



RIPPE GELBVIEH



TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CUSTOMER'S SUCCESS

A Publication of Rippe Gelbvieh

January 2011

Cutting Costs by Duane Rippe

As we begin a new year I think it is always necessary to analyze our cattle operation to see what we can do to increase profitability. It seems what we usually tend to focus on is the output side such as the weight of our calves but many times we can increase profitability by focusing on the input side.

One of the costs we have the most control, for spring calving cows, is the feed cost of the cow during late gestation and early lactation. It is important that we take inventory of our feed supply at the beginning and the end of this feeding period and put a value on it so we can determine our true feeding costs. As we evaluate other feed options we need to account for increases in labor and equipment costs that may be needed.

With the advent of the ethanol industry we have been presented with some new feed options. This has allowed us to use crop residues such as wheat straw, corn stalks, and soybean stubble as our main source of roughage and use distiller's grains for the energy and protein. The form (wet or dry) of distiller's grain that works best depends on the size of the operation, available labor, and equipment.

Dried distiller's grain, hand fed, is probably most economical in a small cow herd, but in a larger herd we can take advantage of the wet distiller's grain (WDG 30% DM), modified wet distiller's grain (MWDG 50% DM), steep, or syrup (25% DM). The biggest savings comes from purchasing these products during the time of year when the demand is at its smallest and storing it until it is needed. The best price is usually in July and August as this is when the cattle on feed are at its low point for the year.

The modified wet distiller's grain can be put in a bunker and piled as much as possible, probably about 4 to 5 feet high. It cannot be driven on and is recommended to be covered. Your bunker can be as simple as round bales. It can also be stored in silage bags.

The wet distiller's grain or syrup will usually need to be mixed with low quality roughage such as wheat straw or corn stalks and pushed in a pile and packed. This works very well with very low quality feed as the roughage will absorb the distiller's grain and make it very palatable.

To compare the cost of each of these products convert to a dry matter basis and then compare to corn. Many times during the summer they can be purchased at 60% or less the price of corn.

Your extension service, feed salesman, or nutritionist should be able to give you some guidance but in the end it is your sharp pencil that needs to make the decision that best fits your operation.

Bull Sale:

March 12, 2011

@ Belleville 81 Livestock

I recently went home and handpicked the bulls that will be on the sale this year. Boys this is a great group of bulls. We will ultimately market about 45 bulls this year with a good mix of balancers and purebreds. Once I was done I averaged all the EPD's. The pen averaged in the top 20% for BW, 40% YW, and 25% for MB. Come take a look whenever you want and we would be happy to show what we have this year and discuss our breeding program. Videos of each bull will be posted on our website prior to our sale.

Hello everyone, the bull pen has been sorted and is ready for your viewing. I hope you find some valuable insight in this newsletter. If you have any questions about the newsletter, or have some special request for other information, feel free to give me a call anytime at (316) 323-4874.

Sincerely,

Dustin Rippe

*"The most effective way
to cope with change is to
help create it."*

L. W. Lynett

Genetic Defects

Genetic mutations are changes in the normal DNA sequence of cattle. Such changes arise spontaneously over generations of breeding. Through advances in today's DNA sequencing technologies, we now have the power to identify specific locations where changes have occurred in the genetic code. Genetic mutations may produce phenotypes which in no way effect normal function, such as in changes of coat color (i.e. Black Angus vs. Red Angus), but may also produce phenotypes that have serious effects on function such as the recently identified defects within the Angus and Red Angus breeds.

Those breeds which have the largest populations are most likely to have mutations identified. Some examples of this include dwarfism in Angus and Hereford cattle, BLAD in Holstein cattle and Marble Bone Disease in Red Angus cattle. Realistically, mutations might exist in all cattle breeds; however they may or may not have been identified. Most recently, three defects have been identified in Angus cattle: Curly Calf Syndrome, Water Head and Fawn Calf Syndrome.

Curly Calf and Water Head are terminal mutations, where Fawn Calf may or may not be terminal. In any mutation, effected calves carry two copies of the faulty gene, one inherited from each parent. The parents to the effected calf would be termed "carriers". Each would possess normal phenotype, but when mated to a carrier would produce an effected calf 25% of the time. Currently, tests exist for all three mutations, and policies have been implemented by the American Angus Association to eliminate the defects from the breed.

For commercial cattlemen who may not know the exact genetic make-up of their cow herd, it is essential to buy bulls free of genetic defects to insure they do not produce effected calves. The reason for this is you cannot afford to lose 25% of your calf crop because of genetic defects. All Rippe Gelbvieh bulls are free of any known genetic defects, insuring our customers they can use superior genetics on any population of cows. In buying your next bull, make sure you ask your genetic supplier about any defects the bull may carry.

Cattle Market Update

This bull, I mean cattle, market has been on a tear for 12 months straight. Let's look at some of the factors that have led to this increase. Last year the cattle feeder was bearish in the winter and started marketing his cattle aggressively. This has not stopped as the cattle feeder is still marketing his cattle very aggressively and we are pulling cattle from the next months inventory every month. The winter weather also played a huge role in this rally. The cattle did not gain as much and therefore carcass weights fell rapidly and took pounds of beef

off of the marketplace. Exports have been outstanding. We are actually exporting more meat than we are importing. The cheap dollar has played a role in this but maybe just as important is global beef supplies are down and countries have been forced to go elsewhere to procure beef for their country. Demand has been improving every month. Consumers are starting to feel somewhat better about their finances and have started to spend a little more money again. What to watch out for? We have yet to

push these much higher prices onto the consumers. How will they react? When will the cattle feeder stop marketing aggressively? However, there is still a lot to be bullish about. The feeder supply the next 6 months is going to be very tight. The cowherd is still declining. Exports are likely to improve next year again. It would not surprise me at all if Japan would open its market back up to allow total access. Did you think we would see \$130 feeders with \$7 corn?

Dustin takes a job with Gottsch Enterprises

I started a new job for a company called Gottsch Enterprises. I am really excited about my new job as it challenges me every day.

Gottsch Enterprises has 2 corporate offices in Hastings, where I work, and Elkhorn, NE. Although they are a much diversified company their main business is feeding cattle. Gottsch Enterprises is owned and operated by 3 brothers and learning from them on a daily basis is a joy. I have two main responsibilities at

Gottsch. One is working with the brothers on the risk management. The cattle feeding business is very volatile and margins swing quickly. Our goal is to minimize risk and take advantage of market opportunities. My second responsibility is buying corn for our 3 feedyards at Red Cloud, Juniata, and North Platte.

I would like to thank CattleFax for teaching me the skills to perform my new job. CattleFax is a leader in providing data and information to the cattle industry. I highly recommend anyone wanting more information to make marketing decisions to become a member of CattleFax.



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Denver Results

Rippe Gelbvieh once again showcased animals at the National Western Stock Show. We exhibited a Buddy Boy open heifer calf— a class winner. The heifer we donated for the junior association stood in the middle of her class. In addition, our new herdsire Watchman, pictured below, was on display for the entire time.

VRT Lazy TV Watchman W021



Come see our new Balancer herdsire. I scoured the country to find the best balancer I could find. First reports indicate he is a heifer bull.

- ◆ **High Selling:** The \$28,500 top selling Gelbvieh bull in the spring of 2010.
- ◆ **Feed Efficient:** Posted a -0.9 RFI with a 6.5 to 1 conversion.
- ◆ **Top Marbling:** 116 IMF ration with a 5.09% IMF scan.
- ◆ **Performance:** 115 WW ratio and a Low 82 lb. birth weight.
- ◆ **Maternal Strength:** Dam is a first calf heifer. Granddam is a Dam of Merit.
- ◆ **Outcross:** Scout, the sire, ranks in the top 1% of the Angus breed for IMF and has balanced EPD's.

<i>BW</i>	<i>WW</i>	<i>YW</i>	<i>MK</i>	<i>REA</i>	<i>MB</i>	<i>CV</i>
-1.2	46	87	22	+0.06	+0.02	22.51

Owned By: Rippe Gelbvieh, Thortenson Gelbvieh & Angus, Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Cedar Top Ranch, Bar Arrow Cattle Company, Burbank Cattle Company, and John Beastrom.

Rippe Gelbvieh

*WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
RIPPEGELBVIEH.COM*



Mission Statement:

"To produce superior Gelbvieh and Balancer seedstock based on economically important traits, which provide more profitability for our customers, and ensure the consumer a very satisfying eating experience."

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

Proverbs 14:23

For more information about our program call Duane Rippe, (home) 402-324-4176, (cell) 402-200-0096 or Dustin Rippe, 316-323-4874 or online at rippegelbvieh.com

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