

ON-3 Future Farm Summary

Creep Feed	
Description	Creep feed calves for 91 days
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creep feed 23 heifer calves, 23 steer calves • Creep feed period: from age 122 days to 213 days at weaning, 91 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: \$7000 (130 bushel capacity) for 40 calves, \$175/calf (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: 0.75 lb per day – 68 lb additional gain, heifers up from 478 lb to 546 lbs. steers up from 503 lb to 571 lbs • Price without creep feed: heifers \$391/cwt, steers \$412.71/cwt • Price slide: \$24/cwt for heifers, \$38/cwt for steers • Price after creep feed: heifers \$375/cwt, steers \$387/cwt
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 • Study showed adding creep feed to the diet of replacement heifers can hurt their later milk production
5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)	
Net Income	+\$6,133
Net Cash Farm Income	+\$6,132
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)	
Short-term Profits	+\$89
Medium-term Profits	+\$79
Long-term Profits	+\$73



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

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