



Retained Ownership Decision Tool

Retain Calves and Grass Finish Steers or Heifers in Hawaii

by Dillon Feuz and Mark Thorne

Initial Information on Calves

Month weaned and start of grazing program

Are you retaining a steers or heifers?

If both it is more accurate to work through the tool for each separately

What is the average weight of the Steers? lbs.

What is the average age of the Steers? days

What is the average hip height of the Steers? inches

The Steers are a Frame Score

The expected slaughter weight with 0.5 inches of backfat is lbs.

At the current age and weight, the Steers need to gain at least lbs. per day to reach slaughter weight by 24 months of age.

Grass Finishing Program

Type of grazing program, Continuous or Rotational?

Anticipated stocking density, Light, Moderate or Heavy? Definition

Will you provide a protein supplement?

Based on University Hawaii research from the Mealani Station, and the values entered above, the expected rate of gain is lbs. ADG

Cattle and pastures differ. If you think your cattle on your pastures under your management will gain at a different rate, enter that value.

Your grass finished cattle should be ready to harvest at lbs.

Days required to reach the expected harvest finish weight days

Age of cattle at harvest is months

If gains are much less than expected, this grazing program may result in cattle being over 24 months of age at harvest. This may result in half of the beef not meeting the standard for tenderness acceptability.

[Click Link below for Futures Prices](#)

Enter the "Last" price for CME Feeder Cattle in \$/cwt. [CME Feeder Cattle](#)

A rough estimate for a Steer price is per cwt. or per head

Enter the estimated Steer price or a different expected price if you were to sell rather than retain your Steers per cwt.

The starting value for your Steers is /head

Grass Finishing Costs

On a fixed pasture resource, you have the choice of grazing cows to breed and calve or retaining a steer or heifer to grass finish. For each Steer you grass finish on the above program, you will need to reduce your cows by

1.20 head

Of the cows you breed, what is your percent calf crop weaned?

85 %

Your Opportunity Cost for grass finishing Steers, is a need to run 1.2 fewer cows and sell fewer calves. That Opportunity Cost, based on the market price above is

\$593.80 per head

Many of your costs to run a cow/calf pair may be similar to your cost to grass finish a steer or heifer. In the cells below enter positive amounts if your grass finishing costs are higher and enter negative amounts if your grass finishing costs are lower than running a cow..

Grass finishing supplements, if any

5.00 /head

Vet/med and other supplies per head

7.00 /head

Worming and fly control

0.00 /head

Labor

4.00 /head

Any additional costs per head

0.00 /head

Total added costs for grass finishing vs cow-calf

\$16 /head

Estimated total cost per head for the Steer grass finishing program

The initial Steer value

\$624 /head

Your opportunity cost

\$594 /head

Your added grass finishing costs

\$16 /head

Total

\$1,234 /head

If you expect to be able to sell your grass finished Steer for more than \$1234 per head or more than \$0.99 per lb. live weight, or \$1.95 per lb. carcass weight, then you should make more money grass finishing Steers"and running fewer cows.

Grass Finishing Returns

What is your expected carcass selling price in \$/lb. ?

2.00 /lb.

Your expected carcass weight based on a 1250 lb. live weight is

625 lbs.

Your expected gross return for the grass finished Steer is

\$1,250.00 /head

Your expected Net Return for the grass finishing program is

\$16.20 /head