

ON-6 Future Farm Summary

	Increase Cow Culling Rate to 13%	Increase Cow Culling Rate to 20%
Description	Increase cow culling rate from 11% to 13%	Increase cow culling rate from 11% to 20%
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cow culling rate from 11% to 13% • Number of cull cow increase from 6 to 8 head • Total replacement heifer requirement increases from 7 to 9 head • Reduced % of heifer transferred to finishing enterprise from 73% to 65% • Number of heifers in the backgrounding enterprise change from 18 head to 16 head • Total number of backgrounded cattle sold change from 43 to 41 • Keep cull cow weight and sale dates steady with baseline • Homegrown feed requirement for the cow-calf enterprise increased by 3% • Homegrown feed requirement for backgrounding enterprise declined by 4% • Have sufficient homegrown feed for the cow-calf enterprise, no change in forage land acres • Steady pasture acres with baseline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cow culling rate from 11% to 20% • Number of cull cow increase from 6 to 12 head • Total replacement heifer requirement increases from 7 to 13 head • Reduced % of heifer transferred to finishing enterprise from 73% to 49% • Number of heifers in the backgrounding enterprise change from 18 head to 12 head • Total number of backgrounded cattle sold change from 43 to 37 • Keep cull cow weight and sale dates steady with baseline • Homegrown feed requirement for the cow-calf enterprise increased by 9% • Homegrown feed requirement for backgrounding enterprise declined by 14% • Have sufficient homegrown feed for the cow-calf enterprise, no change in forage land acres • Steady pasture acres with baseline
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease cow productive years on the farm • Higher turnover of cows could result in genetic issue if culling selection was not appropriate • When making culling decisions, it is important to assess culling reasons vs. market value of replacement heifers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease cow productive years on the farm • Higher turnover of cows could result in genetic issue if culling selection was not appropriate • When making culling decisions, it is important to assess culling reasons vs. market value of replacement heifers

ON-6 Future Farm Summary

	Increase Cow Culling Rate to 13.5%	Increase Cow Culling Rate to 20%
	5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)		
Net Income	-\$8,129	-\$7,381
Net Cash Farm Income	-\$8,129	-\$7,381
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)		
Short-term Profits	-\$77	-\$85
Medium-term Profits	-\$84	-\$105
Long-term Profits	-\$55	-\$100

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



ON-6 Future Farm Summary

	Creep Feeding	Creep Grazing
Description	Creep feed calves for 90 days	Creep graze calves for 90 days
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creep feed calves for 90 days from Sep 1 till wean on Nov 30 • Creep feed grain mix: 2.5 lb oats and 0.5 lb 32% protein supplement at 75% TDN and 15% CP • Feed oat price at \$399/tonne (Source: AB agriculture Input Price Index) • 32% protein supplement price at \$800/tonne (Source: AB Ag Input Price Index) • Average creep feed consumption at about 3 lbs per day • Assume Pasture quality average, cow milk production average, expected feed to gain ratio (as fed basis) is 9:1 • Average additional daily gain is 0.3 lbs • Weaning weight increases by 27 lbs • Purchase a new creep feeder at \$4500, on average \$76/cow • Extra hour required for creep feeding is 0.25 hour • Price slides due to heavier sale weights are -\$3.24/cwt for heifer calves, -\$4.05/cwt for steer calves (Based on Ontario price slides in November from 5-600lb to 6-700lb categories, adjusted by additional weight gains) • End weight of backgrounded cattle also increased 27 lbs from baseline • Price slides due to heavier sale weights are -\$4.32/cwt for heifers, -\$3.24/cwt for steers (Based on Ontario price slides in May from 7-800lb to 8-900lb categories, adjusted by additional weight gains) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start creep grazing at about 3.5-month-old in September 1 till weaning on Nov 30 for 90 days • Take 10 acres of good quality pasture for creep grazing assuming 1 acre is sufficient for 6 calves (Source: Dubeux Jr. et al. University of Florida Extension) • Purchase a creep gate at \$500 in year-one, on average \$8.5/cow • Average daily gain increase by 0.15 lb per day compared to the baseline, adding 13.5 lbs (6.1kg) to weaning weights • Price slides due to heavier sale weights are -\$1.62/cwt for heifer calves, -\$2.03/cwt for steer calves (Based on Ontario feeder cattle price slides in November from 5-600lb to 6-700lb categories) • End weight of backgrounded cattle also increased 13.5 lbs from baseline • Price slides due to heavier sale weights are -\$2.16/cwt for heifers, -\$1.62/cwt for steers (Based on Ontario feeder cattle price slides in May from 7-800lb to 8-900lb categories, adjusted by additional weight gains)
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upfront capital required to invest in a new creep feeder • Additional feed cost • Intake of creep feed can be variable • Poor feed efficiency under certain conditions • Cattle buyers may discriminate against heavier sale weight • Creep feeding in a year with good moisture and pasture conditions is not as impactful as in a year where pastures dry up early and do not sustain ample milk supply for calves throughout the grazing season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upfront capital required to invest in new creep gate • The benefits of creep grazing depend on individual situations • Need to ensure sufficient forage to sustain the creep grazers throughout the anticipated grazing period • Specific field requirements are important for creep grazing to work. For example, the creep grazing field should be adjacent to the non-creep grazing area and there should be major difference between the two pastures • Cows may lose body condition when being restricted to poorer-quality feed in the fall



	Creep Feeding	Creep Grazing**
	5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)		
Net Income	-\$6,414	-\$4,164
Net Cash Farm Income	-\$6,414	-\$4,164
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)		
Short-term Profits	-\$55	-\$26
Medium-term Profits	-\$56	-\$27
Long-term Profits	-\$36	-\$7

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

** The loss in the creep grazing scenario is driven by debt servicing. As this farm has negative Net Cash Farm Income, interest payments rise over time. Excluding changes in interest payments, creep grazing yields a short-term profit increase of \$15/cow, medium-term +\$14/cow and long-term profit +\$33/cow.

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