

AB-1 Future Farm Summary

	Calving Distribution 1	Calving Distribution 2	Feed Heifers Separately
Description	Increase weaning weight by shortening calving season to 3 cycles	Increase weaning weight by shortening calving season to 3 cycles and adjusting calving distribution to be closer to the industry average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve conception rate through feeding second calf heifers separately
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change calving distribution from 31-28-25-17 to 37-33-30 over five years Heifer weaning weight increases from 587 to 603 lbs Steer weaning weight increases from 609 to 625 lbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change calving distribution from 31-28-25-17 to 50-30-20 over five years Heifer weaning weight increases from 587 to 613 lbs Steer weaning weight increases from 609 to 635 lbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed second calf heifers separately to reduce competition with old cows and improve heifer body condition Additional labour to sort and feed heifers separately for 250 days (field feeding and full winter feed): 50 hours unpaid family labour at \$15/hour Extra pen/pasture to manage heifers separately from mature cows Additional fencing cost \$1,459 in year one Share water source with the main cow herd Heifer conception rate up from 91% to 100% (best of the group), conception rate of the whole female herd up from 91% to 92% (result in 3 more head of calves weaned)
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle price per lb may decrease due to price slide on heavier sale weight Calving seasons can be shortened by pulling the bulls five days earlier each year, this slow change avoids a drop in conception rates. Front loading the calving season can be done by breeding heifers 2-4 weeks ahead of the cow herd. Other options that require a cash investment include heat synchronizing, artificial insemination and adjusting the cow:bull ratio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle price per lb may decrease due to price slide on heavier sale weight. Calving seasons can be shortened by pulling the bulls five days earlier each year, this slow change avoids a drop in conception rates. Front loading the calving season can be done by breeding heifers 2-4 weeks ahead of the cow herd. Other options that require a cash investment include heat synchronizing, artificial insemination and adjusting the cow:bull ratio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required additional labour Required extra pen/pasture to manage heifers separately from mature cows



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	5-year average vs. baseline year*		
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)			
Net Income	+\$13,169	+\$15,421	+\$13,904
Net Cash Farm Income	+\$13,164	+\$15,416	+\$13,973
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)			
Short-term Profits	+\$24	+\$32	+\$28
Medium-term Profits	+\$24	+\$32	+\$27
Long-term Profits	+\$20	+\$28	+\$22

* Changes in profitability come from the practice change as well as debt servicing

Detailed reports available upon request. Email: info@canfax.ca

