

An Economic Analysis of Stockpiled Grazing Corn

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While perennial forage systems provide the basis for beef production systems, forage gaps still exist. One option that has been given consideration to fulfil the fall and winter forage gap is BMR grazing corn.



Grazing corn was evaluated for its potential to fill forage production gaps, reduce stored feed needs, increase the nutritional quality, increasing biomass production, and improve animal performance.

An excel spreadsheet was developed using research data to help producers determine if planting and grazing corn for winter stockpile can be an economically viable production practice for their operation. The economic factors included in the spreadsheet were corn seed cost, planting cost, average daily gain, forage production, forage utilization, and cost per dry matter ton produced and consumed.

The value of gain and animal gain were calculated by the excel spreadsheet. The value of gain ranged from \$56 to \$104 per acre. The level of animal gain ranged from 46 to 99 pounds of gain per acre.

The most sensitive economic factors in the data set were increase in average daily gain, forage utilization, and seed cost.

Table 1. An Economic Analysis of Grazing Corn Cost Per Dry Matter Ton Produced For Various Levels of Forage Production and Production Costs Per Acre

Forage Production, DM lbs./acre	Grazing Corn Forage Production Costs, \$/acre							
	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$275	\$300
	Total Cost of Growing and Grazing Per Dry Matter Ton Produced							
5,000	\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100	\$110	\$120
6,000	\$42	\$50	\$58	\$67	\$75	\$83	\$92	\$100
7,000	\$36	\$43	\$50	\$57	\$64	\$71	\$79	\$86
8,000	\$31	\$38	\$44	\$50	\$56	\$63	\$69	\$75
9,000	\$28	\$33	\$39	\$44	\$50	\$56	\$61	\$67
10,000	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$50	\$55	\$60
11,000	\$23	\$27	\$32	\$36	\$41	\$45	\$50	\$55
12,000	\$21	\$25	\$29	\$33	\$38	\$42	\$46	\$50