FALL PURCHASED WEANER CALVES ON IRRIGATED PASTURE Gerald Hall Ranch - Capay

OBJECT

The study had two objectives. One was to compare the economics of buying calves in the fall and feeding them for continuous growth. The second was to full supplement the cattle on pasture and sell them for slaughter. The cattle were sold in June as feeders so the second objective was not fulfilled.

PLAN

This study was conducted on the Gerald Hall ranch in Capay. This ranch has a good barn and dry lot with water and feed bunks. The 35 acres of irrigated pasture is divided into four fields.

On September 23, 1961 90 head of 400 lb. choice calves were received. The calves were all from the same ranch and were primarily Hereford with some Angus-Hereford and Shorthorn-Hereford crosses.

The calves were fed in the dry lot for the first three weeks. They were sprayed for flies and grub control and fed an anti-biotic supplement.

The starter ration fed per head per day was 1 lb. supplement containing 300 mg. antibiotic, 7 lbs. hay (1/2 alfalfa, 1/2 sudan).

Throughout the winter the calves were supplemented with 2 lbs. of concentrates plus all the hay they would eat. The calves had access to the pasture except when it was too wet.

When 1/3 the hay was alfalfa or they had good pasture, the concentrate supplement consisted of:

		Lbs.	Price	\$
Rolled barle	y	35	\$2.85	1.00
Gr. almond h	ulls	45	1.325	.60
Cottonseed m	neal	13	3.50	.46
Molasses		7	1.55	.11
Vitamin A	1 mil.	. IU	.14	.14
Mixing		-	.30	.30
		100	lbs.	\$2.61

When they were on sudan and oat hay with little or no pasture, this was the concentrate supplement.

	Lbs.	Price	Ş
Rolled barley	30	\$2.85	.86
Gr. almond hulls	30	1.325	.40
Cottonseed meal	30	3.50	1.05
Molasses	10	1.55	.16
Vitamin A 1 mi	1. IU	.14	.14
Mixing	Commence	.30	.30
	100	lbs.	\$2.91

Milo replaced barley when it was cheaper. Cottonseed meal, barley and almond hulls became more expensive as the season progressed.

The feed was mixed and delivered by Capay Feeds.

OBSERVATIONS

- 1. Calves 600 1bs. and under were selling for \$26.50 to \$27.75 in late March. When all costs are considered, the winter program was a break-even deal. If labor on the ranch and the small amount of winter pasture are discounted, the winter program would have furnished calves for 2¢ per 1b. cheaper than buying them in March.
- 2. The light weaner calves made economical gains during the winter when fed coarse hay with 2 lbs. of supplement.
- 3. The calves gained well on pasture and were fleshy when sold.
- 4. Yearlings in June were selling for \$24.50. At this figure the profit per head was only \$.97. If non-cash costs are deducted (labor and 1/2 pasture cost), income was \$16.47 per head.

 Ninety head on 35 acres at \$16.47 per head is \$42.35 per acre for less than half the pasture season.

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He are the costs and gains per head.			Lbs./head	\$/head	
WINTER PERIOD	Lbs./head	\$/head	per day		\$/cwt.
Alves bought September 23, 1961 Auling Feed - September 23 to April 3	413	\$107.72 5.77 \$113.49			\$26.10 1.40 \$27.50
Antibiotic mix Concentrate supplement Hay - Sudan \$16/ton Alfalfa \$21/ton Oat \$18/ton Pasture - 2 mo. equivalent @ \$3.00	396.4 1662.6	.58 11.16 14.91 6.00 \$ 32.65	2.06 8.66	.003 .058 .078	
Calf weight - April 3	2059.0 581 168	\$ 32.65	.875	7.240	\$19.43
Gain and cost per cwt.	100		.075		717.43
Labor - 4 hours @ \$1.50 Interest - 6% of \$115 - 6 months Taxes Veterinarian and supplies Death loss* - 1% of \$115		6.00 3.45 2.00 1.00 1.15 \$ 46.25			
Total winter period cost		\$159.74			
Break-even on 581 1b. calf Break-even with labor and pasture out					\$27.50 \$25.43
SPRING PASTURE PERIOD					
Calves from winter period	581	\$159.74			\$27.50
Feed - April 3 to June 18 Oat hay Pasture - 2½ mo. @ \$4.00	133	1.15 10.00 \$ 11.15	1.75	\$.015 .133 \$.148	
Calf shrunk weight June 18 Gain and cost per cwt.	717 136		1.79		\$ 8.20
Labor - 1 hour @ \$1.50 Interest - 6% of \$115 - 2½ months Veterinarian and supplies Death loss*5% of \$115		1.50 1.43 .30 .57 \$ 3.80			
Total spring pasture period cost		\$174.69			
Break-even on 717 1b. calf Break-even with labor and pasture out					\$24.36 \$22.80

^{*} No death loss occurred in this study, but for averages it should be considered.

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