













Differences between high-, medium-, and low-profit cow-calf producers Dustin Pendell and Kevin Herbel

- Agmanager.info
- http://www.agmanager.info/livestockmeat/production-economics/differencesbetween-high-medium-and-low-profit-cowcalf





2012-2016 KFMA Beef Cow-Calf Enterprise returns over variable costs

| | All Farms | High 1/3 | Low 1/3 | Absolute difference | % |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------------------|------|
| Number | 61 | 20 | 20 | | |
| Labor to Livestock, % | 32 | 34 | 28 | 6 | 22% |
| No. of Cows | 155 | 150 | 119 | 31 | 27% |
| Gross Income | \$ 972 | \$ 1064 | \$ 893 | \$ 171 | 19% |
| Total Variable Cost | \$ 767 | \$ 697 | \$ 849 | \$ -152 | -18% |
| Return over variable costs | \$ 205 | \$ 366 | \$ 44 | \$ 322 | |





2012-2016 KFMA Beef Cow-Calf Enterprise variable costs

| | High 1/3 | Mid 1/3 | Low 1/3 | Absolute Difference Hi & Low | % |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------|------|
| Feed | \$ 308 | \$ 350 | \$ 434 | -\$126 | -29% |
| Pasture | \$ 181 | \$ 181 | \$ 159 | \$ 22 | 14% |
| Interest | \$ 15 | \$ 15 | \$ 33 | -\$ 18 | -54% |
| Vet Med/Drugs | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 35 | -\$ 5 | -15% |
| Livestock Marketing | \$ 14 | \$ 18 | \$ 32 | -\$ 18 | -56% |
| Machinery | \$ 89 | \$ 96 | \$ 77 | \$ 12 | 16% |
| Labor | \$ 17 | \$ 20 | \$ 25 | \$ 9 | -34% |
| Other | \$ 44 | \$ 45 | \$ 54 | -\$ 10 | -19% |





2012-2016 KFMA Beef Cow-Calf Enterprise returns over total costs

| | All Farms | High 1/3 | Mid 1/3 | Low 1/3 |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Feed | \$ 364 | \$ 309 | \$ 357 | \$ 425 |
| % Feed of total | 33% | 30 % | 33 % | 35 % |
| Pasture | \$ 174 | \$ 186 | \$ 164 | \$ 172 |
| % Pasture of total | 16 % | 18 % | 15 % | 14 % |
| Non-feed costs | \$ 567 | \$ 529 | \$ 548 | \$ 626 |
| % Non-feed costs of total | 51.4 % | 51.7 % | 51.3 % | 51.2 % |
| Total | 1105 | 1024 | 1070 | 1222 |





Cost of production

- Management Tool
- Actual costs best, but not always available
- Realistic estimates are important
- First step in a marking plan is knowing cost of production





Calculating your own cost of production

- Cow/Calf Budgets http://www.agmanager.info/farm-mgmt-guides/livestock-budgets
- Consider joining KFMA





Simplifying cost of production calculations

- Use opportunity cost (what would it cost on the open market) to value things like pasture and hay
- Assumes the land enterprise leases to the cow/calf enterprise
- Haying enterprise sells to the cow/calf enterprise





Shared equipment costs

 If 70% of income is from cow/calf enterprise then allocate 70% of costs for shared equipment and utilities to that enterprise.







Guidance for Production Benchmarks

- Production records for cow/calf producers
- https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/M F3298.pdf
- Spreadsheet to help calculate standardized production information (SPA)
- http://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-andextension/beef/research-andextension/SPAproductionBlank2014.xlsx





CHAPS Benchmarks (88,000 cows, updated 9/15/17)

- 91% Weaning rate (% Calf Crop)
- 498 lbs weaned/cow exposed
- 192 days of age at weaning
- 62.8% calved at 21 d
- 87.4% calved at 42 d
- 96.1% calved at 63 d





Measuring reproductive losses

- Cows Exposed
- Cows pregnant (fall)
- Cows that calve
- Cows that wean a calf
- Fail to conceive
- · Fail to calve
- Failed to raise calf to weaning





CHAPS Benchmarks (88,000 cows, updated 9/15/17)

- 93.8% Pregnancy rate
- 0.50 % pregnancy loss
- 93.3 % calving rate
- 3.2% calf death loss
- 91.0 % weaning rate
- 3.4% calf death loss





Summary

- Beef cow numbers projected steady to up
- Cow/calf returns nearer breakeven
- Lower feed costs associated with higher profit
- Determine cost of production
- Use BeefBasis.com for marketing
- Track production benchmarks (% calf crop, calving distribution)





