

SK-7 Future Farm Summary

Corn Grazing, Sell Hay	
Description	Add one month of corn grazing period to reduce full winter-feeding days and sell surplus hay.
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 30 days of fall corn grazing from late October to late November for cows, supplemented with 3 lb of hay per cow per day to prevent grain overload • Assume 250 cow-days per acre for corn grazing • 45 acres of land is needed for corn grazing (375 cows for 30 days) • Standing corn production costs at \$442/ac • Full winter-feeding days reduce from 180 days to 150 days • Reduce land on hay by 99 acres • 45 acres are turned into corn grazing land, \$49/ac to break and plow hay field prior to seeding corn • The rest 54 acres produce hay for sale at \$168/tonne • Move cattle every five days when grazing corn • Reduce unpaid labour hours by 33 hours (reduce labour for full winter feeding partially offset by labour for moving cattle every five days on corn grazing) • Additional \$8,144 cost for fencing and water system in year-one
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May try growing corn on annual crop land first before turning hay land into annual crop in case of a crop failure • Need to look for silage varieties that can grow a cob with growing degree days available • Need a backup plan or have some extra feed source • Higher cost of crop inputs, especially in 2021-2022 • Risk of acidosis • It's important to introduce cows to corn grazing slowly so they can acclimatize
5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)	
Net Income	-\$3,575
Net Cash Farm Income	-\$3,574
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)	
Short-term Profits	-\$42
Medium-term Profits	-\$41
Long-term Profits	-\$36

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

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