

AB-3 Future Farm Summary

	Calving Distribution 1	Calving Distribution 2	Sell Bred Heifers	Shorten Winter Feeding Period
Description	Increase weaning weight by shortening calving season to 3 cycles	Increase weaning weight by adjusting the calving distribution to 70-20-10 over five years	Diversify marketing by selling breeding heifers	Extend grazing season through rotational grazing
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change calving distribution from 56-20-15-8 to 61-22-17 over five years (shorten from 4 cycles to 3 cycles without changing the distribution in the first 3 cycles) Increase steer weaning weight from 555 to 564 lbs Increase heifer weaning weight from 511 to 520 lbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change calving distribution from 56-20-15-8 to 70-20-10 over five years Increase steer weaning weight from 555 to 571 lbs Increase heifer weaning weight from 511 to 527 lbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of female calves transferred to backgrounding down from 74% to 37% 46% of heifers between 12-24 months sold as bred heifers after preg check Bred heifer price at \$1,990/head (AB bred heifer price Nov 2020) Open rate for the 12-24 month group is 10% (same as cows) Open heifers sold to finishing at \$166/cwt (AB monthly prices Oct 2020, 800-900lb heifers) 104 hours of family labour added to managing the bred heifer group Breeding cost at \$180/heifer for 25 bred heifers (average at \$26 per head for the whole herd) Preg-check at \$5/heifer for 25 heifers (average at \$0.70/head for the whole herd) Increase stocking rate from 16 AU/ac to 17 AU/ac (assuming previously understocked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest \$8,900 in a portable electric fencing system in the first year Fencing system depreciate by 5% per year Improve stocking rate by 10% from 16 AUs/ac to 18 AUs/ac Shorten full winter feed days by 7% from 180 days to 167 days Add 42 total unpaid family labour hours (assumes additional 3 hours/week required for grazing management, partially offset by reduced labour hours (1.5 hour per day) from a shorter winter feeding period) Calf weaning weights are unaffected by grazing method Selling surplus hay production



AB-3 Future Farm Summary

	Calving Distribution 1	Calving Distribution 2	Sell Bred Heifers	Shorten Winter Feeding Period
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"> There may be tax implications from selling bred heifers. The model shows pre-tax numbers only Potential death loss between weaned and being sold as bred heifers Potential price discount on calves if not making a full load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional labour for rotational grazing Upfront capital or equity position required to invest in new fencing system Additional fencing and labour costs on a per head basis are affected by herd size Stocking rate improvements vary by location, weather and previous grazing management
5-year average vs. baseline year*				
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)				
Net Income	+\$3,894	+5,003	+\$11,849	+\$8,603
Net Cash Farm Income	+\$3,890	+4,998	+\$11,844	+\$9,043
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)				
Short-term Profits	+\$20	+\$26	+\$61	+\$17
Medium-term Profits	+\$20	+\$25	+\$51	+\$16
Long-term Profits	+\$40	+\$45	+\$67	+\$36

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

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

