

Doing more ... with less.

This is a picture of an efficient cowherd. It was taken on our ranch in North Dakota on Feb. 21, 2015. It was 5 degrees and the wind chill was about 20 below. As you can see, our Aberdeen cows are in good shape and are content. The cows are still out picking on a stubble field. We are supplementing them with about 12#/head/day of hay, roughly 50% **LESS** than the hay other North Dakota cattle operations feed throughout the winter months. This cowherd has allowed us to **DO MORE WITH LESS**.

Before we started in the Aberdeen business, we raised 110 big cows on this ranch. As we became aware of how efficient and low maintenance these Aberdeen cows are, we started expanding our cow numbers. On no more acres, we now run **MORE** cows (over 250) and most are at least halfblood Aberdeen.

Throughout the transition we bred an incredible number of first-calf heifers. We don't get up at night to check them and our vet bills have been cut dramatically. We moved our calving dates back, quit creep feeding and we require much **LESS** hired help. Life on the ranch is **MORE** satisfying.

The NDSU Dickinson Research Center has been studying Aberdeen cross cattle since 2004. Their results are eye opening:

- From 2004 – 2007 commercial heifers bred to fullblood Aberdeen bulls had 98% unassisted births with an average birthweight of 68.2#.
- From 2004 – 2007 the resulting halfblood steers were harvested at 1,237# with 82% grading choice or better and 85% yield grade 3 or lower.
- Their F1 Lowline cows averaged 1,035# and weaned 51.9% of their body weight, compared to their conventional cowherd at 1,287# who weaned 46.2% of their body weight.
- Their F1 Lowline cows showed weaning weight per acre of 32.4# compared to their conventional herd that had weaning weight per acre of 23.6#, an increase of 37% more calf weight per acre.

We now raise dramatically **MORE** pounds per acre. We have much **MORE**, nearly double, the opportunity to sell replacement heifers and bulls as breeding stock. Without a doubt these smaller framed cattle have dramatically influenced our bottom line both by increasing revenue but also by reducing costs and labor.



Our efficient Moderator and fullblood cowherd on Dec. 16, 2016. The high that day was -4 and the low was -29 without the wind chill. Our Aberdeen cows were out grazing cover crop through the snow. We started supplementing them on Dec. 24 with about 12#/head/day of hay.



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