

ONMB-1 Future Farm Summary

Corn Grazing	
Description	Add 2 weeks of corn grazing period to reduce full winter-feeding days and sell surplus hay.
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace 14 days of full winter feeding with fall corn grazing from early to mid-November Supplement with 3 lb of hay per cow per day to prevent grain overload Assume a corn-grazing carrying capacity of 250 cow-days per acre Corn grazing requires 3.36 acres to feed 60 cows for 14 days Production cost of standing corn: \$399.15/acre Winter feeding period decreases from 206 days to 192 days Hay requirement decreases from 229 tonnes to 243 tonnes The surplus 14 tonnes of hay are sold at \$192/tonne to present the opportunity cost created from land use change Assuming portable electric fencing and water system were not available prior to this management change Electric fence cost: \$691 Water system (insulated trough) cost: \$4,500 Total unpaid labour reduced by 13 hours Winter feeding labour reduced by 21 hours (1.5 hr/day for 14 days) Labour for moving cattle and managing corn grazing totals 8 hours (2 hours every 3 days to move fence and provide supplemental feed)
Trade-Off Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferable to use corn varieties selected for grazing or silage as they have higher forage content and higher forage digestibility's compared to grain varieties Need a backup plan or have some extra feed source Higher cash cost of crop inputs for corn It's important to introduce cows to corn grazing slowly so they can acclimatize, as there is risk of acidosis When grazing in December, forage digestibility will be lower due to crop maturity, but it is a good time to graze as the ground should be frozen Animals must be strip grazed and allocated only 2 – 3 days' worth of grazing to force cows to graze the whole plant Whole plant analysis is recommended to determine if there is any need for supplementation
5-year average vs. baseline year*	
Estimated Change at Whole Farm Level (\$/year)	
Net Income	+\$5,026
Net Cash Farm Income	+\$5,025
Estimated Change at Cow-calf Enterprise (\$/cow)	
Short-term Profits	+\$63
Medium-term Profits	+\$73
Long-term Profits	+\$83

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

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