## Doing more ... with less.

This is a picture of an efficient cowherd. It was taken on our ranch in North Dakota on February 21, 2015. It was 5 degrees and the wind chill was about 20 below. As you can see, our Lowline 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 Lowline business, we raised 110 big cows on this ranch. As we became aware of how efficient and low maintenance these Lowline 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 Lowlines.

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 Lowline cross cattle since 2004. Their results are eye opening:

- From 2004 2007 commercial heifers bred to fullblood Lowline 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 Fl 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.

Every year at our Discover Lowline Weekend, we try to provide speakers and cattle that will help you **DO MORE WITH LESS**. We hope you can join us.

