

# Evaluation of Late Calving during Early May to Late June: Effects on Calves Born during the Early, Middle, and Late Periods

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The concept of changing calving dates from the long established traditional March period was initiated during the years when regional stockman attempted to develop a feedlot-slaughter plant system in the Northern Plains. The value added to finished beef animals was lost to the northern regions by shipping weaned calves and stockers to southern facilities. In order to keep a northern feedlot-slaughter plant system economically viable, regional calves would have needed to be available to enter the feedlots each month. Local cow-calf producers would have needed to adjust their calving dates. Even though the northern beef finishing system was not developed, several beef producers have ventured into, or have contemplated, changing their calving date. Unfortunately there is insufficient scientific data available that documents the positive and negative components involved when calving dates are changed from the regional traditional calving date.

## Study Area

This project was conducted at the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center ranch located in Dunn county in western North Dakota, USA, at 47° 14' north latitude, 102° 50' west longitude. Mean annual temperature is 42.2° F (5.7° C). January is the coldest month, with a mean temperature of 14.6° F (-9.7° C). July and August are the warmest months, with mean temperatures of 69.6° F (20.9° C) and 68.6° F (20.4° C), respectively. Long-term (1982-2013) mean annual precipitation is 17.11 inches (434.60 mm). The perennial plant growing-season precipitation (April through October) is 14.37 inches (364.87 mm) and is 84.0% of the annual precipitation. June has the greatest monthly precipitation, at 3.24 inches (82.26 mm). The precipitation received during the 3-month period of May, June, and July (8.38 inches, 212.85 mm) accounts for 48.98% of the annual precipitation (Manske 2014). Soils are primarily Typic Haploborolls developed on sedimentary deposits. The fine loamy soils have 5 to 6 tons of organic nitrogen per acre. Native vegetation is the

Wheatgrass-Needlegrass Type (Barker and Whitman 1988) of the mixed grass prairie.

## Growing Season Precipitation

Growing season precipitation of 2010 was 16.18 inches (114.35% of LTM). April through July precipitation was 109.08% of LTM and August through October precipitation was 125.50% of LTM. Growing season precipitation of 2011 was 17.91 inches (126.57% of LTM). April through July precipitation was 134.26% of LTM and August through October precipitation was 109.62% of LTM. Growing season precipitation of 2012 was 13.63 inches (96.33% of LTM). April through July precipitation was 105.78% of LTM and August through October precipitation was 75.62% of LTM. Growing season precipitation of 2013 was 21.56 inches (152.37% of LTM). April through July precipitation was 133.88% of LTM and August through October precipitation was 192.39% of LTM. Mean growing season precipitation of 2010-2013 was 17.32 inches (122.40% of LTM). Mean April through July precipitation was 131.30% of LTM and mean August through October precipitation was 125.95% of LTM (tables 1 and 2).

Water stress develops in perennial plants during water deficiency periods when the amount of rainfall is less than evapotranspiration demand. Water deficiency months were identified from historical temperature and precipitation data by the ombrothermic diagram technique (Emberger et al. 1963). The frequency of water deficiency reoccurrence during April, May, June, and July is 15.6%, 9.4%, 9.4%, and 34.4%, respectively, and during August, September, and October water deficiency reoccurs 53.1%, 56.3%, and 34.4% of the growing seasons, respectively. Long-term occurrence of water deficiency conditions is 31.3% of the growing season months, for a mean of 2.0 water deficient months per growing season (Manske 2014). Water deficiency conditions occurred during August and October in 2010, during October in 2011, during

August and September in 2012, and did not occur in 2013.

## Procedures

The purpose of this research project is to describe differences in calf weight gain performance and to identify differences in forage costs and returns from pasture weight gains after forage costs that result from differences in early calf birth dates, early March to mid April, and late calf birth dates, early May to late June.

The range management grazing research projects conducted at the Dickinson Research Extension Center grazed spring and summer perennial grass pastures of the twice-over rotation system and the seasonlong system during the growing seasons from early May to mid October. Lowline X cows composed of 50% lowline and 50% angus and calves with birth dates during early March to mid April were used to graze the spring and summer perennial grass pastures during the growing seasons of 2010 and 2011. The calf birth dates for the lowline X cows were changed to late season calving during early May to late June in 2012 and 2013. These lowline X cows and calves with late birth dates were used to graze spring and summer perennial grass pastures of the twice-over rotation system and the seasonlong system during the growing seasons of 2012 and 2013.

The spring complementary crested wheatgrass pastures were grazed from early May to late May for 28 to 31 days. During the summer portion of the grazing season from early June to mid October, on the seasonlong system, one native rangeland pasture was grazed, and on the twice-over rotation system, three native rangeland pastures were grazed for two periods. During the first period of 45 days, each of the three pastures were grazed for 15 days between 1 June and 15 July (when lead tillers of grasses were between the 3.5 new leaf stage and the flower stage). During the second period of 90 days, each of the three pastures were grazed a second time for 30 days after 15 July and prior to mid October. The spring and summer perennial grass pastures were grazed during early May to mid October for 164 to 168 days. The spring and summer pastures of the seasonlong system and of the twice-over rotation grazing strategy had two replications each.

Forage costs were determined by the average pasture land rent per acre from western North Dakota at \$8.76 per acre and the land area in acres needed to

feed a cow and calf during the grazing period. Forage cost per day was determined by dividing the total forage cost by the number of days on pasture. Dollar value of calf pasture weight gain was determined from the accumulated calf weight gain which was the difference of the calf live weight at the beginning of the growth period from the calf live weight at the end of the growth period. The calf accumulated pasture weight gain was multiplied by an assumed market value of \$1.25 per pound. Net return after forage costs per cow-calf pair was determined by subtracting the forage costs from the dollar value of calf pasture weight gain. Net return after forage costs per acre was determined by dividing the net return per cow-calf pair by the land area in acres needed per cow-calf pair. Net return per 640 acres was determined by multiplying the net return per acre by 640 acres. Cost per pound of calf pasture weight gain was determined by dividing the forage costs by the pounds of accumulated calf weight. Calf weaning weight as a percentage of cow weight was determined by dividing the average calf weaning weight by the average cow weight at weaning.

Calf pasture weight gains, pasture forage costs, and net returns from pasture weight gains after forage costs were determined for the lowline X calves born in 2012 and 2013 with late birth dates during early May to late June, and for the lowline X calves born in 2010 and 2011 with early birth dates during early March to mid April.

## Results

### Calf Gains Compared

Pasture weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates were compared to that of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates with cows grazing spring and summer pastures of the seasonlong system (table 3). The mean calf weight gain on the seasonlong system for lowline X calves with late birth dates was 1.98 lbs per day, 27.10 lbs per acre, accumulated pasture weight gain was 332.25 lbs, and final pasture live weight was 405.53 lbs. The net returns per cow were \$307.91, per acre were \$25.12, and per 640 acres were \$16,076.80 (table 3). The mean calf weight gain on the seasonlong system for lowline X calves with early birth dates was 2.28 lbs per day, 30.48 lbs per acre, accumulated pasture weight gain was 373.47 lbs, and final pasture live weight was 528.24 lbs. The net returns per cow were \$359.75, per acre were \$29.34, and per 640 acres were \$18,777.60 (table 3). The lowline X calves on

the seasonlong system with early birth dates had 15.2% greater gain per day, 12.5% greater gain per acre, the accumulated pasture weight gain was 41.22 lbs (12.4%) greater, and final pasture weight was 122.71 lbs (30.3%) greater than that of the calves with late birth dates. The net returns per cow were \$51.84 (16.8%) greater, per acre were \$4.22 (16.8%) greater, and per 640 acres were \$2,700.80 (16.8%) greater for the calves with early birth dates than for the calves with late birth dates on the seasonlong system (table 3).

Pasture weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates were compared to that of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates with cows grazing spring and summer pastures of the twice-over rotation system (table 3). The mean calf weight gain on the twice-over rotation system for lowline X calves with late birth dates was 2.01 lbs per day, 29.54 lbs per acre, accumulated pasture weight gain was 337.91 lbs, and final pasture live weight was 414.01 lbs. The net returns per cow were \$322.18, per acre were \$28.16, and per 640 acres were \$18,022.40 (table 3). The mean calf weight gain on the twice-over rotation system for lowline X calves with early birth dates was 2.36 lbs per day, 33.83 lbs per acre, accumulated pasture weight gain was 387.07 lbs, and final pasture live weight was 546.78 lbs. The net returns per cow were \$383.63, per acre were \$33.53, and per 640 acres were \$21,459.20 (table 3). The lowline X calves on the twice-over rotation system with early birth dates had 17.4% greater gain per day, 14.5% greater gain per acre, the accumulated pasture weight gain was 49.16 lbs (14.5%) greater, and final pasture weight was 132.77 lbs (32.1%) greater than that of the calves with late birth dates. The net returns per cow were \$61.45 (19.1%) greater, per acre were \$5.37 (19.1%) greater, and per 640 acres were \$3,436.80 (19.1%) greater for the calves with early birth dates than for the calves with late birth dates on the twice-over rotation system (table 3).

Calves born during the early (March) calving season gained greater weight and captured greater net returns than the calves born during the late (May) calving season on both the seasonlong system and the twice-over rotation system with the grazing period from early May to mid October.

The lowline X calves performed better on the twice-over rotation system than on the seasonlong system. The early born calves on the twice-over rotation system had 3.5% greater gain per day, 11.0%

greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 13.6 lbs (3.6%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 18.54 lbs (3.5%) greater than that for the early born calves on the seasonlong system. The net returns after pasture costs for the early born calves on the twice-over rotation system were \$23.88 (6.6%) greater per cow, \$4.19 (14.3%) greater per acre, and \$2,681.60 (14.3%) greater per 640 acres than that for the early born calves on the seasonlong system (table 3).

The late born calves on the twice-over rotation system had 1.5% greater gain per day, 9.0% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 5.66 lbs (1.7%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 8.48 lbs (2.1%) greater than that for the late born calves on the seasonlong system. The net returns after pasture costs for the late born calves on the twice-over rotation system were \$14.27 (4.6%) greater per cow, \$3.04 (12.1%) greater per acre, and \$1,945.60 (12.1%) greater per 640 acres than that for the late born calves on the seasonlong system (table 3).

Calves born during the early (March) calving season and during the late (May) calving season with cows grazing the spring and summer pastures of the twice-over rotation system gained greater weight than the calves born during the early and late calving season, respectively, with cows grazing the spring and summer pastures of the seasonlong system with the grazing period from early May to mid October.

#### Three Birth Date Periods Compared

The early (March) and late (May) calving seasons for the lowline X cattle were separated into three birth date categories. The early calving season birth dates were separated into the 1<sup>st</sup> period, 1 March to 15 March, 2<sup>nd</sup> period, 16 March to 30 March, and 3<sup>rd</sup> period, 31 March to 19 April. The late calving season birth dates were separated into the 1<sup>st</sup> period, 1 May to 16 May, 2<sup>nd</sup> period, 17 May to 31 May, and 3<sup>rd</sup> period, 1 June to 23 June. The calf weight gain performance generally declined from the calves with birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period down to the calves with birth dates during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period.

The pounds of weight gain by lowline X calves born the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the early (March) calving season were compared to the pounds of weight gain by calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the late (May) calving season, respectively, on the crested wheatgrass pastures and

on the native rangeland pastures of the seasonlong system (table 4). The early calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period gained 11.35 lbs (24.8%) greater, calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period gained 24.13 lbs (80.6%) greater, and calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period gained 32.13 lbs (425.6%) greater than the late calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, respectively, on the crested wheatgrass pastures of the seasonlong system (table 4). The early calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period gained 21.05 lbs (7.0%) greater, calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period gained 14.57 lbs (4.7%) greater, and calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period gained 33.60 lbs (11.6%) greater than the late calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, respectively, on the native rangeland pastures of the seasonlong system (table 4).

The pounds of weight gain by lowline X calves born the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the early (March) calving season were compared to the pounds of weight gain by calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the late (May) calving season, respectively, on the crested wheatgrass pastures and on the native rangeland pastures of the twice-over rotation system (table 4). The early calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period gained 4.70 lbs (7.7%) less, calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period gained 21.74 lbs (67.8%) greater, and calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period gained 28.66 lbs (121.5%) greater than the late calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, respectively, on the crested wheatgrass pastures of the twice-over rotation system (table 4). The early calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period gained 22.52 lbs (7.4%) greater, calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period gained 32.47 lbs (10.5%) greater, and calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period gained 24.48 lbs (8.1%) greater than the late calving season calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, respectively, on the native rangeland pastures of the twice-over rotation system (table 4).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 0.9% greater gain per day, 1.2% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 4.37 lbs (1.2%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 30.35 lbs (5.8%) greater than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$5.47 (1.5%) greater per cow, \$0.45 (1.5%) greater per acre, and \$288.00 (1.5%) greater

per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 4.5% greater gain per day, 4.7% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 17.17 lbs (4.7%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 53.94 lbs (10.8%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$21.74 (6.2%) greater per cow, \$1.76 (6.2%) greater per acre, and \$1,126.40 (6.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period had 4.5% greater gain per day, 3.5% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 12.80 lbs (3.5%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 23.59 lbs (4.7%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were \$16.00 (4.6%) greater per cow, \$1.31 (4.6%) greater per acre, and \$838.40 (4.6%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 5).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 3.0% greater gain per day, 3.2% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 10.68 lbs (3.2%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 8.13 lbs (2.0%) greater than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$13.35 (4.2%) greater per cow, \$1.09 (4.2%) greater per acre, and \$697.60 (4.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during

the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 16.9% greater gain per day, 16.9% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 50.50 lbs (16.9%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 43.50 lbs (11.5%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$63.13 (23.8%) greater per cow, \$5.15 (23.8%) greater per acre, and \$3,296.00 (23.8%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period had 13.6% greater gain per day, 13.3% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 39.82 lbs (13.4%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 35.37 lbs (9.4%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were \$49.78 (18.8%) greater per cow, \$4.06 (18.8%) greater per acre, and \$2,598.40 (18.8%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the seasonlong system (table 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 7). The calf weight gains were greater during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period than during the 1<sup>st</sup> period because the nutrient quality of the forage delivered in the lactation ration to the cows for the first couple of weeks during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of calving was below the nutrient requirements during both 2010 and 2011. The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period had 3.4% greater gain per day, 3.1% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 11.89 lbs (3.1%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 8.0 lbs (1.4%) greater than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were \$14.86 (3.9%) greater per cow, \$1.30 (3.9%) greater per acre, and \$832.00 (3.9%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 7).

The weight gain of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation

system (table 7). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period had 4.3% greater gain per day, 4.3% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 16.37 lbs (4.3%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 57.69 lbs (11.4%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were \$20.46 (5.5%) greater per cow, \$1.79 (5.5%) greater per acre, and \$1,195.60 (5.5%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 7).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 7). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 0.9% greater gain per day, 1.2% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 4.48 lbs (1.2%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 49.69 lbs (9.8%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$5.60 (1.5%) greater per cow, \$0.49 (1.5%) greater per acre, and \$313.60 (1.5%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 7).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 7.4% greater gain per day, 7.2% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 24.50 lbs (7.2%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 16.65 lbs (4.0%) greater than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$30.62 (9.4%) greater per cow, \$2.67 (9.3%) greater per acre, and \$1,708.80 (9.3%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period had 12.4% greater gain per day, 12.4% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 39.80 lbs (12.2%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 69.14 lbs (18.8%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period were \$49.75 (16.2%) greater per

cow, \$4.35 (16.2%) greater per acre, and \$2,784.00 (16.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8).

The weight gains of lowline X calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period had 4.6% greater gain per day, 4.7% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 15.30 lbs (4.7%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 52.49 lbs (14.3%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period were \$19.13 (6.2%) greater per cow, \$1.68 (6.2%) greater per acre, and \$1,075.20 (6.2%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period on the twice-over rotation system (table 8).

Calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of a calving season gained greater weight and captured greater net returns than the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, and calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period gained much less weight and captured less net returns than the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods of both the early and late calving seasons.

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late (May) calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early calving season had 12.1% greater gain per day, 9.3% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 32.40 lbs (9.3%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 134.28 lbs (31.9%) greater than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early calving season were \$40.50 (12.3%) greater per cow, \$3.31 (12.4%) greater per acre, and \$2,118.40 (12.4%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late (May) calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early calving season had 14.4% greater gain per day, 11.5%

greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 38.70 lbs (11.5%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 112.06 lbs (27.2%) greater than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early calving season were \$48.38 (15.4%) greater per cow, \$3.95 (15.4%) greater per acre, and \$2,528.00 (15.4%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late (May) calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6). The calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early calving season had 25.4% greater gain per day, 22.1% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 65.73 lbs (22.1%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 123.84 lbs (32.8%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early calving season were \$82.16 (31.0%) greater per cow, \$6.70 (31.0%) greater per acre, and \$4,288.00 (31.0%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late calving season on the seasonlong system (tables 5 and 6).

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late (May) calving season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8). The calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early calving season had 7.3% greater gain per day, 4.9% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 17.82 lbs (4.9%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 119.88 lbs (27.5%) greater than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the early calving season were \$22.28 (6.2%) greater per cow, \$1.95 (6.2%) greater per acre, and \$1,248.00 (6.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the late calving season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8).

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late (May) calving

season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8). The calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early calving season had 19.2% greater gain per day, 15.9% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 54.21 lbs (15.9%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 144.53 lbs (34.5%) greater than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the early calving season were \$67.76 (20.7%) greater per cow, \$5.92 (20.7%) greater per acre, and \$3,788.80 (20.7%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of the late calving season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8).

The weight gains of lowline X calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early (March) calving season were compared to the weight gains of calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late (May) calving season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8). The calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early calving season had 19.6% greater gain per day, 12.3% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 53.14 lbs (16.3%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 139.33 lbs (38.0%) greater than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late calving season. The net returns for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the early calving season were \$66.43 (21.6%) greater per cow, \$5.81 (21.6%) greater per acre, and \$2,918.40 (16.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of the late calving season on the twice-over rotation system (tables 7 and 8).

Calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the early (March) calving season gained greater weight and captured greater net returns than the calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the late (May) calving season, respectively, on both the seasonlong system and on the twice-over rotation system.

#### Match vs. Mismatch Forage Nutrients

The nutrient requirements of the lowline X cows and calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods closely matched the available forage nutrients until early August on the crested wheatgrass and native rangeland pastures of the seasonlong system. The nutrient requirements of the lowline X cows and calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods mismatched the available forage nutrients on the crested wheatgrass and native rangeland pastures of the seasonlong system. The

weight gains of calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods were compared to the weight gains of calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods on the seasonlong system (table 9). Calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods had 22.2% greater gain per day, 19.1% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 60.81 lbs (19.1%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 144.92 lbs (36.7%) greater than that for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. The net returns for the calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods were \$76.01 (26.2%) greater per cow, \$6.20 (26.2%) greater per acre, and \$3,968.00 (26.2%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the seasonlong system (table 9).

The poor animal performance of the lowline X cows and calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the seasonlong system reduced the accumulated calf weight gain 60.81 pounds and reduced the final pasture weight 144.92 pounds and reduced the net returns after pasture costs \$6.20 per acre and \$76.01 per cow compared to the good animal performance of the lowline X cows and calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods. With a one hundred cow herd, the herd net returns after pasture costs would be \$36,600.00 for the calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods and would be \$28,999.00 for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods resulting in a loss of \$7,601.00 for the herd with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the seasonlong system.

The nutrient requirements of the lowline X cows and calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods matched the available forage nutrients on the crested wheatgrass and native rangeland pastures of the twice-over rotation system. The nutrient requirements of the lowline X cows and calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods mismatched the available forage nutrients on the crested wheatgrass and native rangeland pastures of the twice-over rotation system. The weight gains of calves with late (May) birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods were compared to the weight gains of the calves with early (March) birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods on the twice-over rotation system (table 9). Calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods had 19.6% greater gain per day, 16.7% greater gain per acre, the accumulated weight gain was 55.92 lbs (16.7%) greater, and the final pasture weight was 166.77 lbs

(42.4%) greater than that for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. The net returns for the calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods were \$69.90 (22.0%) greater per cow, \$6.23 (22.5%) greater per acre, and \$3,987.20 (22.5%) greater per 640 acres than that for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the twice-over rotation system (table 9).

The poor animal performance of the lowline X cows and calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the twice-over rotation system reduced the accumulated calf weight gain 55.92 pounds and reduced the final pasture weight 166.77 pounds and reduced the net returns after pasture costs \$6.23 per acre and \$69.90 per cow compared to the good animal performance of the lowline X cows and calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods. With a one hundred cow herd, the herd net returns after pasture costs would be \$38,737.00 for the calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods and would be \$31,747.00 for the calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods resulting in a loss of \$6,990.00 for the herd with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods on the twice-over rotation system.

The lowline X cows and calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods performed well. The calves with early birth dates during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods were older than one month of age at the start of grazing the crested wheatgrass pastures in early May. The cows were able to produce milk at or near their genetic potential levels and the early born calves were able to accumulate weight at or near their genetic potential rates.

The lowline X cows and calves with late birth dates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods performed poorly. The cows were not permitted to take advantage of the high nutritional quality of crested wheatgrass during May resulting in milk production below the genetic potentials of the cows. The reduction in milk production resulted in calf accumulation of weight at below the genetic potential rates.

## Discussion

Most wild ungulates in the Northern Plains give birth to the next generation during May each year. The herd population increases if 25% of the mature females wean a live offspring. The primary survival strategy of wild ungulates does not include

providing large quantities of nutritious meat to carnivores. Livestock husbandry practices designed to emulate the production model of wild ungulates moves the livestock production periods and nutrient requirement curves out of synchronization with the perennial forage nutrient available curves.

The nutrient requirements for beef cows above maintenance levels varies with the changes in nutrient demand for milk production for the nursing calf as it grows, and with the changes in nutrient demand of the physiological preparation for breeding and the development of the fetus that will be the next calf (BCRC 1999, Manske 2002, Manske and Schneider 2007).

The available nutritional quality curves of perennial forage grasses are determined by changes in day length (photoperiod) and cannot be changed (Manske 2008a, 2008b, 2011a, 2011b). Crude protein levels of domesticated cool season grasses (crested wheatgrass and smooth brome) are closely related to the phenological stages of growth and development, which are triggered primarily by the length of daylight. Domesticated cool season grasses develop earlier than native cool season grasses. Domesticated cool season grasses are physiologically ready for grazing by early May with adequate quantities of herbage biomass and with most of the lead tillers at or past the 3.5 new leaf stage. Lead tillers contain the highest levels of crude protein during the early stages of development at 16% to 19% during early to mid May. Domesticated grasses are long day plants and the lead tillers reach the flower phenological stage around 28 May. Crude protein levels remain above 9.6% at flower stage but decrease rapidly during seed development stage, dropping below 9.6% soon after mid June, below 7.5% by early July, and below 6.4% by mid July (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008a). Phosphorus levels of lead tillers drop below 0.18% in late July, when plants reach the mature seed stage (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008b).

Crude protein levels of cool season native range grasses are closely related to the phenological stages of growth and development, which are triggered primarily by the length of daylight. The length of daylight increases during the growing season between mid April and mid June (21 June) and then decreases. Lead tillers contain the highest levels of crude protein during the early stages of development. Cool season grasses are long day plants and the lead tillers usually reach the flower phenological stage



before 21 June. Crude protein levels remain above 9.6% at flower stage but decrease rapidly during seed development and seed mature stages, dropping below 7.8% by early August and below 6.2% in late August (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008a). Secondary tillers are stimulated to develop on the twice-over rotation system, however, they are not stimulated to grow on the seasonlong system. Crude protein levels of cool season secondary tillers increase above 9.6% during July and August to 13.2% in early September, decrease during September, and drop below 9.6% in early to mid October (Sedivec 1999, Manske 2008a). Phosphorus levels of lead tillers drop below 0.18% in late July, when plants reach the mature seed stage (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008b).

Crude protein levels of warm season native range grasses are closely related to the phenological stages of growth and development, which are triggered primarily by the length of daylight. Lead tillers contain the highest levels of crude protein during the early stages of development. Warm season grasses are short day plants and the lead tillers usually reach the flower phenological stage after 21 June. Crude protein levels remain above 9.6% at flower stage but decrease rapidly during seed development and seed mature stages, dropping below 9.6% in late July, and below 6.2% in early September (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008a). Secondary tillers are stimulated to develop on the twice-over rotation system, however, they are not stimulated to grow on the seasonlong system. Crude protein levels of warm season secondary tillers increase above 9.0% during August to 10.0% in early September, decrease during September, and drop below 9.6% in late September (Sedivec 1999, Manske 2008a). Phosphorus levels of lead tillers drop below 0.18% in late August, when plants reach the mature seed stage (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008b).

Crude protein levels of upland sedges do not follow the same relationships with phenological growth stages as do the crude protein levels of cool and warm season grasses. Upland sedges contain the highest levels of crude protein during the early stages of development. Crude protein levels remain high through flower and seed mature stages and decrease with increases in senescence. Upland sedges grow very early and produce seed heads in late April to early May. Crude protein levels remain above 9.6% after seed mature stage, until mid July. Crude protein levels decrease below 7.8% in early August but do not fall below 6.2% for the remainder of the growing season (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008a).

Phosphorus levels drop below 0.18% in mid May, when plants reach the mature seed stage (Whitman et al. 1951, Manske 2008b).

The time of year during which the cow production periods with different nutritional requirements occur can be changed and synchronized with the nutritional quality curves of the perennial grasses by rationally setting the calving date which is determined by the breeding date. The greatest synchronization of the beef cow nutrient requirement curves and the perennial forage grass nutrient available curves occurs when the young calves are one month old at the start of grazing in early May on complementary domesticated cool season grass pastures (Manske 2002, Manske 2011b, Manske and Schneider 2008c).

The original source of new wealth generated from livestock agriculture are the renewable forage nutrients produced by perennial grasses. Greater calf weight gain is accumulated per acre when greater quantities of crude protein are captured per acre. The calf weight is the commodity sold at market, nevertheless, the source of the beef weight sold is the forage nutrients. Increasing the quantity of wealth captured from the land natural resources requires capturing greater quantities of the produced crude protein from the perennial forage grasses. Capturing greater quantities of crude protein per acre requires that the beef cow production periods and her nutrient requirement curves be in harmonious synchronization with the available nutrient curves of the perennial grasses (Manske and Schneider 2007), which requires the beef calves to be born before early April.

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Table 1. Precipitation in inches for growing season months of 2010-2013, DREC Ranch, North Dakota.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Growing Season
Long-term mean 1982-2011	1.41	2.60	3.24	2.44	1.73	1.46	1.28	14.15
2010	1.43	3.70	3.50	1.94	1.39	4.09	0.13	16.18
% of LTM	101.42	142.31	108.02	79.51	80.35	280.14	10.16	114.35
2011	1.66	6.87	2.15	2.33	2.70	1.76	0.44	17.91
% of LTM	117.73	264.23	66.36	95.49	156.07	120.55	34.38	126.57
2012	2.38	1.58	4.31	1.98	0.82	0.21	2.35	13.63
% of LTM	168.79	60.77	133.02	81.15	47.40	14.38	183.59	96.33
2013	1.05	7.55	2.23	2.13	2.81	2.44	3.35	21.56
% of LTM	74.47	290.38	68.83	87.30	162.43	167.12	261.72	152.37
Mean	1.63	4.93	3.05	2.10	1.93	2.13	1.57	17.32
% of LTM	115.60	189.42	94.06	85.86	111.56	145.55	122.46	122.40

Table 2. Running total precipitation in inches for growing season months of 2010-2013, DREC Ranch, North Dakota.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Long-term mean 1982-2011	1.41	4.01	7.25	9.69	11.42	12.88	14.15
2010	1.43	5.13	8.63	10.57	11.96	16.05	16.18
% of LTM	101.42	127.93	119.03	109.08	104.73	124.61	114.35
2011	1.66	8.53	10.68	13.01	15.71	17.47	17.91
% of LTM	117.73	212.72	147.31	134.26	137.57	135.64	126.57
2012	2.38	3.96	8.27	10.25	11.07	11.28	13.63
% of LTM	168.79	98.75	114.07	105.78	96.94	87.58	96.33
2013	1.05	8.60	10.83	12.96	15.77	18.21	21.56
% of LTM	74.47	214.46	149.38	133.75	138.09	141.38	152.37
Mean	1.63	6.56	9.60	11.70	13.63	15.75	17.32
% of LTM	115.60	163.47	132.45	120.72	119.33	122.30	122.40

Table 3. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with early and late birth date categories grazing spring and summer twice-over rotation and seasonlong system pastures, from early May to mid October.

Calf Birth Date Categories	Twice-over Rotation		Seasonlong	
	Early Birth	Late Birth	Early Birth	Late Birth
Birth Date	18 Mar	24 May	17 Mar	26 May
Birth Weight	lbs 72.3	76.1	69.5	73.3
Land Rent	\$ 8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area	ac 11.44	11.44	12.26	12.26
Forage Costs	\$ 100.21	100.21	107.40	107.40
Days on Pasture	164.00	168.00	164.00	168.00
Cost/Day	\$ 0.61	0.60	0.65	0.64
Calf Wt				
Pasture Gain	lbs 387.07	337.91	373.47	332.25
Gain/Day	lbs 2.36	2.01	2.28	1.98
Gain/Acre	lbs 33.83	29.54	30.48	27.10
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb	483.84	422.39	467.15	415.31
Net Return/Cow	\$ 383.63	322.18	359.75	307.91
Net Return/Acre	\$ 33.53	28.16	29.34	25.12
Cost/lb Gain	\$ 0.26	0.30	0.29	0.32
Weaning Wt	lbs 546.78	414.01	528.24	405.53
% Cow Wt	51.7	37.0	48.8	36.0
C-Cprs/640 ac	56	56	52	52
Net Return/640 ac	\$ 21,459.20	18,022.40	18,777.60	16,076.80

Table 4. Pounds of weight gain on crested wheatgrass and native rangeland pastures on the seasonlong and twice-over rotation systems for lowline X calves born during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the early and late calving seasons.

Grazing Systems Early and Late Calving Seasons 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Periods	Live Weight Gain					Final Pasture Weight
	Birth Date	Birth Wt	Crested Wheatgrass	Native Rangeland	Total Season	
Seasonlong 2010-2011	early (March) calving season					
Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Period	6 Mar	70.6	57.10	323.80	380.90	554.78
Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	20 Mar	69.1	54.07	322.45	376.53	524.43
Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	5 Apr	71.6	39.68	324.05	363.73	500.84
2012-2013	late (May) calving season					
Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Period	17 May	72.0	45.75	302.75	348.50	420.50
Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	24 May	74.6	29.94	307.88	337.82	412.37
Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	6 Jun	71.1	7.55	290.45	298.00	377.00
Twice-over Rotation 2010-2011	early (March) calving season					
Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Period	6 Mar	71.1	56.57	327.54	384.11	556.02
Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	20 Mar	73.9	53.82	342.18	396.00	564.02
Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	4 Apr	72.6	52.25	327.38	379.63	506.33
2012-2013	late (May) calving season					
Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Period	10 May	69.9	61.27	305.02	366.29	436.14
Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	23 May	77.7	32.08	309.71	341.79	419.49
Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	8 Jun	78.1	23.59	302.90	326.49	367.00

Table 5. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with three early birth date categories grazing spring and summer seasonlong system pastures, from early May to mid October.

		1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Calving Season
		1 Mar to 15 Mar	16 Mar to 30 Mar	31 Mar to 19 Apr	01 Mar to 19 Apr
Calf Birth Dates 2010-2011		(15 days)	(15 days)	(20 days)	(50 days)
Birth Date		6 Mar	20 Mar	5 Apr	17 Mar
Birth Weight	lbs	70.6	69.1	71.6	69.5
Land Rent	\$	8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area	ac	12.26	12.26	12.26	12.26
Forage Costs	\$	107.40	107.40	107.40	107.40
Days on Pasture		164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00
Cost/Day	\$	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Calf Wt					
Pasture Gain	lbs	380.90	376.53	363.73	373.47
Gain/Day	lbs	2.32	2.30	2.22	2.28
Gain/Acre	lbs	31.07	30.71	29.67	30.48
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb		476.13	470.66	454.66	467.15
Net Return/Cow	\$	368.73	363.26	347.26	359.75
Net Return/Acre	\$	30.08	29.63	28.32	29.34
Cost/lb Gain	\$	0.28	0.29	0.30	0.29
Weaning Wt	lbs	554.78	524.43	500.84	528.24
% Cow Wt		51.3	48.5	46.3	48.8
C-Cprs/640 ac		52	52	52	52
Net Return/640 ac	\$	19,251.20	18,963.20	18,124.80	18,777.60

Table 6. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with three late birth date categories grazing spring and summer seasonlong system pastures, from early May to mid October.

		1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Calving Season
		1 May to 16 May	17 May to 31 May	1 Jun to 23 Jun	01 May to 23 Jun
Calf Birth Dates 2012-2013		(16 days)	(15 days)	(23 days)	(54 days)
Birth Date		17 May	24 May	6 Jun	26 May
Birth Weight	lbs	72.0	74.6	71.1	73.3
Land Rent	\$	8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area	ac	12.26	12.26	12.26	12.26
Forage Costs	\$	107.40	107.40	107.40	107.40
Days on Pasture		168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00
Cost/Day	\$	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64
Calf Wt					
Pasture Gain	lbs	348.50	337.82	298.00	332.25
Gain/Day	lbs	2.07	2.01	1.77	1.98
Gain/Acre	lbs	28.43	27.55	24.31	27.10
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb		435.63	422.28	372.50	415.31
Net Return/Cow	\$	328.23	314.88	265.10	307.91
Net Return/Acre	\$	26.77	25.68	21.62	25.12
Cost/lb Gain	\$	0.31	0.32	0.36	0.32
Weaning Wt	lbs	420.50	412.37	377.00	405.53
% Cow Wt		37.3	36.6	33.4	36.0
C-Cprs/640 ac		52	52	52	52
Net Return/640 ac	\$	17,132.80	16,435.20	13,836.80	16,076.80

Table 7. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with three early birth date categories grazing spring and summer twice-over rotation system pastures, from early May to mid October.

		1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Calving Season
		1 Mar to 15 Mar	16 Mar to 30 Mar	31 Mar to 19 Apr	01 Mar to 19 Apr
Calf Birth Dates 2010-2011		(15 days)	(15 days)	(20 days)	(50 days)
Birth Date		6 Mar	20 Mar	4 Apr	18 Mar
Birth Weight	lbs	71.1	73.9	72.6	72.3
Land Rent	\$	8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area	ac	11.44	11.44	11.44	11.44
Forage Costs	\$	100.21	100.21	100.21	100.21
Days on Pasture		164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00
Cost/Day	\$	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61
Calf Wt					
Pasture Gain	lbs	384.11	396.00	379.63	387.07
Gain/Day	lbs	2.34	2.42	2.32	2.36
Gain/Acre	lbs	33.58	34.62	33.18	33.83
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb		480.14	495.00	474.54	483.84
Net Return/Cow	\$	379.93	394.79	374.33	383.63
Net Return/Acre	\$	33.21	34.51	32.72	33.53
Cost/lb Gain	\$	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.26
Weaning Wt	lbs	556.02	564.02	506.33	546.78
% Cow Wt		52.6	53.3	47.9	51.7
C-Cprs/640 ac		56	56	56	56
Net Return/640 ac	\$	21,254.40	22,086.40	20,940.80	21,459.20

Table 8. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with three late birth date categories grazing spring and summer twice-over rotation system pastures, from early May to mid October.

		1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Calving Season
		1 May to 16 May	17 May to 31 May	1 Jun to 23 Jun	01 May to 23 Jun
Calf Birth Dates 2012-2013		(16 days)	(15 days)	(23 days)	(54 days)
Birth Date		10 May	23 May	8 Jun	24 May
Birth Weight	lbs	69.9	77.7	78.1	76.1
Land Rent	\$	8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area	ac	11.44	11.44	11.44	11.44
Forage Costs	\$	100.21	100.21	100.21	100.21
Days on Pasture		168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00
Cost/Day	\$	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Calf Wt					
Pasture Gain	lbs	366.29	341.79	326.49	337.91
Gain/Day	lbs	2.18	2.03	1.94	2.01
Gain/Acre	lbs	32.02	29.88	28.54	29.54
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb		457.86	427.24	408.11	422.39
Net Return/Cow	\$	357.65	327.03	307.90	322.18
Net Return/Acre	\$	31.26	28.59	26.91	28.16
Cost/lb Gain	\$	0.27	0.29	0.31	0.30
Weaning Wt	lbs	436.14	419.49	367.00	414.01
% Cow Wt		39.0	37.5	32.8	37.0
C-Cprs/640 ac		56	56	56	56
Net Return/640 ac	\$	20,006.40	18,297.60	17,222.40	18,022.40



Table 9. Weight gain, costs, and net returns for lowline X calves with early and late birth date categories grazing spring and summer twice-over rotation and seasonlong system pastures, from early May to mid October.

Calf Birth Dates	Twice-over Rotation		Seasonlong	
	Early Birth 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Periods	Late Birth 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Periods	Early Birth 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Periods	Late Birth 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Periods
Birth Date	13 Mar	30 May	13 Mar	30 May
Birth Weight lbs	72.5	77.9	69.9	72.9
Land Rent \$	8.76	8.76	8.76	8.76
Land Area ac	11.44	11.44	12.26	12.26
Forage Costs \$	100.21	100.21	107.40	107.40
Days on Pasture	164.00	168.00	164.00	168.00
Cost/Day \$	0.61	0.60	0.65	0.64
Calf Wt				
Pasture Gain lbs	390.06	334.14	378.72	317.91
Gain/Day lbs	2.38	1.99	2.31	1.89
Gain/Acre lbs	34.10	29.21	30.89	25.93
Wt Value@\$1.25/lb	487.58	417.68	473.40	397.39
Net Return/Cow \$	387.37	317.47	366.00	289.99
Net Return/Acre \$	33.98	27.75	29.85	23.65
Cost/lb Gain \$	0.26	0.30	0.28	0.34
Weaning Wt lbs	560.02	393.25	539.61	394.69
% Cow Wt	52.9	35.1	49.9	35.0
C-Cprs/640 ac	56	56	52	52
Net Return/640 ac \$	21,747.20	17,760.00	19,104.00	15,136.00

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