

How Does Your Herd Measure Up?

“You cannot improve what you cannot measure”

Use your farm numbers, last year:

How many live calves were born? _____

How many cows did you breed? _____

#Calves _____ divided by #Cows _____ = _____ **Calving Percentage** (Average in TN 90%)

How many calves were sold? _____

#Calves sold _____ divided by #Cows _____ = _____ **Weaning Percentage** (average in TN 90%)

What was the total weight of calves sold? _____

How many brood cows were exposed to the bull? _____

_____ lbs of calf divided by _____ exposed females = _____ lbs (Average in TN 475 lbs)

Taking it a step further....

When evaluating individual cows, include cow weight and the calves weaning

pounds weaned calf _____ divided by _____ pounds mature cow = _____% **Body Weight Weaned**

Do your cows wean calves at least 50% (.5) of their body weight?

Increased cow size without **increased** pounds sold **decreases profit!**

Buyers often appreciate cattle that are bunk broke, weaned and fed, but do these practices make you additional profit? Should we only participate in practices that increase profit or can we consider these as costs to raising cattle? Do you know how much you pay per pound of gain? How do you market your cattle? Are you interested in making a profit?

Calculating a cost per pound of gain:

Using your farm numbers:

How much did you pay per ton of feed? _____

Price per ton _____ divided by 2000 pounds = _____ price per pound of feed

*Assuming a 9:1 ratio (lbs feed/lbs gain)

9 lbs feed x _____ \$ per pound of feed _____ **Cost per Pound Gained**

Also think about:

Hay Cost?

Land Cost?

Labor Cost?

Conclusion:

It cost real dollars to raise cattle. Understanding the cost and these above numbers for your farm with help you become a better manager in your operation.