NDSU | DICKINSON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

A Discussion

Where We Have Been
Where We Are
Where We Are Going

Kris Ringwall, Ph. D., Extension Livestock Specialist
Douglas Landblom, Animal Scientist
Dickinson Research Extension Center

CHAPS

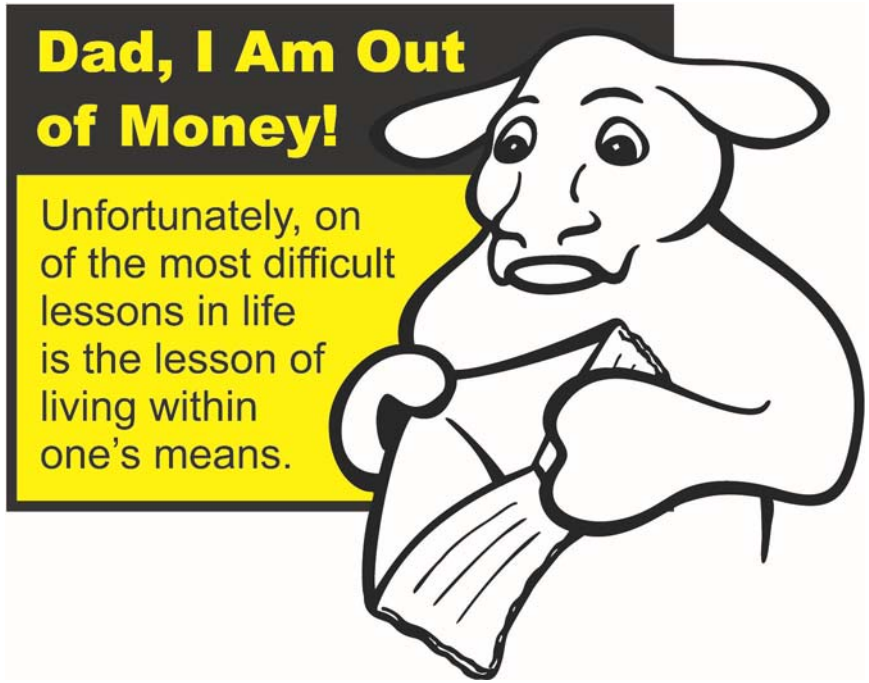
"I Thought I Was Doing Better Than That!"

BeefTalk 788

https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-i-thought-i-was-doing-better-than-that/

"After The Party Blues"

BeefTalk 749



https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-after-the-party-blues/

"Grandma and Grandpa Are Worried"

BeefTalk 783

Changes in North Dakota Beef Cattle Operations

	2000	2013	% Change in 10 years	2014	% Change in 11 years
Gross margin	$466	$830	up 178%	$1,310	up 281%
Cost of purchasing or keeping replacement females	$132	$268	up 203%	$297	up 225%
Cost of total direct and overhead expenses	$342	$583	up 170%	$648	up 189%

FINBIN (www.finbin.umn.edu/) from the Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota

https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-grandma-and-grandpa-are-worried/

"Cost of Beef Production Up 200 Percent"

BeefTalk 784

N.D. Beef Cattle Operation Costs Jump

	2000	2013	% Change in 10 years	2014	% Change in 11 years
Total direct and overhead expenses	$342	$564	up 165%	$648	up 189%
Actual weaning weight	544	541	down .6%	547	up .6%
Pounds weaned per exposed cow	492	479	down 2.6%	471	down 4.3%
Cost per pound weaned per exposed cow	$.69	$1.18	up 171%	$1.38	up 200%

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https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-cost-of-beef-production-up-200-percent/

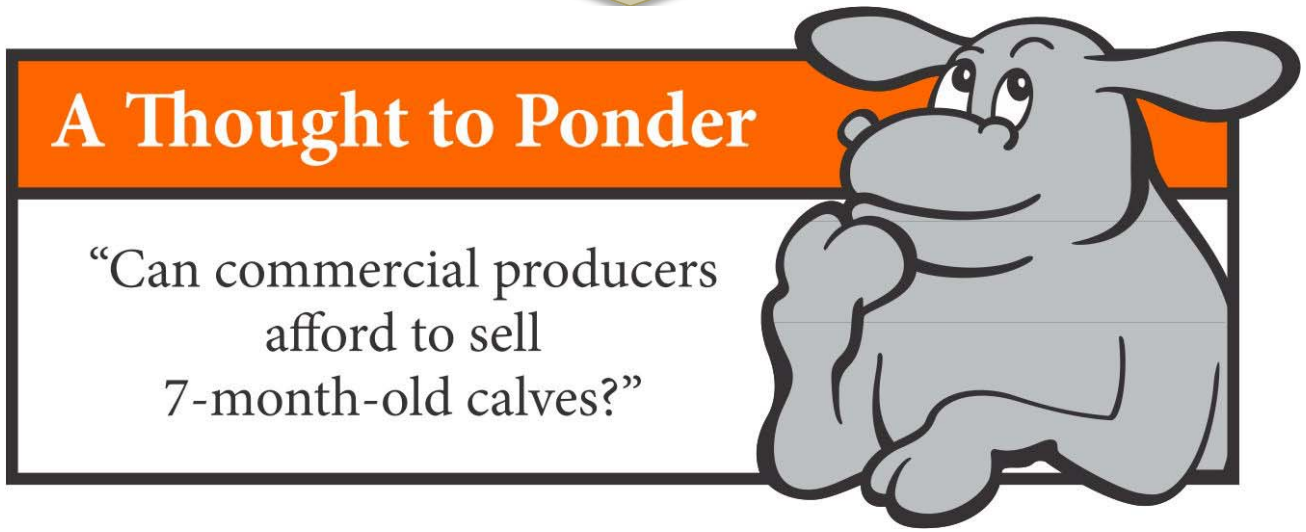
"Can Production Efficiency Offset Costs?"

BeefTalk 785

https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-cost-of-beef-production-up-200-percent/

"Pondering Growth in the Beef Business"

BeefTalk 786



https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-pondering-growth-in-the-beef-business/

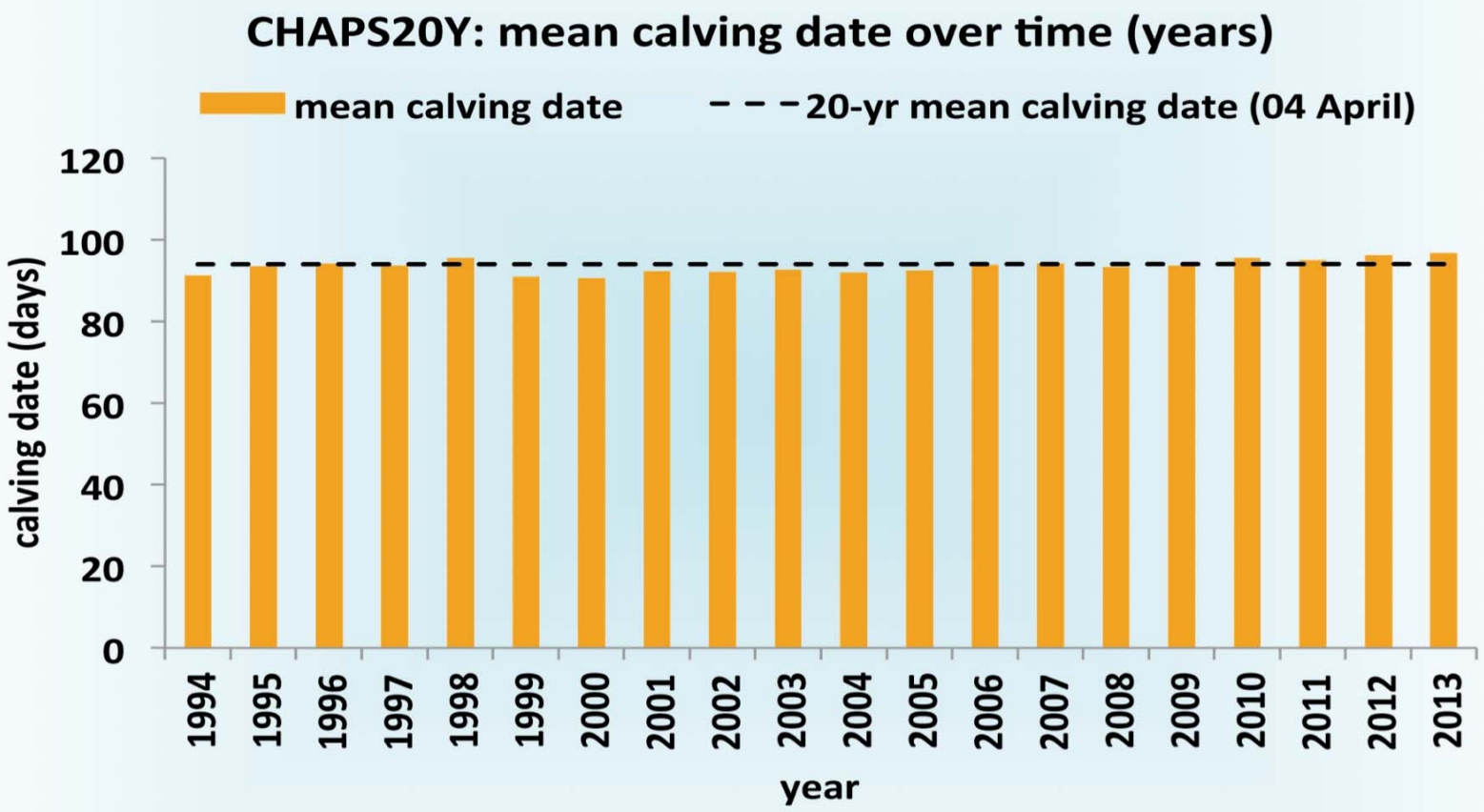
"Can Commercial Producers Afford To Sell 7-month Old Calves?"

BeefTalk 787

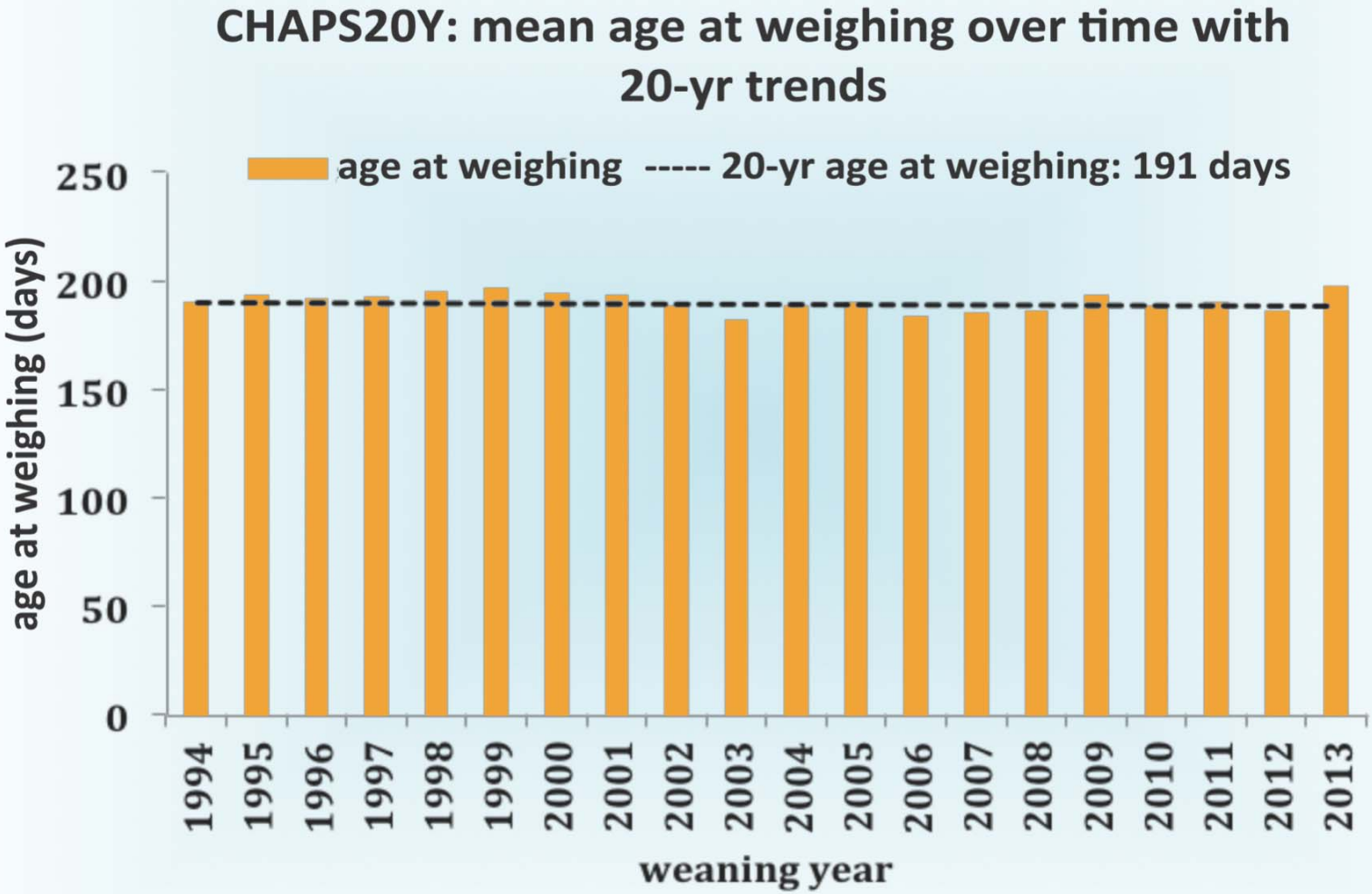
https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-can-commercial-producers-afford-to-sell-7-month-old-calves/

We Know What Has Worked

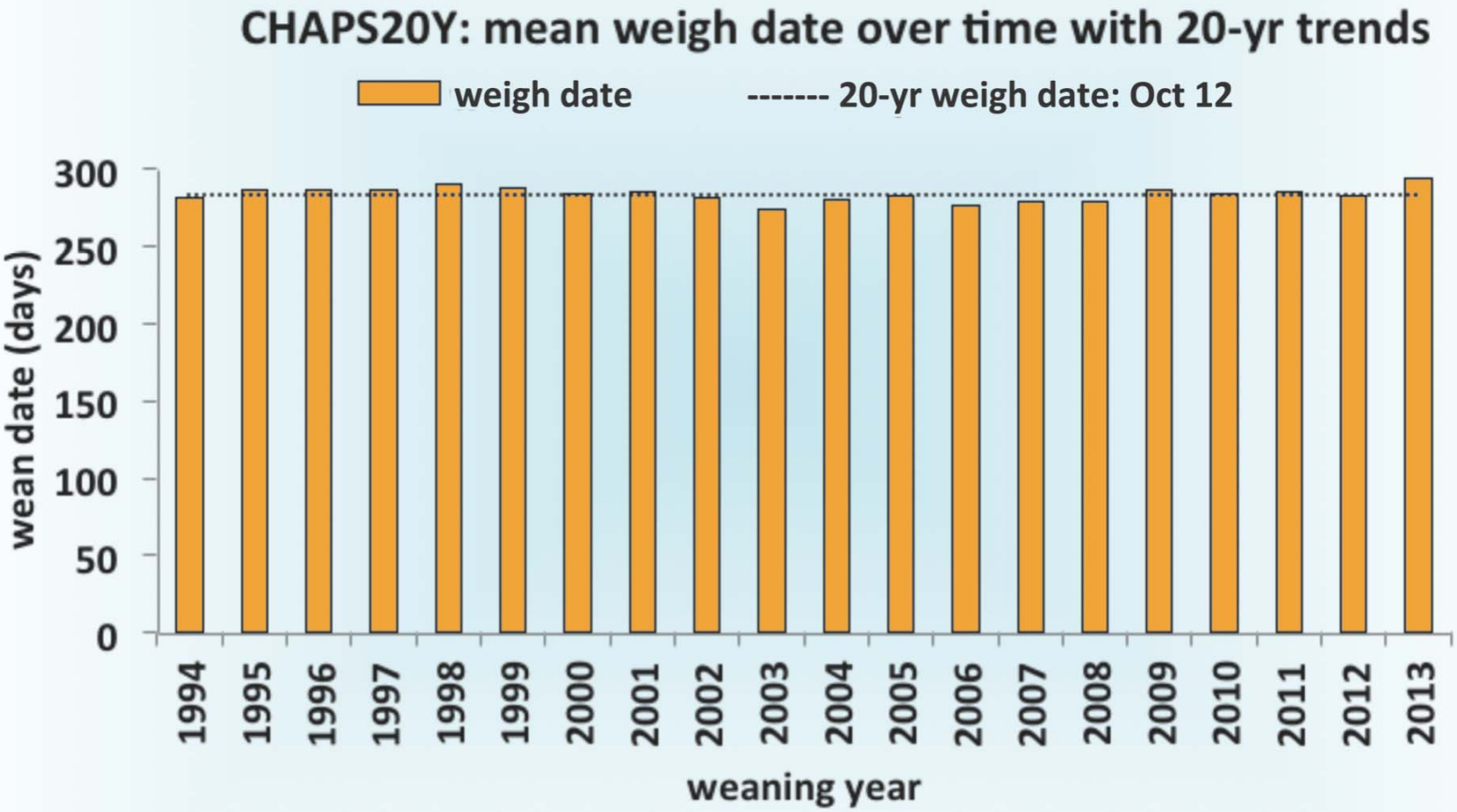
20-year Average Calving Date



20-year Average Weigh Age



20-year Average Weigh Date



CHAPS Benchmarks

Animal Performance

www.chaps2000.com/benchmarks.htm as of March 29, 2015	
Average Age at Weaning	191
Steers WWT	571
Heifers WWT	542
Bulls WWT	595
Average WWt	558
Lbs Weaned/Cow Exposed	495

CHAPS Benchmarks

Animal Performance

www.chaps2000.com/benchmarks.htm as of March 29, 2015	
Average Daily Gain	2.49
Weight Per Day of Age	2.95
Birth Weight	84
Adjusted 205 Day Weight	623
Frame Score	5.6

CHAPS Benchmarks

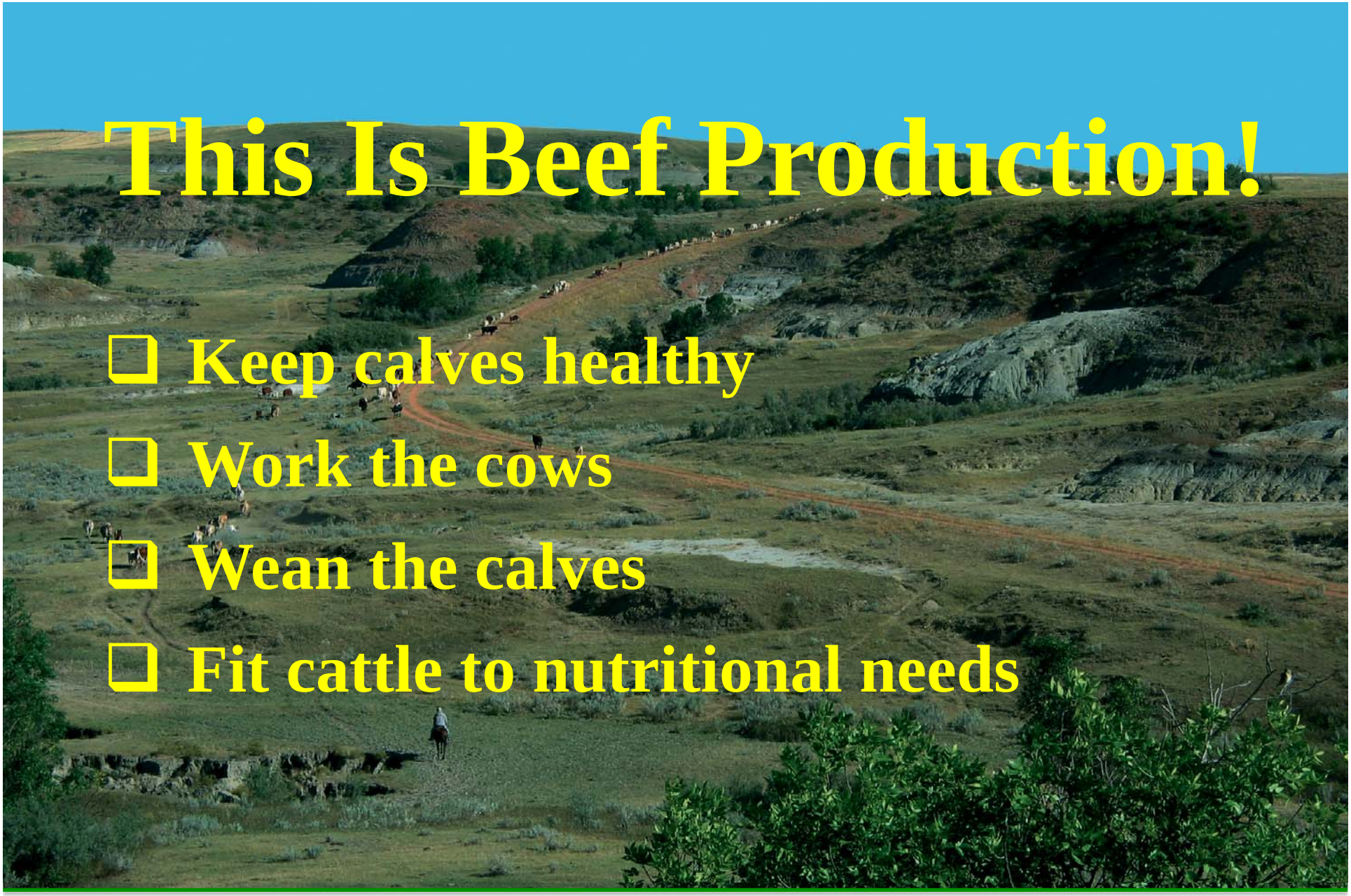
Reproductive Efficiency

www.chaps2000.com/benchmarks.htm as of March 29, 2015	
% Pregnancy	93.1
% Pregnancy Loss	0.65
% Calving	92.5
% Calf Death Loss	3.4
% Weaning	89.8
% Replacement Rate	15.7

CHAPS Benchmarks

Reproductive Efficiency

www.chaps2000.com/benchmarks.htm as of March 29, 2015	
% Cows Calving at 42 Days	86.4
Cow Age	5.5
Cow Weight	1418
Cow Body Condition Score	5.9


This Is Beef Production!
Keep calves healthy
Work the cows
Wean the calves
Fit cattle to nutritional needs

We Know What Has Worked

The Northern Plains nutritional curve fits March-April calving

- ❑ Access to Crested Wheatgrass
- ❑ Cows milk well
- ☑ March-April calves can utilize grass
- ❑ Sell hefty, healthy, heavy calves

This is not a discussion about cow size.

So What?

Attitudes!

Traditional goals of beef managers are changing.

Nontraditional focus changes the paradigm.

Why look at something different?

May-June calving presents opportunities

- Decreased labor need
- Reduced facilities
- Matching feed to 3rd trimester needs
- Potential to capture profit

Things That Remain Constant

Things That Remain Constant

Need for calves to grow

Things That Remain Constant

Every operation needs good genetics

Cows Can Extend the Grazing Season

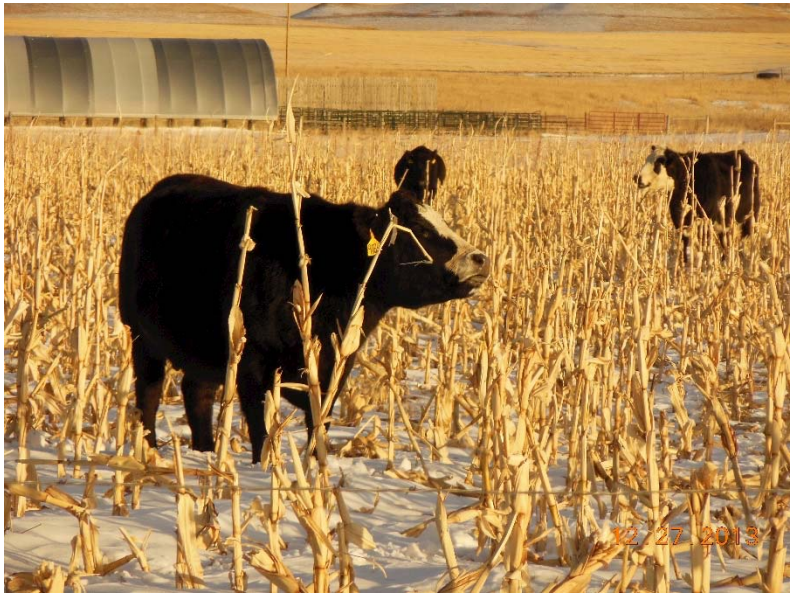
Grazing stockpiled mixed pastures of bromegrass and crested wheatgrass followed by corn stalk residue

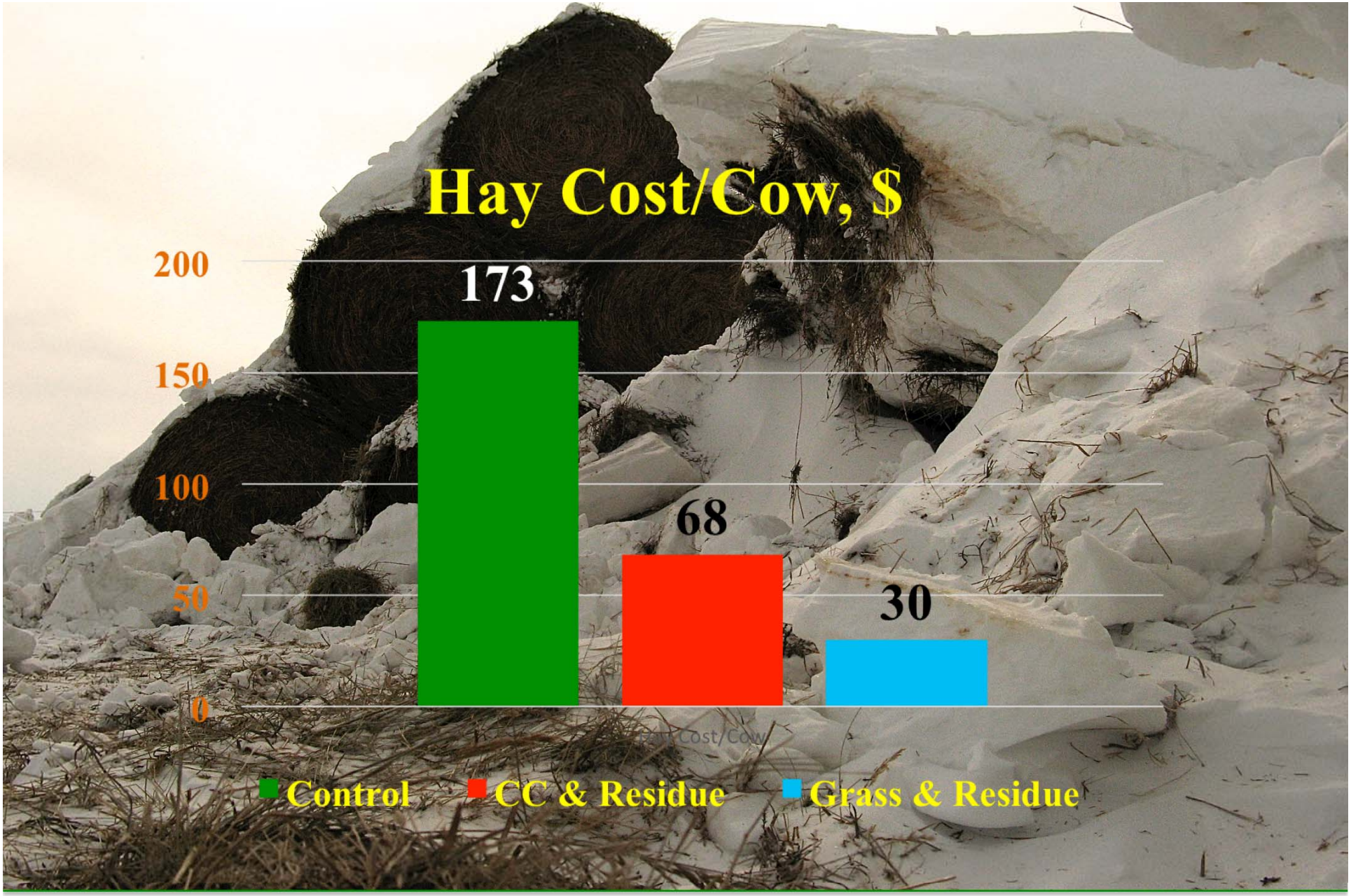
Cows Can Extend the Grazing Season

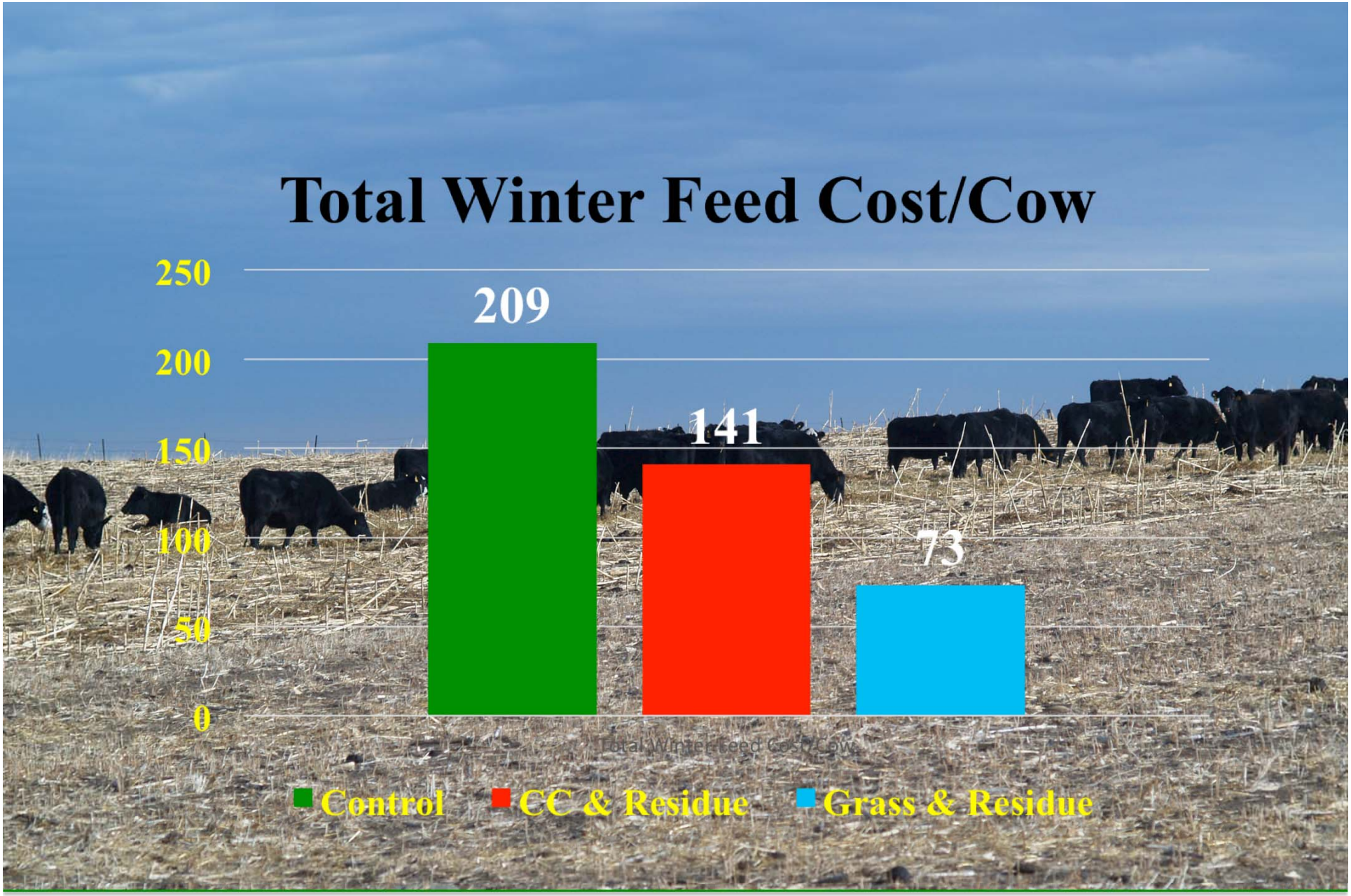
By Utilizing

Cover Crops

Crop Residue

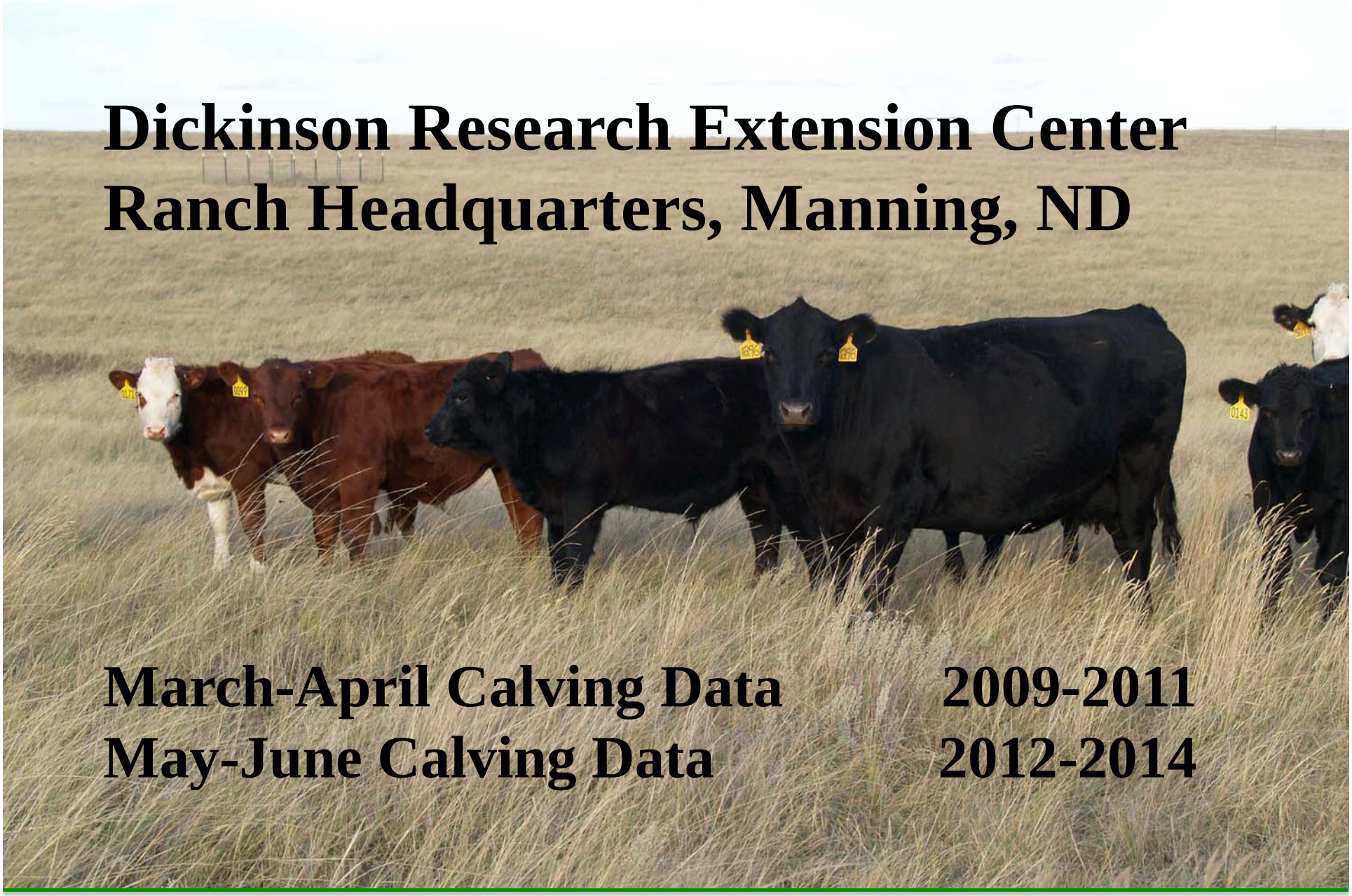



Hay Cost/Cow, $
200
150
100
50
0
173
68
30
Hay Cost/Cow
Control
CC & Residue
Grass & Residue


Total Winter Feed Cost/Cow
250
200
150
100
50
0
209
141
73
Total Winter Feed Cost/Cow
Control
CC & Residue
Grass & Residue

March-April vs May-June

Dickinson Research Extension Center
Ranch Headquarters, Manning, ND



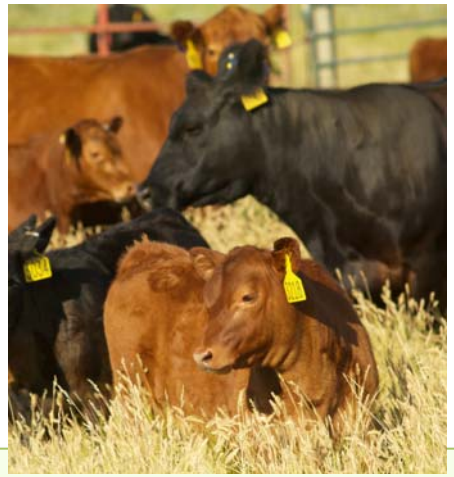
March-April Calving Data 2009-2011
May-June Calving Data 2012-2014

Herd H38 Management

	Mar-Apr	May-June
Bull Turnout	1-Jun	1-Aug
Official Start of Calving*	15-Mar	7-May
Average Calving Date	29-Mar	25-May
Start of Third Trimester	12-Dec	12-Feb

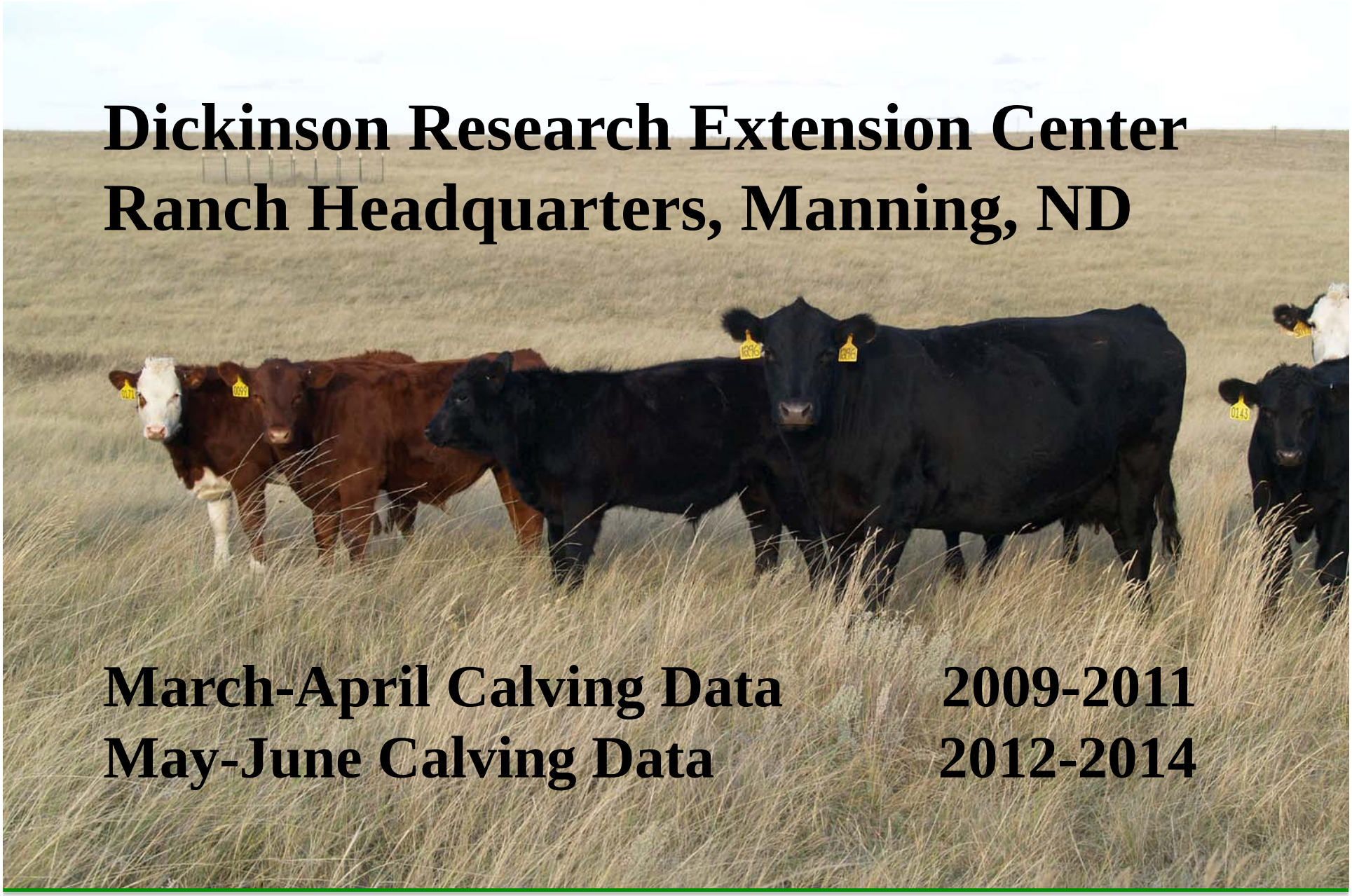
* = Average date when 3rd cow in herd calves

Average Calving Date Statistics



CHAPS (20 year average)	April 4
Herd 38 (DREC, March-April Calving	March 29
Herd 38 (DREC, May-June Calving)	May 25

Dickinson Research Extension Center
Ranch Headquarters, Manning, ND



March-April Calving Data 2009-2011
May-June Calving Data 2012-2014

Herd H38
Animal Performance

Critical Success Factors		
	Mar-Apr 2009-2011	May-June 2012-2014
Average Age at Weaning	205	168
Steers	609	537
Heifers	587	487
Bulls	NA	NA
Average Weaning Weight	598	514

Herd H38
Animal Performance

Critical Success Factors		
	Mar-Apr 2009-2011	May-June 2012-2014
Average Daily Gain	2.51	2.52
Weight Per Day of Age	2.94	3.06
Birth Weight	86	89
Adjusted 205 Day Weight	640	639
Frame Score	5.0	5.0

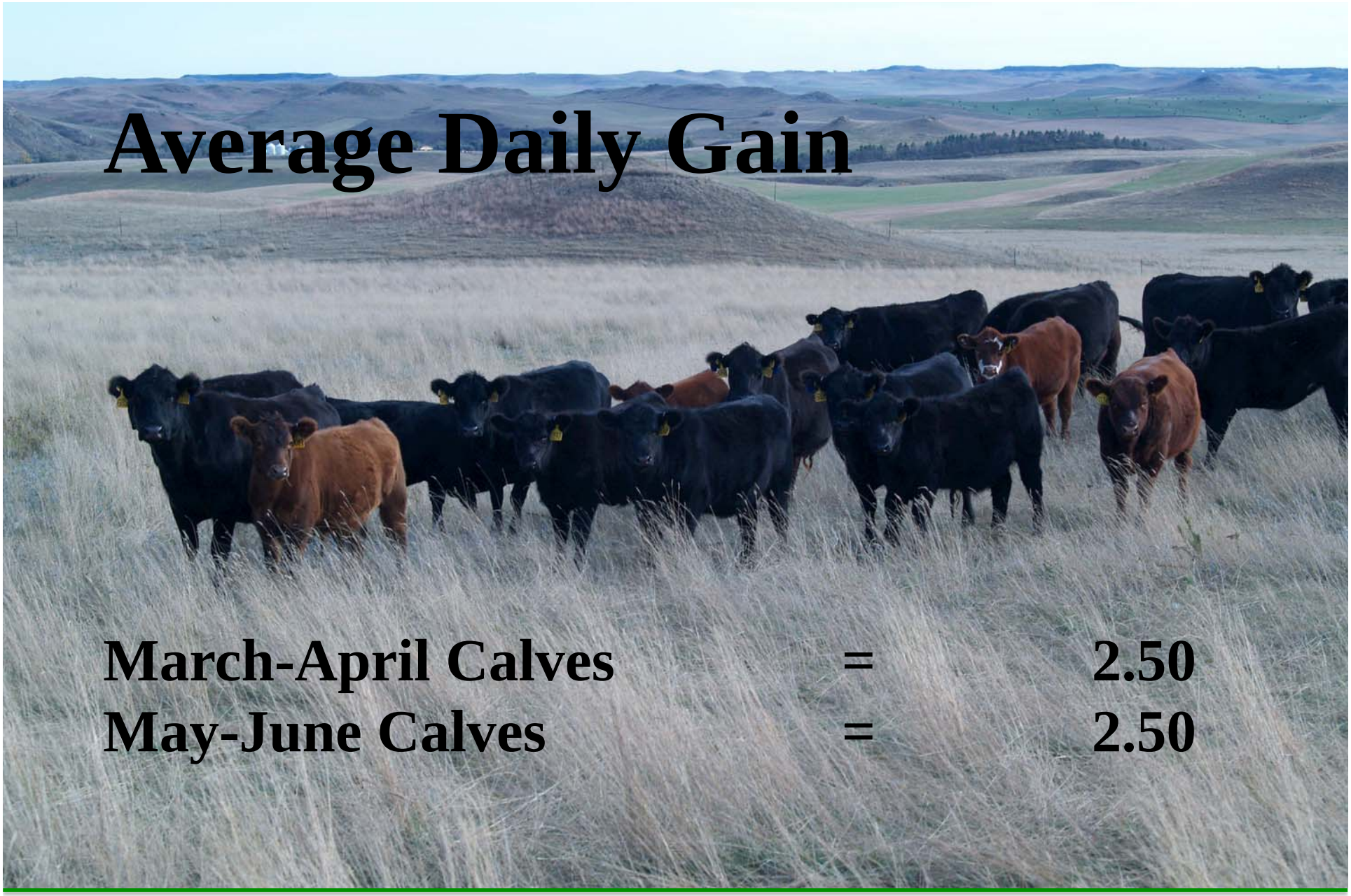
Herd H38
Reproductive Efficiency

Critical Success Factors		
	Mar-Apr 2009-2011	May-June 2012-2014
% Cows Calving in 42 Days	95.2	95.2
Cow Age	4.8	5.0
Cow Weight	1307	1437
Cow Condition	5.6	5.3

Herd H38
Reproductive Efficiency

Critical Success Factors		
	Mar-Apr 2009-2011	May-June 2012-2014
% Pregnancy	98.96	98.23
% Pregnancy Loss	0.50	0.85
% of Cow Calving	98.46	97.38
% Calf Death loss	6.50	3.72
% Cows Weaning Calves	91.96	93.66

Average Daily Gain



March-April Calves	**=**	**2.50**
May-June Calves	**=**	**2.50**

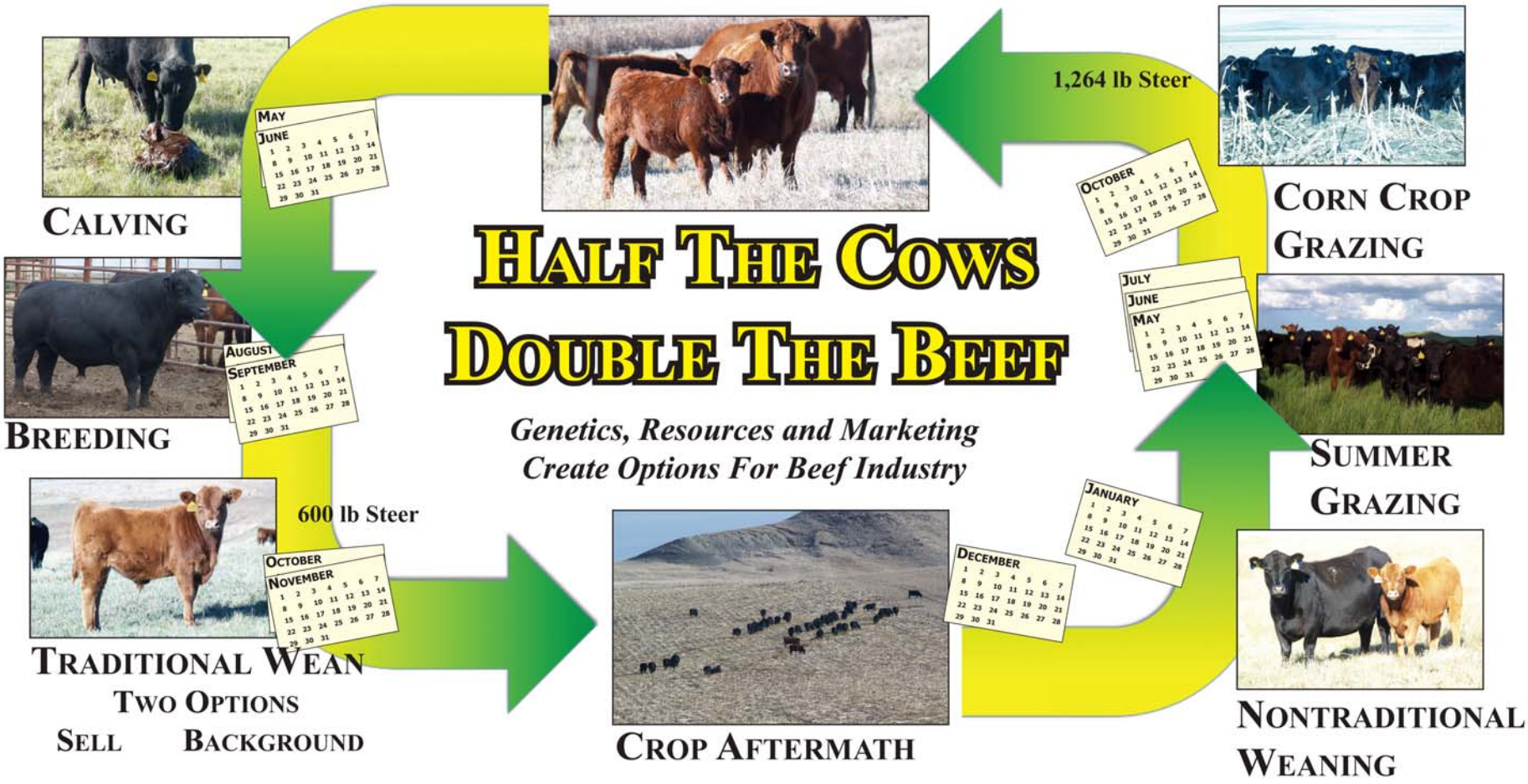
Calf Growth

(Early November weaning; no birthweight included)

March-April Calves (205 days @ 2.50) = 512.5
May-June Calves (168 days @ 2.50) = 420.0

The BIG Question:

BEEF STREAM


CALVING
MAY
JUNE
BREEDING
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
600 lb Steer
TRADITIONAL WEAN
TWO OPTIONS
SELL
BACKGROUND
OCTOBER
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CROP AFTERMATH
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WEANING
1,264 lb Steer
CORN CROP
GRAZING
OCTOBER
JULY
JUNE
MAY
SUMMER
GRAZING
HALF THE COWS
DOUBLE THE BEEF
Genetics, Resources and Marketing
Create Options For Beef Industry


The Next Step:
JANUARY WEANING

2015 Calves Weaning Plan

Mid to late October — **Work Calves, Cows**

- Precondition (calves)
- Weigh (calves and cows)
- Condition score (calves and cows)
- Pregnancy check (cows)

Mid December — **Wean Calves**

- From 2 and 3 year old cows

Mid January — **Wean Calves**

- From mature cows

January 2015 Beef Cows At Weaning

Fall Weight	Winter Weight	Weight Loss
1473	1400	-.92 lbs/day
Fall BCS	Winter BCS	
5.3	4.6	

January 2015 Beef Calves At Weaning

Fall Weight	Winter Weight	Weight Gain
534	609	+1.19 lbs/day

Management Goals

Winter calves for three-plus months

Weight gain goal of 1 to 1.5 lbs/day

Diet is primarily forage based

Turn yearlings onto Crested Wheatgrass May 1

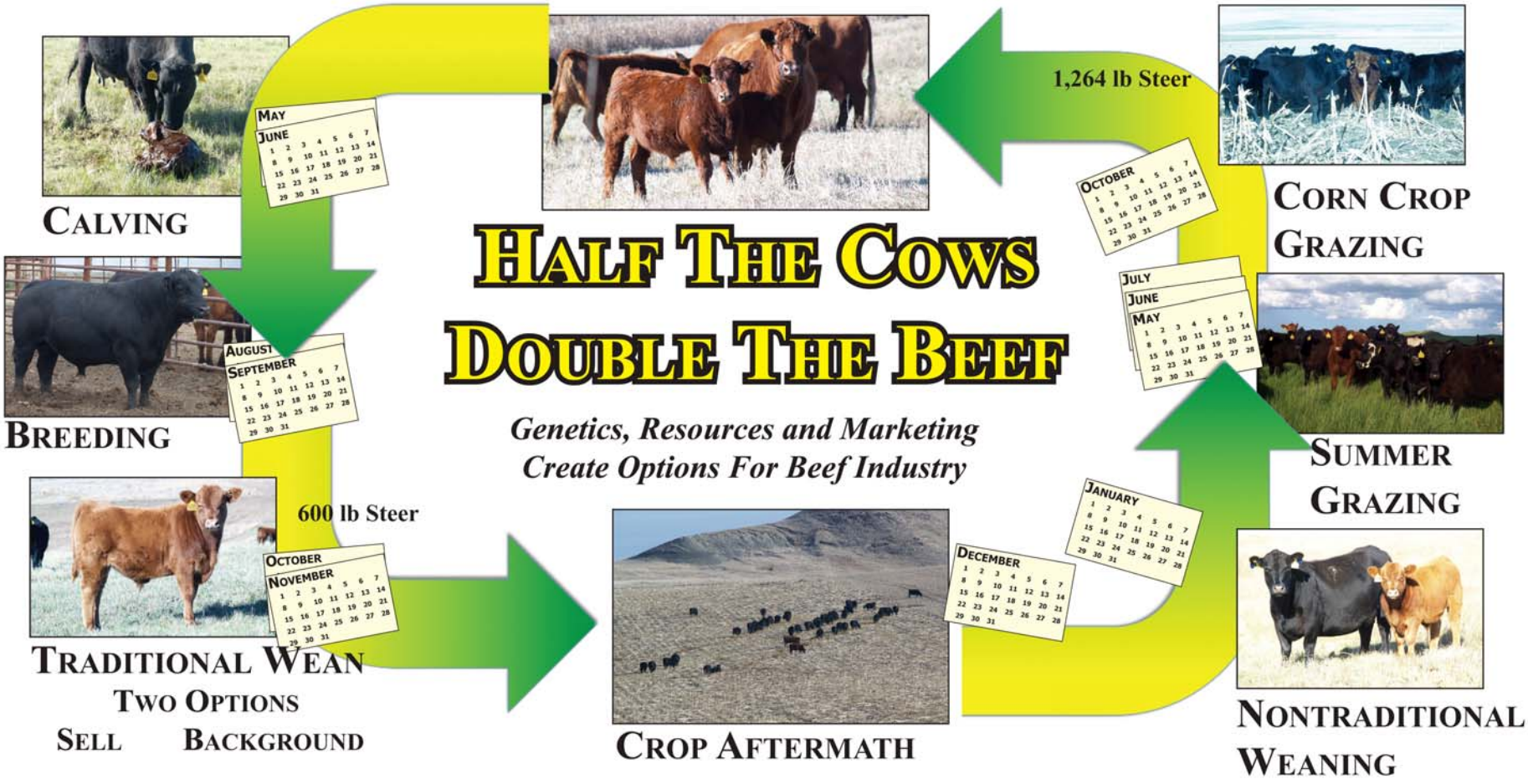
Target is breed yearling heifers in August

The Next BIG Question

HOW DOES BACKGROUNDING GAIN COMPARE WITH JANUARY WEANING?


This Is Beef Production!
YOU GET TO DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
YOU CHANGE THE GAME PLAN!
A NEW PARADIGM EXISTS!

BEEF STREAM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1,264 lb Steer
HALF THE COWS DOUBLE THE BEEF
Genetics, Resources and Marketing Create Options For Beef Industry

This Is Beef Production!

You cannot control the markets

You can react to opportunities

EXPLORE SOME OPTIONS:

What Are Our Options?

- Sell Younger Calves
- Begin Backgrounding in January
- Keep Calves for Yearling Operation
  - •• Use May Crested Wheatgrass
  - •• Utilize Cover Crops
    - √ Supplement Weight Gain
    - √ Build Soil Quality
  - •• Capture Additional Revenue

What Are Our Options?

Sell Younger Calves

How do we make up the the 92.5 pound difference?

What Are Our Options?

Wean calves in January

On crop residue.
Overwinter calves with 1-1.5 lb/day gain
Cows begin third trimester in February

What Are Our Options?

Keep Calves for Yearling Operation

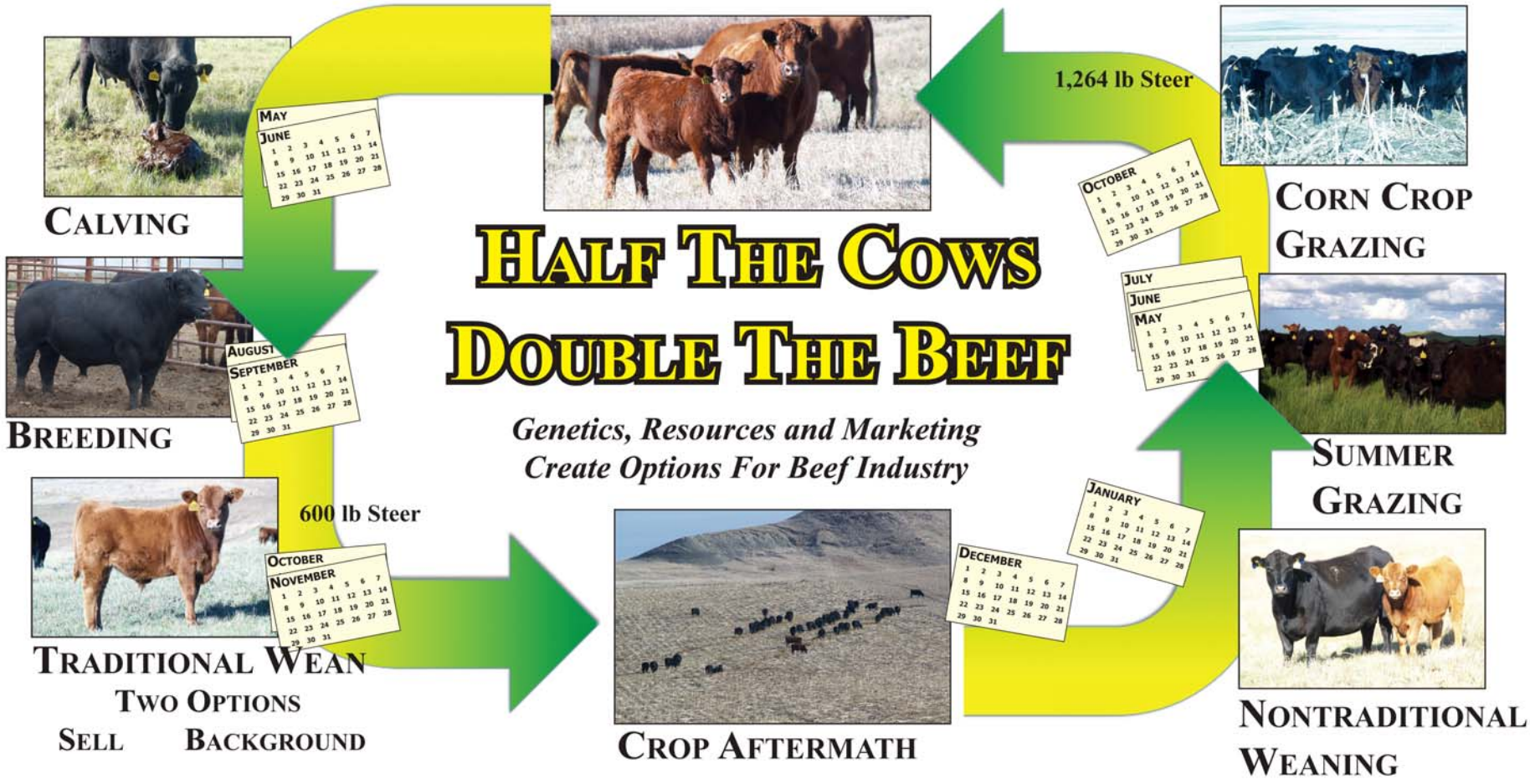
- **Use May Crested Wheatgrass**
- **Utilize Cover Crops**

Earn Supplemental Weight Gain

Build Soil Quality

Capture Additional Revenue

BEEF STREAM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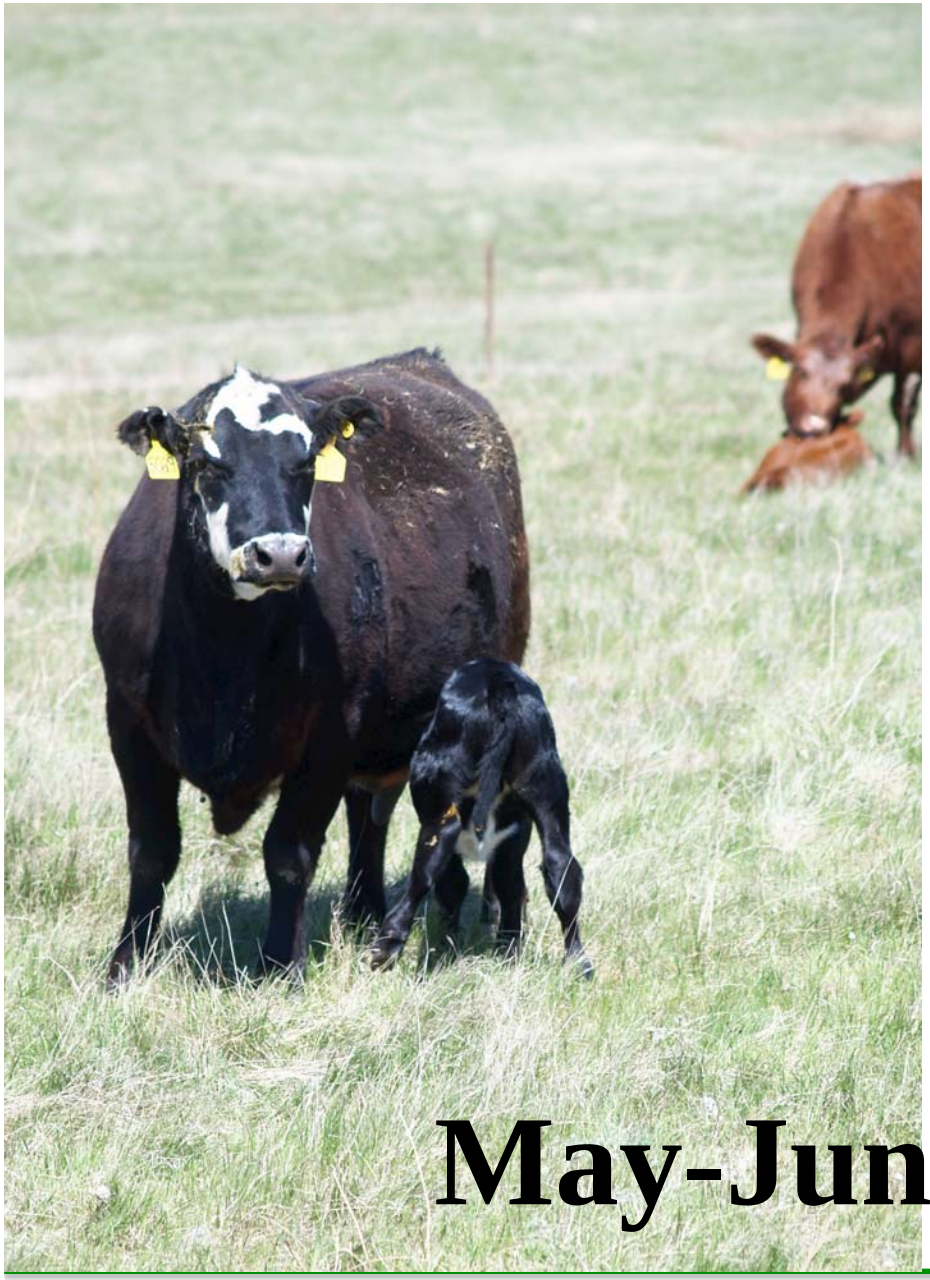
Genetics, Resources and Marketing Create Options For Beef Industry

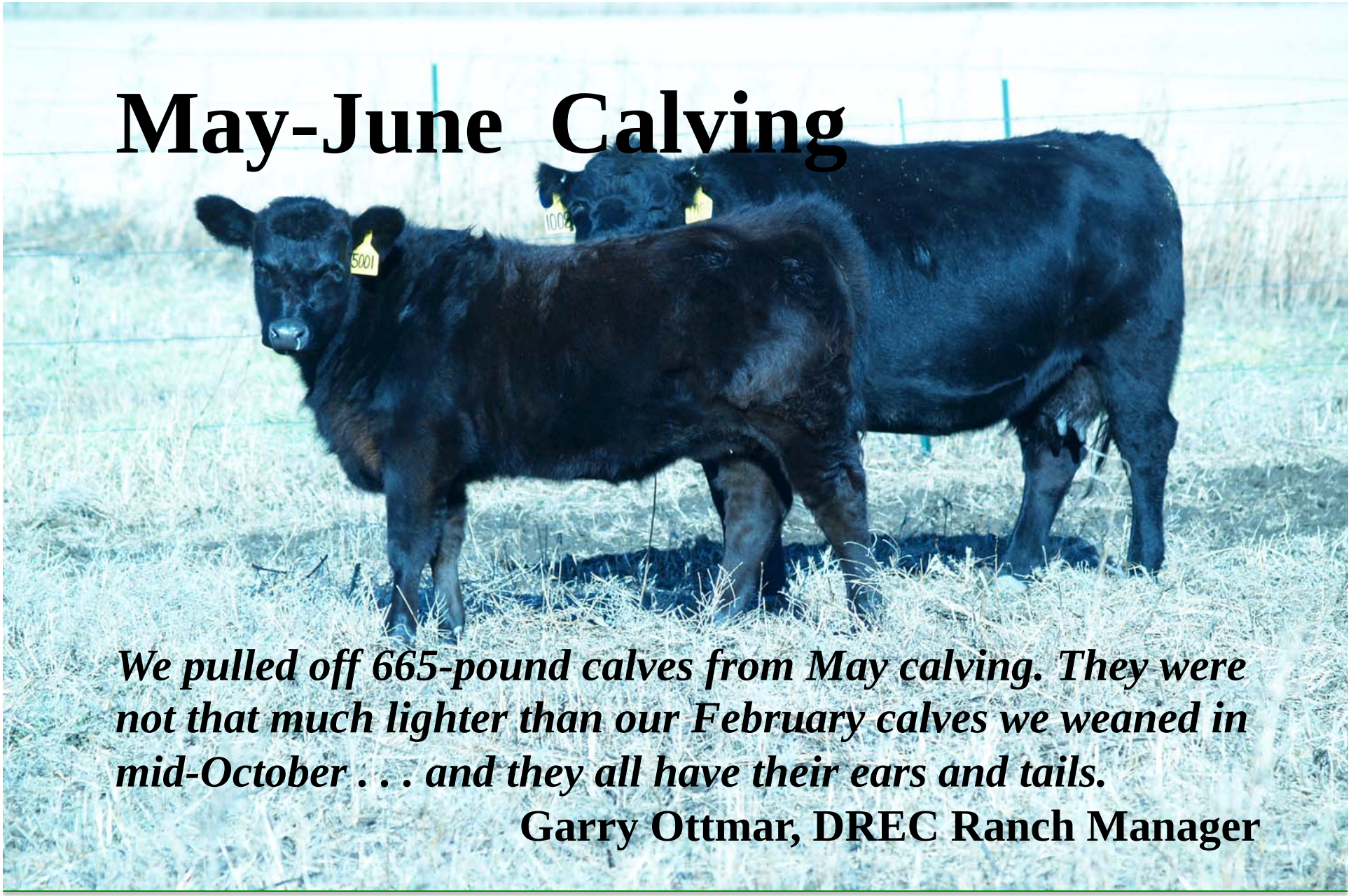
WEATHER IS ALWAYS A CONCERN!

Can be cold in March-April
Spring snowstorms in May-June
Cold, snowy weather in November



May-June Calving

May-June Calving



We pulled off 665-pound calves from May calving. They were not that much lighter than our February calves we weaned in mid-October . . . and they all have their ears and tails.

Garry Ottmar, DREC Ranch Manager

May-June Calving

Those early born calves can get their feet froze a little (and) once those calves go to the feedlot they do not do well . . . If the calf gets in trouble, the calf will be fine with (May-June) temperatures. In the winter, if you are not there right away, the calf is gone.

Garry Ottmar
DREC Ranch Manager

May-June Calving

I would never go back to February and March calving. This is a good option (for) husband and wife teams that are so prevalent out there (on the farm or ranch). I don't know a better way to do it.

Garry Ottmar, DREC Ranch Manager, and wife Wanda.

May-June Calving

I love it (May-June calving). The (warmer) weather seems to quiet the cows down, the cows are more healthy, there is less disease . . . I would never want to go back. It's just Dean and I . . .

Bob Paluck
DREC Research Technician

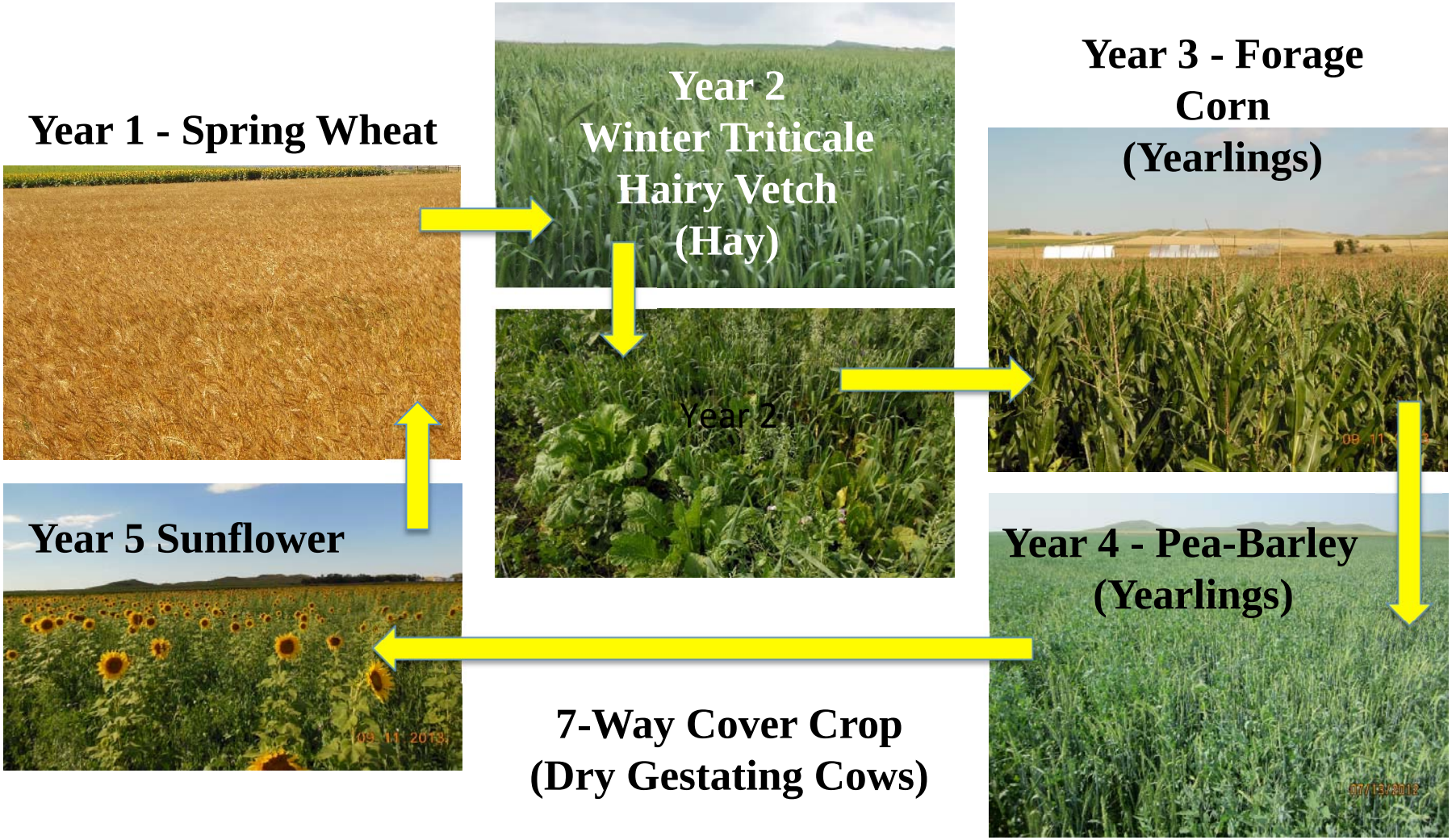
DREC research technicians Dean Nelson and Bob Paluck

2014 May Wean Data

Herd	Wean Age (days)	Wean WT
DREC Herd 38	164	540
CHAPS Avg	191	558

May born calves grow and are marketable using traditional management systems.

Graze to Slaughter Crop Rotation



Grazing Sequence Perennial Pastures

•• Early May

Crested Wheatgrass

(39 Days)

•• Mid-June

Native Range

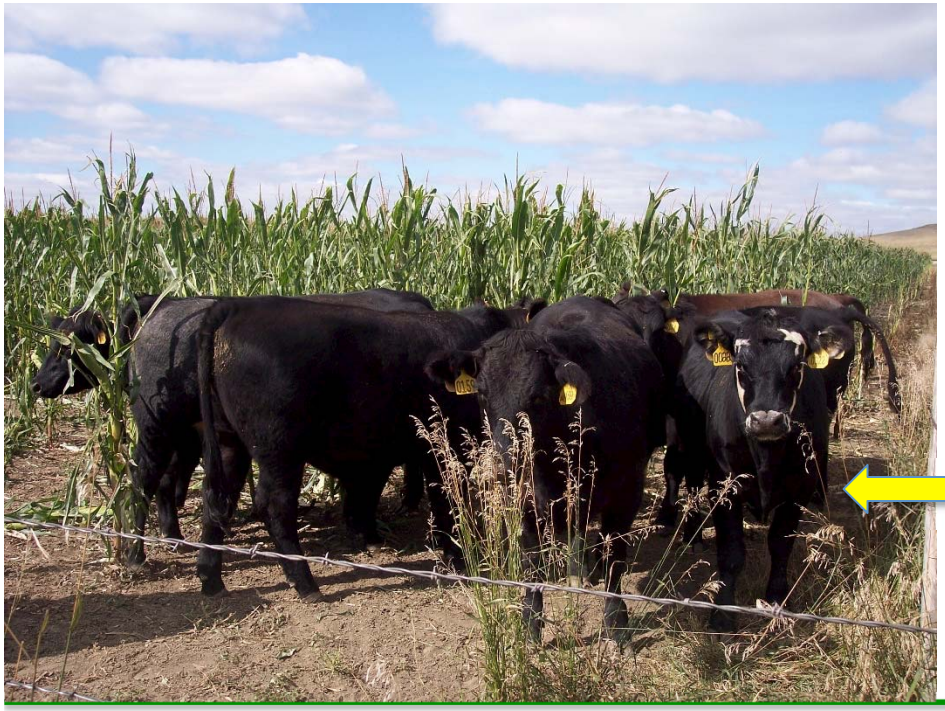
(61 Days)

Grazing Sequence (Annual Forage)

•• Mid-August (27 Days)

Pea-barley

Protein bridge



Mid-September

Unharvested corn

(55-77 Days)

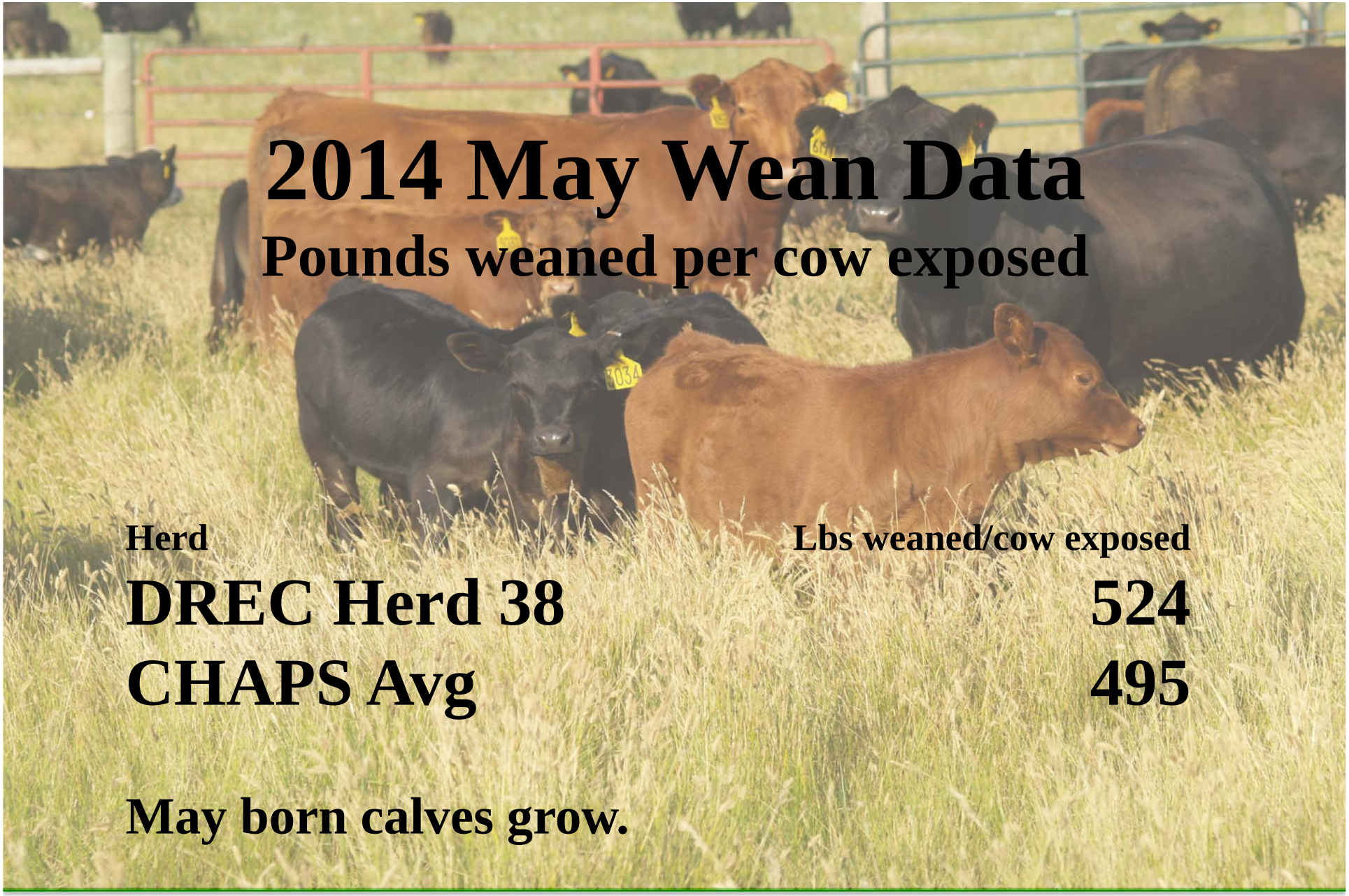
Graze to Slaughter Forage Sequence








1,264 pound steer



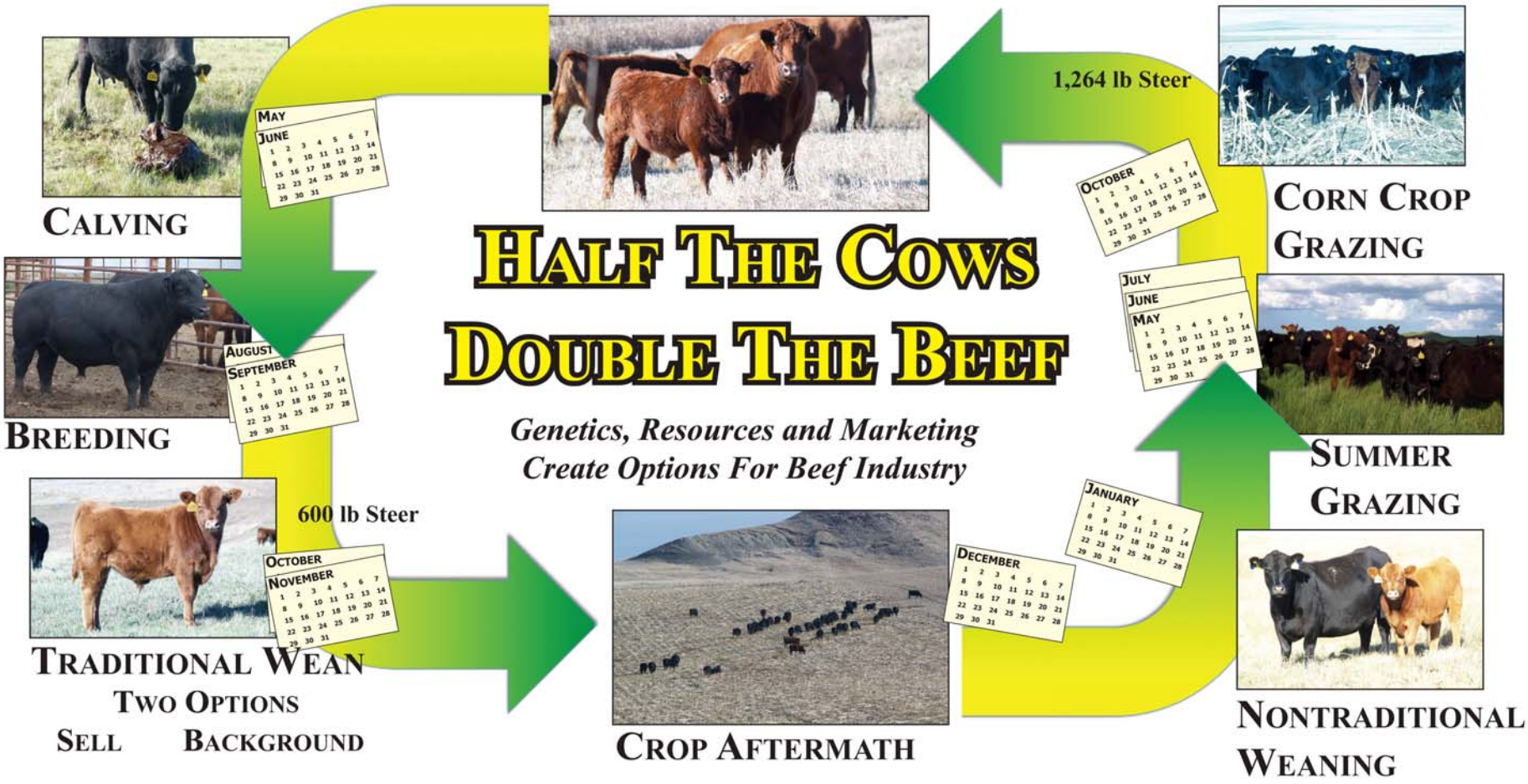
2014 May Wean Data

Pounds weaned per cow exposed

Herd	Lbs weaned/cow exposed
DREC Herd 38	524
CHAPS Avg	495

May born calves grow.

BEEF STREAM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SUMMER
GRAZING


Sell Half The Cows
Market the Same Amount of Beef

Marketing Options

Traditional steers:
sell in November at 609 pounds

Nontraditional steers:
sell long yearlings at 1,264 pounds

That's What It's All About!

Come and See for Yourself!


There Are Opportunities In The Beef Business!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
701-483-1100
kris.ringwall@ndsu.edu -- douglas.landblom@ndsu.edu
www.ag.ndsu.edu/DickinsonREC