

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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