AB-4 Future Farm Summary

	Calving Distribution 1	Calving Distribution 2	Shorten Winter Feeding Period
Description	Increase weaning weight by shortening calving season to 3 cycles	Increase weaning weight by adjusting calving distribution to 70-20-10 over five years	Extend grazing season through rotational grazing
Assumptions	• Change calving distribution from 55-20-15-10 to 61-22-17 over five years (shorten from 4 cycles to 3 cycles, without changing the distribution in the first 3 cycles) • Increase heifers weaning weight from 610 to 621 lbs • Increase steer weaning weight from 643 to 655 lbs	• Calving distribution change from 55-20-15-10 to 70-20-10 over five years • Increase heifers weaning weight from 610lb to 629lb • Increase steer weaning weight from 643 lb to 662lb	• 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 42 AUs/ac to 46 AUs/ac • Shorten full winter feed days by 8% for 191 days to 176 days • Add 50 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
Trade-Off Considerations	• 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.	• 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.	• 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

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	Calving Distribution 1	Calving Distribution 2	Shorten Winter Feeding Period
	5-year average vs. baseline year*		
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level ($/year)			
Net Income	+$732	+$1,111	-$105
Net Cash Farm Income	+$731	+$1,110	+$339
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise ($/cow)			
Short-term Profits	+$11	+$18	+$4
Medium-term Profits	+$11	+$17	-$4
Long-term Profits	+$31	+$36	+$8

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

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