



Should I Creep Feed?

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SCENARIOS THAT FAVOR CREEP FEEDING

- High calf prices
- Low feed costs
- Poor forage quality/quantity
- Calves nursing poor milking cows or heifers
- Retained ownership



CAUTIONS

- Value of gain > cost of gain + labor?
- Potential for negative impact on replacement heifers
- Hard to identify low-milking cows
- Calves can become fleshy and receive discounts

TYPES OF CREEP FEED

- Green creep -> forage stand only accessible to calves
- High - energy -> typically corn based ration
 - (+) Greatest ADG & may improve quality grade
 - (-) Poor feed conversions 8:1 - 18:1 & greatest risk for acidosis or overly fleshy calves
- High - protein -> 30 - 45% crude protein, limit-fed at 1.5 - 3 lb/d
 - (+) Best feed conversion 4:1 & improved fiber digestibility
 - (-) more moderate increases in weaning weight
- Commercial creep feeds
 - Variety of formulations
 - May include vitamin & mineral packages
 - Option for feed additives (Rumensin or Bovatec)

	Example Rations				
	1	2	3	4	5
Ingredient	Diet composition %, DM				
Cracked corn	50	50			
DDG	50				
Whole oats		50			
Rolled oats			92		
32% protein supplement			8		
Soybean meal				20	90
Soybean hulls				76	
Molasses				4	
Salt					10
Crude Protein (%)	19.8	11.3	14.5	19.5	45
TDN (%)	89	80.3	72	81	76
NEg, Mcal/lb	69	60	49	59	57
\$/Ton	128	182	257	193	391

CREEP FEEDING PROFITABILITY

- Factors: Value of additional gain, cost of feed and feed efficiency
- Keep in mind -> as calf weight increases, price per cwt decreases
- Online Creep Feeding Calculator
<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/livestock/creepsheet.jsp>

$$\left[lb\ gain * \left(\frac{lb\ feed}{lb\ gain} \right) \right] = total\ lb\ feed$$

$$\frac{\$ value\ of\ gain}{total\ lb\ feed} = feed\ breakeven\ \frac{\$}{lb}$$

	Price slide, \$/cwt (base price \$220/cwt, 500 lb)				
Feed conversion (lb feed/lb gain)	6	8	10	12	14
4	935	880	825	770	715
8	468	413	413	385	356
12	312	293	275	257	238

Calculating creep feed returns				
Item	No Creep	Creep fed	Creep fed	Creep fed
Weaning weight, \$	500	550	550	550
Value, \$/lb	2.20	2.15	2.15	2.15
Value additional gain, \$		82.5	82.5	82.5
Value of additional gain, \$/lb		1.65	1.65	1.65
Days on feed		66	80	66
Feed conversion, F:G		4:1	8:1	4:1
Feed, lb/d		3	4.5	3
Additional ADG, lb/d		.75	.56	.75
Feed price, \$/lb (\$/ton)		.1 (200)	.1 (200)	.15 (300)
Feed cost per lb/gain, \$.40	.80	.60
Cost of additional gain, \$		20	40	30
Return, \$		62.5	42.5	52.5