

How Do I Profit From Improved Reproduction

Terry Slusher
Slusher Valley Farm
1946 Rush Fork Rd., Floyd, VA 24091

Some Ways I Profit.

- It is very easy to Cross Breed.
- I have extra cows and heifers to sell.
- I receive Carcass Data on my steers.

Cattle Herd

- All Fall Calving (Starting Late August)
- 150 Commercial beef cows (Angus, Hereford, Simmental cross)
- 25 Registered Polled Hereford cows
- 50 to 60 Bred Heifers

Have I Profited?

1996-97		2011-12	
• Cows	129	• Cows	170 (32%)
• Cash Cow Costs	\$392	• Cash Cow Costs	\$502 (28%)
• Total Cow Costs	\$560	• Total Cow Costs	\$648 (16%)
• Income Per Cow	\$475	• Income Per Cow	\$907 (91%)
• Net Profit (Cash)	\$83	• Net Profit (Cash)	\$405 (386%)
• Cost per \$1 Income	\$.82	• Cost per \$1 Income	\$.56 (-31%)

Cattle Management Practices

- Total herd AI: (started in 1995)
- Retain ownership on all calves through the feedlot.
- Try to graze over 300 days a year.
- Develop replacements on pasture and hay.

Calves are Older and Heavier at Weaning

- 89.6% of Calves born in 1st 30 Days
- AI calves gain a tenth of a pound more per day, and are on average 25 days older.
- Total death loss on AI calves is 5.2% vs. 6.9% for natural calves

AI Calves are Worth More at the Feedlot.

- “Return to Cow” on AI Sired Calves averaged \$104 more over the last 5 years.
- AI Steers averaged 38.6 lbs more HCW.
- AI Steers 43% CAB, NS Steers 46% CAB
- Last Winter the average steer in US lost \$150, My steers lost \$15.

Heat Detect ??

- Select Sync CIDR 72; 68.0%
- Select Sync CIDR 66: 69.3%
- Cows in heat 24 hrs pre breeding: 90.8% (15 out of 17)

Heifer Development

- Cows
- Have to
- Eat
- A lot of
- Pasture
- Or The “CHEAP” Method.

Questions ?



5 Year Average AI Breeding Percentages

- Virgin Heifers 49.6% AI, 12.5% Open
- 2 Year Olds 73.0% AI, 2.6% Open
- 3 year Olds 63.2% AI, 2.1% Open
- All Cows 68.3% AI, 2.1% Open