

QC-3 Future Farm Summary

	Shorten Winter Feeding Period	Raise Replacements, Add a Bull	Raise Replacements, AI
Description	Extend grazing season through rotational grazing	Move from purchasing bred heifers to raise replacement heifers on farm	Raising own replacements and using AI for breeding heifers
Assumptions	<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 224 AUs/ac to 248 AUs/ac Shorten full winter feed days by 8% from 200 days to 183 days Add 13 unpaid family labour hours (change from moving every 2 weeks to moving every week, 13 more weeks of moving, 3hr/wk. 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of female calves transferred to backgrounding down from 100% to 76% (raising 6 heads of replacement heifers) Number of heifers backgrounded down from 27 head to 21 head Replacement heifer open rate at 5% (same as cows) Open heifers sold at \$153/cwt (\$1300/head) Rations for replacement heifers are based on % of cow weight (heifer<12months = 60% cow ration, heifers 12-24 months = 85% cow ration and heifers > 24 months = 95% cow ration) Add one bull (cow to bull ratio change from 30:1 to 22:1) Keep bull culling rate at 25% Preg check cost \$0.5/cow (\$5/head on 6 heifers, average on 60 cows) Heifer managed with the cow herd, no extra labour cost added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of female calves transferred to backgrounding down from 100% to 76% (raising 6 heads of replacement heifers) Number of heifers backgrounded down from 27 head to 21 head Replacement heifer open rate at 5% (same as cows) Open heifers sold at \$153/cwt (\$1300/head) Rations for replacement heifers are based on % of cow weight (heifer<12months = 60% cow ration, heifers 12-24 months = 85% cow ration and heifers > 24 months = 95% cow ration) Heifers bred with fixed time AI at \$50/heifer Adding variable cost of \$5/cow (\$50/head on 6 heifer, average on 60 cows) Preg check cost \$0.5/cow (\$5/head on 6 heifers, average on 60 cows) Heifers managed with the cow herd, no extra labour cost added



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Trade-Off Considerations	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more resource (feed, land, labour etc.) when raising replacement heifers than buying Need more time to expand herd or change breeding program compared to buying replacement heifers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cow:bull ratio on this farm was 30:1 and therefore, AI was considered as an option to avoid purchasing a heifer bull for only 6 head, as the current bulls used on the cow herd may not have been appropriate for heifers. Using heat synchronization on the heifers requires more labour and access to facilities, which may or may not be feasible.
5-year average vs. baseline year*			
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)			
Net Income	+\$2,399	+\$3,355	+\$5,227
Net Cash Farm Income	+\$2,844	+\$3,355	+\$5,227
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)			
Short-term Profits	+\$41	+\$41	+\$70
Medium-term Profits	+\$33	+\$41	+\$70
Long-term Profits	+\$40	+\$47	+\$76

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

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