Extended Grazing Panel

Dan Hostetler
Bruce Carney
Jim Werner
Extended grazing

Dan Hostetler
Grand River, Iowa
Beef cow extended grazing

- Owned cows use very little hay
- Manage custom cows with similar system
- Add hay when needed
Quality of stockpile

• 12-3-16, fresh
  – 16.88% Adjusted Crude Protein
  – 66.06% TDN
  – 21.8% Protein Solubility
  – 32.01 % NFC
  – 5.14% Lignin

• 12-23-16, Longterm
  – 8.48% Adjusted Crude Protein
  – 58.73% TDN
  – 23.87% Protein Solubility
  – 23.08% NFC
  – 5.83% Lignin
Extended grazing

Bruce Carney
Maxwell, IA
Carney Family Farms

• Combination of cows, replacements and grass finishing
• Rent other summer pastures for cows in summer
• Graze cornstalks with cows after weaning
• Combination of grazing and feeding baleage to grass feds
Quality of stockpile 12-29-16

• Longterm stockpiled
  – 8.44% Adjusted Crude Protein
  – 53.64% TDN
  – 27.07% Protein Solubility
  – 25.34% NFC
  – 10.24% Lignin

• 120 day
  – 11.93% Adjusted Crude Protein
  – 60.79% TDN
  – 27.22% Protein Solubility
  – 26.74% NFC
  – 6.36% Lignin
**Summer Annuals**

- Soybeans
- German millet
- Pearl millet
- Buckwheat
- Forage radish
- Turnips
- Kale

$36.60 per acre in seed cost

4.3 tons of DM/acre produced

14.9 acres x 4.3 tons of DM = **64.07 tons of DM** produced
Baleage Economics

2 groups of cattle were fed for a total of 80 days:
38 AU had access to bales for 25 days
51 AU had access to bales for 55 days

**Homegrown**

77 bales off 15 acres = **64 tons DM**

Costs:
Seed = $545.34
Planting = $225.00
Harvest = $2,024.00
Labor = $1,280.00
Total = $4,474.34

$4,074.34/25 days/38 AU = $4.29/AUD
$4,074.34/55 days/51 AU = $1.45/AUD

**Purchased**

75.3 tons of hay (@ 15% moisture) = **64 tons DM**

Costs:
75.3 tons of hay @ $80/ton = **$6,024.00**

$6,024.00/25 days/38 AU = $6.34/AUD
$6,024.00/55 days/51 AU = $2.15/AUD

$2.87/AUD

$4.24/AUD
Additional Benefits

• Feed value of baleage vs. hay
• Gains on baleage
• 64 tons includes waste = extra carbon
• Baleage fed back on same acres it was harvested; kept nutrients in place
• $$ value doesn’t include soil health benefits of growing annuals
• Fed bales in early spring 2016, after stockpile ran out
• Warm season annuals extended grazing season before turning cows out on perennial pastures
Extended grazing

Jim Werner
Diagonal, Iowa
Werner Angus

- Seedstock operation with cows doing the work
- Combination of spring and fall calving
- Cows graze most of the winter
- Fall cows and replacements get supplemental feed
Controlling costs to improve profit potential

Jim Werner
Diagonal, Iowa
Grazing year round

• We continue to improve and graze more days

• You need to grow into longterm extended grazing – make sure it fits your system

• Can manage both spring and fall calving with extended, stockpiled grazing
Cattle grazing stockpile, February
Cattle maintain condition with limited supplementation
Clean up stockpile, rotate to fresh pastures
Areas with protection from wind
Cattle can work through snow
Summary

• We are blessed to work with our family in our operation

• We try to raise seedstock that meet the needs of producers in southern Iowa and northern Missouri

• Our management is close to what many producers can do in our region