

Alternative Cow/Calf Production Systems

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Ranchers face two competing economic realities today, explained Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist. “The market is signaling for more calves while at the same time grazing resources required to produce these additional calves are very expensive or unavailable.”

>He added that the current prospect of drier conditions and reduced grass growth, further compounds the problem.

Some feed solutions to stretch pasture forages which Rusche suggests include:

- Improved pasture management;
- Increased usage of annual forages for grazing;
- Feeding more harvested feeds to lessen the reliance on traditional pasture systems;
- Supplemental feeding while cattle graze; and
- Raising cow/calf pairs in a drylot or an enclosed structure which doesn't use pasture at all.

Lactating cows

Whether or not these systems will work for your operation, Rusche said depends upon whether or not they provide sustainable diets for maintaining lactating cows which are cost competitive with pasture.

“This is a key critical factor in whether or not these systems make sense,” he said. “Common diets rely heavily on low-cost crop residues combined with by-product feeds or other supplemental feeds.”

Other possibilities, Rusche said limit-fed rations based on grain. He said that under current market conditions, these kinds of diets often cost less than the top end of pasture or range leases when considered on a cost per head per day.

What cattle producers have to say.

“Any time changes in standard management practices occur, there is a learning curve and occasionally unintended consequences,” Rusche said.

For example, labor needs obviously increase when cattle are fed every day compared to grazing pasture. The costs of manure disposal and potentially higher equipment repair and depreciation expenses Rusche said all need to be considered as well. “On the other hand, semi-confinement may make technologies such as AI easier to manage,” he said. “Manure represents an opportunity to reduce fertilizer expenses for crop acres.”

Earlier this year, SDSU Extension sponsored a program on alternative cow/calf production systems that featured a producer panel as well as researchers experienced in these systems. These are some of the observations that they reported.

Management: One of the statements made by Dr. Vern Anderson, retired animal scientist at NDSU-Carrington was that semi-confinement could be “cow heaven” or something much worse, depending on how well producers manage the physical environment of the cow. Proper drainage, pen maintenance, and bedding when necessary are important to avoid excessive mud and all the associated performance and health problems.

Nutrition: As mentioned earlier, heavy use of crop residues is a common characteristic of these systems. Producers need to make sure they follow sound nutritional principles, especially when feeding less common feedstuffs. The panelists felt that it was easier to meet the cattle's nutritional requirements and head off problems by bunk feeding a balanced diet. Some

also indicated that they had observed lower than expected feed requirements because of either improved environment, less walking, or a combination of those factors.

Health: The risk of increased disease is a common concern. However, the producer panelists did not report significant health issues. Some of the reasons they gave included the ability to treat cows and calves in a timelier manner and improved ability to meet the cattle's nutritional needs. They also worked closely with their veterinarians to develop vaccination and treatment protocols.

Other items to consider are bio-security and minimizing stress factors. In a poster presented at the 2015 Midwest Animal Science meetings, researchers from Nebraska reported that treatment rates for calves in an intensively managed environment were 0 percent in year one but 84 percent in year two. These differences were attributed to weather stress (October snow) combined with exposure to a set of calves that had been shipped in to the facility, calves. This points out that producers need to keep calves isolated if they are also bringing in other cattle.

“Agriculture has adapted to changing environmental and economic conditions many times in the past; the cow/calf business is no exception,” Rusche said. “Managing cows and calves more intensively in a semi-confinement system is a potential option to deal with the economic realities of the beef business and adapt to changing environmental conditions.”

■iGrow

Dietary Guidelines Should be Focused on Nutrition, not Sustainability

Every five years, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) revise and update the national dietary guidelines. Since 1985, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, a group of nutritionists, doctors and other experts, has submitted recommended changes to the Dietary Guidelines before HHS and USDA set the official guidelines. In February, the committee released its recommended revisions to the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. The Secretaries of HHS and USDA take these recommendations into consideration before the official release of the updated 2015 Dietary Guidelines.

The dietary guidelines provide Americans with important information to help them make informed decisions about what they eat. They impact what food is served under the National School Lunch Program, federal programs like the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, known as WIC and military rations.

This year, for the first time since its creation, the committee decided to make environmental sustainability a factor.

In addition to recommending Americans increase their intake of fruits and vegetables, the committee recommended lower consumption of red meat. Although the report included a foot note acknowledging lean meats “can be part of a healthy dietary pattern,” the report recommended American's lower their consumption of animal-based foods because doing so is “associated with less environmental impact.” The report argues a diet composed of plant-based foods is preferred, not because it's more nutritious or better for you, but because it is supposedly more sustainable.

Not only did the committee go outside its area of expertise in recommending this, it overstepped the bounds of its charter. Rather than providing appropriate recommendations based on nutritional science, the committee has made an endorsement based on the misguided belief that the animal industry is not sustainable.

In South Dakota, our farmers and ranchers work hard to provide a healthy, quality product in an environmentally conscious way. Our dietary guidelines should reflect this commitment. Since the Secretaries of HHS and USDA set the official guidelines, the public has an opportunity to weigh in by commenting on the committee's recommendations by Friday, May 8, 2015 at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2015/comments/>. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will be submitting comments and I encourage you to join us.

■Secretary Lucas Lentsch

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Public Auction

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Auctioneers Note: This is a once in a lifetime auction. This auction features a large amount of items--this is definitely an auction where there is something for everyone. The fisherman or someone wanting to increase their inventory--there is a large assortment of fishing items. A big portion of these items are new and gently used. We will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M., then at 12:10pm we will sell the pole building and property. Once that is done we will continue with the fishing and tools.

Legal Description – L1 & L2 & 5 & UC ALY N1/2 Blk. 34 Calliope Add. In Hawarden, IA – or 416 17th St. Hawarden IA 51023

General Description: This building was built in 1998. It measures 28 X 40. This building has a cement floor with a work bench shelving on one wall. It also has a couple of smaller buildings on the property that will stay. If you are looking for a hobby building or a place for your business – here is your opportunity!!

Taxes: The current Real Estate taxes according to the Sioux county Treasurer are \$228.00 per year.

Taxes will be prorated to date of closing.

Method of sale: Building will be offered and remain sold.

Possession: Possession will be closing day June 10, 2015.

To view the property contact Ivan Huenink at 712-470-2003

Terms: Purchaser(s) will be required to pay a non-refundable 10% of the purchase price immediately following the auction and also enter into a purchase agreement with the remaining balance due on closing day June 10, 2015 when the buyer shall receive a clear and merchantable title to the property. This property is being sold as is as a cash sale with any/all defects and with no finance contingencies. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, all prospective buyers are encourage to inspect the property and verify all data provided. Any announcement made day of the auction will supersede any advertisements. The property is being sold subject to the confirmation of the sellers. If any additional information is requested, please call the ages listed below.

The following personal property will be sold at 10AM with the Real Estate sold at 12:10 P.M. and then continuing on the personal property items.

Boat: 1973 3574 Lund Boat 16'/Evinrude motor, depth finder, electric Minnesota trolling motor w/ Shorelander Trailer with Power winch and cover.

Fishing equipment, tackle etc: 1980 Lund /Johnson 9.5 hp motor: Dozen Fish Alert Bite Detectors: New High Performance Bilge Pump: 2 Minnetonka trolling motors, Still in the box: power winches: All sizes and kinds of bobber: Fred Arbogast Lures: Vortex lures: snake spoon lures: Depth soaker: top water, flat fish, minnows, Ultimates, Jigs, Bass Lures, Quick not, Fish soaker(Precise), Mosquito head nets, small split ring pliers, (7) Fish nets, Fish Baskets, Swedish pimplies: Tiny spoons, ice fishing jigs, drist Anchor, fly fishing lures, Walleye lures: many assort. weights: Boat seat: Minnow Buckets: Dri-Rinds Dakota Fishing lures: Tackle boxes: dock line: stringers: life jackets: wooden lures: lots of Triple Fish Fishing Line still in boxes (all colors & sizes): Salt water fishing line: feathers: file knives: reels: poles: reel & lure tubing), many, many boxes of fishing to numerous to mention.

Tractors and Accessories: International 656, gas w/WL30 Westendorf loader w/ 7' bucket International H tractor w/loader: 2 New Tractor tires(600X162.3 pt. Balemover: **Trailers:** 7X18 Tandem trailer, 8X7 Trailer, pickup box trailer4X8 Duck Blind, 8X12 Barge box /hoist: **Mowers, Outdoor items etc** Coast to Coast 5hp garden tiller: John Deere Sabre lawn mower: lawn fertilizer spreader: Gardening items: tomato cages: chicken wire: garden wire: Gardening books: duck decoys

Tools: portable Cement Mixer: 16' Extension ladder: Chop saw: Acetylene Torch on cart: 3 Drill Presses – Homecraft – New Clark Drill press in box: wood splitters: 48" and 36" Pipe wrenches: C- Clamps: Aluminum ladders and wooden ladders: 4'3" roll up door: Aluminum pickup tool box: 15 gal. Fimco sprayer: 11gal air compressor: Pro-Tech 10" Table saw: Contractor Series Plainer 121/2": All-Pro Propane heater 35,000 BTU: Delta ShopMaster Belt Sander: Sears Craftsman Radial Arm Saw: Buzz Saw: grease gun: welding helmets: Hobart Stick welder(stickmate205AC): squirrel fan: Fairbank Scale KUA6-250#: jumper cables: many extension cords: log chains: lots and lots of wrenches – some new in the box: gas cans: Black & Decker 8" Table saw: 55 gal. Steel Barrels: Steel Fence posts: propane flame thrower: steel saw horses: bench vise: wheel barrows: Sear cargo carrier: grind stones: milk crates: shop vac: cement tools: levels: Skil 6.5 amp grinder: Many shovels, rakes, scoops, forks, spades: Assorted piles of lumber – 2X4, 2X6 sheets of plywood, 4X8 new & used: padlocks, drill bits, oil cans, nails, screws, hinges, electrical supplies – much more too numerous to mention.

Miscellaneous: printed feed sacks, Large wooden storage boxes on wheels: Old Bottles-medicine, coke, Heilmann Bros: etc.: glass door knobs, and more hidden treasures.

Terms: cash/good cashable check. Any announcements made the day of the auction will supersede any advertisements. Not responsible for theft of items purchased. If any additional information contact the Salesman, Ivan Huenink, Associated with Janssen Realty, 611 9th Street in Hawarden, IA.

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