

SK-12 Future Farm Summary

Extend Swath Grazing Period	
Description	Barley swath grazing for 118 additional days to the original 30 days of swath grazing. The majority of the forage production land is converted to barley production with excess grain sold.
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 148 days of barley swath grazing • 224cow grazing days per acre (Baron et al., 2014) • 101 acres additional for swath grazing • 30 acres of hay production land reduced • 117 acres of greenfeed production land reduced • Assumed variable costs to produce barley swaths are the same as barley greenfeed production costs • No Soil preparation costs due to all the land being converted was in greenfeed production prior • Added barley grain production with grain sold at a price of \$313 per ton • Labour reduced by 76.70 hours (0.0052 hr per day swath grazing per cow (McCartney et al., 2004)) • 2 miles of permanent perimeter fencing at \$6707.99 per mile (Government of Saskatchewan, 2023) • Fencing maintenance costs \$615.38 (Average from CRS BMP survey, 2023) • Reduce hay in cow ration by 0.3 ton per cow per year • Reduce greenfeed in cow ration by 1.9 ton per cow per year • Add 2.03 ton per cow per year to swath graze ration • \$22 per acre swath grazing costs saving for manure hauling (BMP Survey Average, 2023)
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential crop failure • Potential use by wildlife • Extreme weather conditions that could require supplementing • Removing all hay or other forage production removes easily available feed supplementation in extreme weather cases • Additional nutrients are provided to the soil from cattle and feed waste. • Higher cost of crop inputs • Selling grain from excess acres not needed for swath grazing generates an additional profit for the operation • Cultivation of forage land for swath grazing releases stored carbon into the atmosphere

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5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)	
Net Income	-\$5,548
Net Cash Farm Income	-\$5,548
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)	
Short-term Profits	-\$39
Medium-term Profits	-\$30
Long-term Profits	\$16

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

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