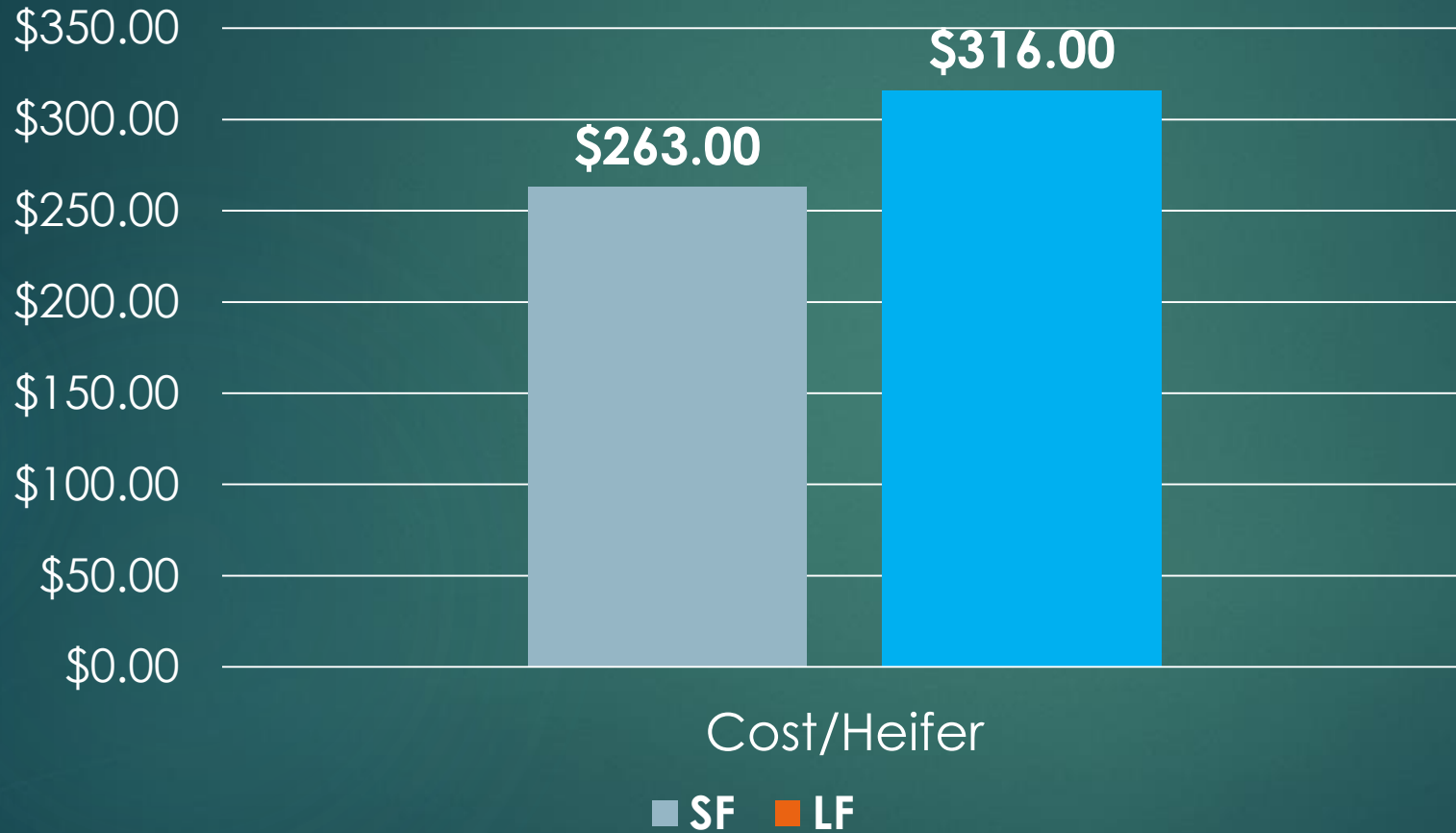
Start Breeding: Heifer Percent of Mature Body Weight



Breeding Cycle Pregnancy Percent

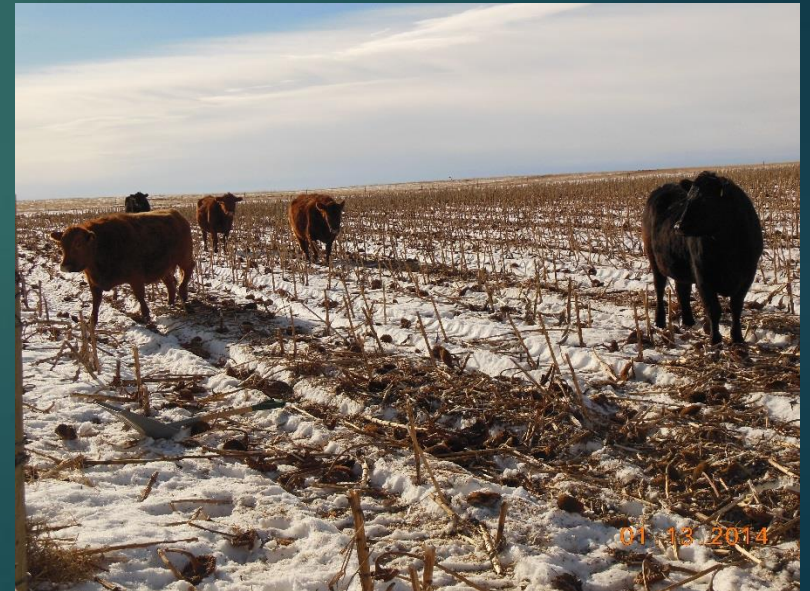
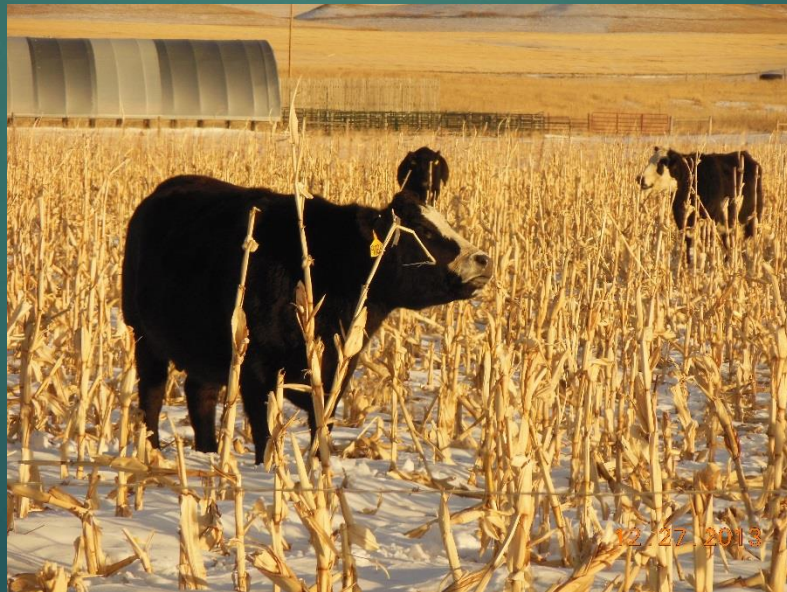


Grazing and Feed Cost/Heifer



Cows: Extending the Grazing Season

- ▶ Grazing cover crops and crop residue



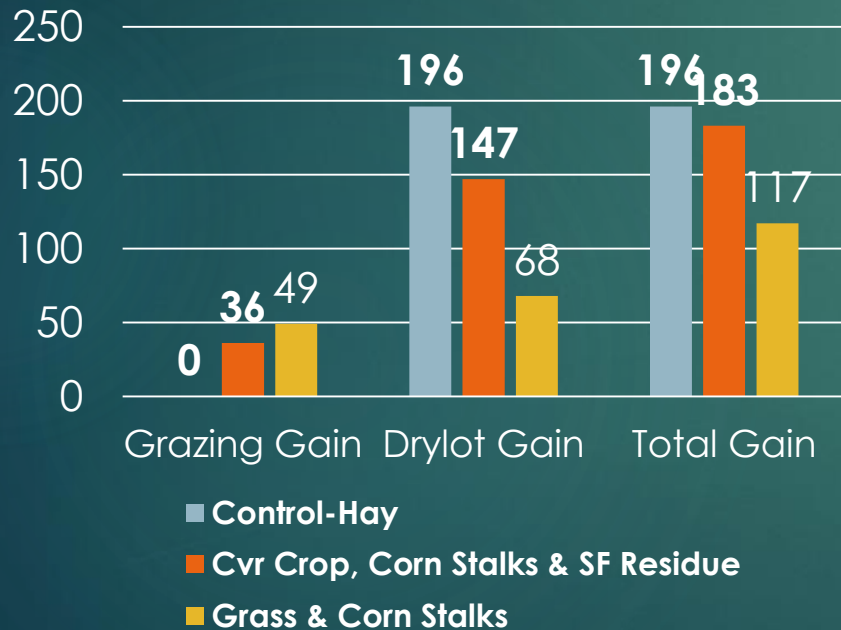
Cows: Extending the Grazing Season



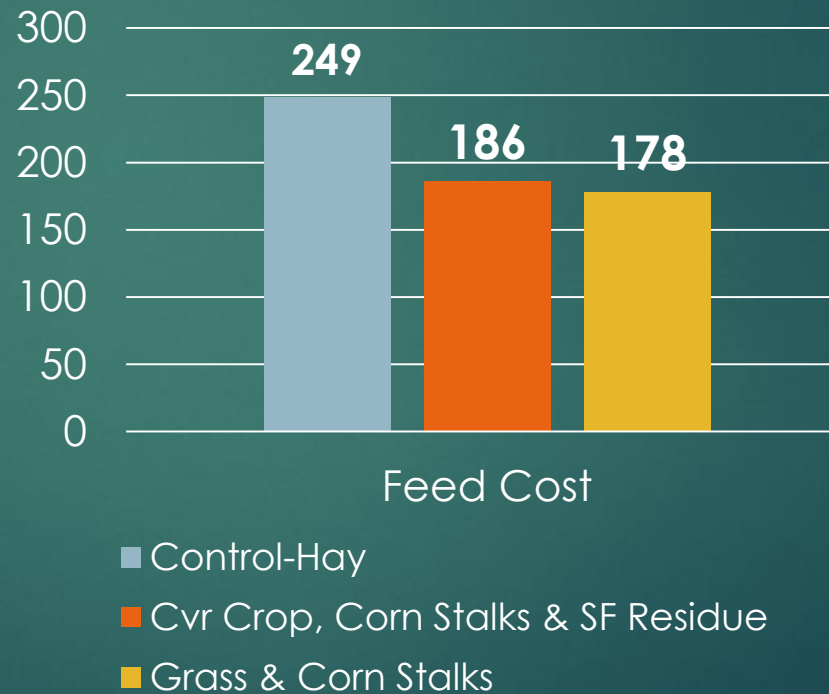
- ▶ Grazing stockpiled mixed pastures of bromegrass and crested wheatgrass followed by corn stalk residue

Cows: Extending the Grazing Season

Cow Grazing Weight Change



Total Wintering Cost/Cow



Cull Cow Fatten to Slaughter

- ▶ ADG Range: 2.2 – 3.0 lb/day
- ▶ Corn Requirement: 0.20 - 0.30 Ac/Cow/Month
- ▶ Ending BCS 7 – 8





Thank You

09.11.2013