

Cow Size Matters

Speckle Park - Performance, in a more moderate package.

MORE PROFITABLE FARMS HAVE LIGHTER WEIGHT COWS

- According to the Cost Of Production (COP) Network, the most profitable farms had mature cows that weighed 30 pounds less than the medium-profit group and 45 pounds less than the least profitable group.
- Culling not just the oldest cows, but the heaviest cows, has the potential to support future profitability on your operation.

LIGHTER WEIGHT COWS PROLONG FORAGE RESOURCES

- Heavier cows eat more per day than a lighter weight cow. By reducing your mature cow weight, forage resources can be saved not by reducing winter feeding days, but by how much feed is consumed per day.

WEANING WEIGHTS NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACTED

- The COP Network found that those top third most profitable farms had weaning weights that were four pounds heavier than the medium third ground and 17 pounds lighter than farms in the lowest third of profitability. So, while mature cow weight made an impact on winter feed requirements, the difference in weaning weight was not directly impacted.
- Year-to-year fluctuations in weaning weight were likely impacted more by genetics, pasture conditions and forage availability than by cow size

"THE SELECTION OF MORE MODERATE, MORE EFFICIENT COWS THAT REQUIRE LESS FEED/FORAGE PER DAY CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT OVER THE LONG-TERM"

see full study at www.beefresearch.ca