ON-2 Future Farm Summary

	Creep Feed	Cover Crop	Cover Crop, OFCAF
Description	Creep feed calves for 84 days	Plant fall rye as a cover crop and graze it in the spring	Plant fall rye as a cover crop and graze it in the spring, with On-farm Climate Action Fund
Assumptions	• Creep feed 53 heifer calves, 53 steer calves • Creep feed period: from age 122 days to 206 days at weaning, 84 days on feed • Creep feed ration: 6 lbs of oats, purchased • Cost of oats: $277/tonne • Feed to gain conversion rate: 6 lbs feed to 0.75 lb weight gain (FCR=8:1). This estimate is based on a 12.5% crude protein ration using the Farmco Creep-feeding Calculator and is more conservative than the typical FCR range of 6-7:1. Producers are encouraged to use their own performance data when estimating creep feed FCR. • Cost of creep feeders: $9700 (250 bushel capacity) for 106 head, $92/head (This reflects a mid-range feeder price; actual costs vary widely depending on feeder design and features.) • Cost of labour: 0.25 hour/day of family labour, assuming filling feeder every 3-4 days • Depreciation of creep feeder: 10 years • Weaning weight: 0.75lb per day – 63 lb gain, heifers up from 547 lb to 610 lbs. steers up from 604 lb to 667 lbs • Price without creep feed: heifers $388.89/cwt, steers $420.34/cwt • Price slide: $37/cwt for heifers, $36/cwt for steers • Price after creep feed: heifers $366/cwt, steers $397/cwt	• Plant fall rye on 35 hectares (86.5 acres) after cash crop harvest • Graze fall rye in spring • Assume fall rye yields 1.5 tonnes/acre (total 130 tonnes on 86.5 acres). With 50% grazing utilization, 65 tonnes are available • Cows consume 2.5% of body weight (1425 lb) of fall rye (36 lb dry matter) daily • The 65 tonnes of dry matter can support 120 cows for about 33 days, starting in early May • Winter feed ration requirements drop by 33 feeding days • Fall rye seeding rate: 100 lbs/ac • Seed cost: $48/acre • Fertilizer cost: $56/acre (25 lb N + 20 lb P per acre). • Electric fence cost: $691 • Water system (insulated trough) cost: $4500 • Fencing and water system cost convert to per head cost for 120 cows: $43/head • Labour savings: reduce labour by 16.5 hours (saving 1.5 hr/day from winter feeding and adding 1 hr/day for daily cattle moves over 33 days) • Hay requirement drops from 325 tonne to 278 tonnes • Surplus 47 tonnes of hay valued at $192/tonne	• Plant fall rye on 35 hectares (86.5 acres) after cash crop harvest • Graze fall rye in spring • Assume fall rye yields 1.5 tonnes/acre (total 130 tonnes on 86.5 acres). With 50% grazing utilization, 65 tonnes are available • Cows consume 2.5% of body weight (1425 lb) of fall rye (36 lb dry matter) daily • The 65 tonnes of dry matter can support 120 cows for about 33 days, starting in early May • Winter feed ration requirements drop by 33 feeding days • Fall rye seeding rate: 100 lbs/ac • Seed cost: $48/acre • **OFCAF shares 65% of seed cost*** • Fertilizer cost: $56/acre (25 lb N + 20 lb P per acre). • Electric fence cost: $691 • Water system (insulated trough) cost: $4500 • Fencing and water system cost convert to per head cost for 120 cows: $43/head • Labour savings: reduce labour by 16.5 hours (saving 1.5 hr/day from winter feeding and adding 1 hr/day for daily cattle moves over 33 days) • Hay requirement drops from 325 tonne to 278 tonnes • Surplus 47 tonnes of hay valued at $192/tonne

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Trade-Off Considerations	• 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 • Study showed adding creep feed to the diet of replacement heifers can hurt their later milk production	• Nitrate poisoning may be a problem when grazing or feeding fall rye silage or hay if the crop has been stressed by frost, drought, hail or plant diseases, which can cause a nitrate accumulation in the plant • Manure may be very loose as the cattle adapt to fall rye if they were previously on low-quality pasture • Weather unpredictability (e.g. snow during the grazing period), need a Plan B or have some extra feed source • Risk of muddy condition during spring grazing • Some producers may already have portable electric fencing for grazing, resulting in no additional cost	
	5-year average vs. baseline year*		
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level ($/year)			
Net Income	+$12,204	+$6,667	+$9,443
Net Cash Farm Income	+12,200	+$6,665	+$9,440
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise ($/cow)			
Short-term Profits	+$62	-$23	$0
Medium-term Profits	+$56	-$18	+$5
Long-term Profits	+$53	+$17	+$40

*Assumption only. Actual costs may vary from project to project, depending on individual circumstances. More detailed information will be required in the actual application process to accurately determine eligibility.

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

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