



Feeding for Profit - Multi-year Impact

Public Value Statement

North Dakota calves are in great demand in the cattle finishing states. Providing a healthy, properly fed and marketable calf to these areas will ensure demand for North Dakota calves and improve economics for North Dakota producers.

The Situation

Calf prices fluctuate yearly, and within a marketing season, large price swings can occur. These price swings can be attributed to the condition of the calf, weather and market trends. Whether it's an up or down market, profit is determined by cost per pound of gain, not cost per head per day. North Dakota has an abundance of cheap feedstuffs (used to feed calves). When fed properly, optimal weight gain, decreased sickness and more marketable animals can be achieved.

Extension Response

Mark Miller, the Extension agent in Rolette County, has worked closely with producers for several years to gain an understanding of livestock operations and producers' goals. The number of producers served has grown from 35 in 2017 to more than 60. Topics covered with each individual included nutrition, ration balancing with available feeds and type of feeds to buy, if needed. Rations were developed for each producer. Additionally, the agent helped each producer create a budget for a better understanding of what their costs are during the feeding period.

Impacts

The cost per pound of gain is determined by daily feed cost divided by average daily gain. By putting more weight on the calves, the cost per pound of gain is cheaper. Weight gain occurred, on average, at 40 to 100 pounds per calf, and the selling price averaged \$25 to \$50 higher per head from the previous year.

Feedback

"I sold exactly a month earlier this year and had 794 average. Last year I averaged 773 pounds."

"Heifers were 25 pounds heavier and I sold three weeks earlier."

Primary Contact

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Fac:

Animal Desc.	Feeders and Replacements - 800lbs. Steer, ADG:3.2lbs			
Predicted ADG:	4.10 Lbs	BCS Days		N/A
Hair Condition:	dry and clean	Current Temperature (F)		0.0
Mud in Lot:	< 10 cm. (4 inches)	Previous Month Temperature (F)		0.0
On Pasture:	No	Wind Speed (mi/hr)		8.0
Feed Name	As Fed Lbs/Head/Day	% of Ration	\$/Head/Day	
2nd cut alf	4.250	11.2	\$0.27	
GRASS HAY	4.250	11.2	\$0.19	
SILG CORN	16.000	42.3	\$0.28	
CORN GRAIN	10.500	27.8	\$0.61	
DDGS CORN	2.500	6.6	\$0.20	
R-1200	0.300	0.8	\$0.10	
Total	37.800*		\$1.85*	
* waste factor not included				
Nutrient(DM basis)	Supplied Feed only	Recommended	Diet Concentration	
DM Intake	24.8	20.4 Lbs	65.0 %	
DE	35.52	30.30 Mcal	1.45 Mcal/lb	
TDN	17.80	15.18 lbs	72.47 %	
NEmTot	8.34	8.34 Mcal	0.86 Mcal/lb	
NEg	7.30	5.53 Mcal	0.49 Mcal/lb	
Protein	1364	1185 grams	12.2 %	
Calcium	81	43 grams	0.73 %	
Phosphorus	34	23 grams	0.30 %	