

# Tennessee Beef Cattle Improvement Initiative



## Can You Afford To Wean and Feed Your Calves?

“It doesn’t pay to wean my calves before selling them.” Ever heard someone say that? Ever said that yourself? Most beef producers in our state believe they will not make money by weaning their calves and feeding them for a period before time to sell. Demonstrations were conducted in five East Tennessee counties to show that it can pay to wean your calves and feed them for 45 days prior to selling. Producers from Bledsoe, Blount, McMinn, Meigs, and Monroe counties participated in the demonstration which was conducted from July to September. All calves were marketed through the Southeast Pride Plus Sale at the East Tennessee Livestock Center on September 6.



### Demonstration Program

- Wean calves 45 days prior to Southeast Pride Plus Sale (on or before July 20, 2002)
- Vaccination Program
  - CattleMaster 4 - 2 shots
  - Ultrabac 7 - Somubac - 2 shots
  - One Shot - Pasteurella
- Dewormed using Dectomax
- For calves in Angus Sired Program
  - Bovishield 4
  - Amprolium - coccidiostat
- Feeding Program
  - 14% Select Hi-E beef pellets
  - with or without Rumensin
  - Feed approximately 2% of body weight
- Market calves in Southeast Pride Sale on September 6, 2002
- All calves tagged with electronic ID tags
- All producers Beef Quality Assurance certified

The vaccination and deworming protocol are based on the Southeast Pride Plus Sale.

### Cost of Health and Feeding Program

#### Health Program

1 <sup>st</sup> Vaccination	
Ultrabac 7 - Somubac	\$ 0.67
CattleMaster 4	\$ 2.31
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vaccination	
Ultrabac 7 - Somubac	\$ 0.67
CattleMaster 4	\$ 2.31
Bovishield 4	\$ 1.14
One Shot - Pasteurella	\$ 1.95
Dectomax Pour-on	\$ 3.65
<b>Total Cost of Health Program</b>	<b>\$12.70</b>

#### Feeding Program - 45 days

688 lbs feed @ \$6.80 per cwt.	\$46.78
Treatment for coccidiosis	\$ 2.45
<b>Total Cost of Feeding Program</b>	<b>\$49.23</b>

#### Total Cost of

<b>Southeast Pride Plus Program</b>	<b>\$61.93</b>
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## Cattle Performance

County	Average weight		Gain <sup>3</sup>	Average Daily Gain <sup>3</sup>
	Initial <sup>1</sup>	Pay weight <sup>2</sup>		
----- (lbs/head) -----				
Bledsoe	579	684	105	1.84
Blount	593	733	140	2.92
McMinn	506	608	102	1.72
Meigs	414	591	177	2.95
Monroe	543	639	96	2.14

<sup>1</sup>All initial weights include a 1.5% shrink

<sup>2</sup>Weight at Southeast Pride Sale on Sept. 6, 2002

<sup>3</sup>Number of days fed: Bledsoe 57, Blount 47, McMinn 59, Meigs 60, Monroe 45  
Impacted by number of steers and heifers



## Net Added Value

County	Average value		Difference <sup>3</sup>	Cost of Program <sup>4</sup>	Net Added Value <sup>3</sup>
	Aug. 2 <sup>1</sup>	Sept. 6 <sup>2</sup>			
----- (\$/head) -----					
Bledsoe	445.41	537.90	92.50	43.33	49.17
Blount	454.69	559.58	104.90	58.92	45.98
McMinn	395.31	474.45	79.14	54.03	25.11
Meigs	345.73	479.37	133.65	63.45	70.20
Monroe	427.66	516.18	88.52	61.93	26.59

<sup>1</sup>Based on Aug. 2, 2002 Graded Sale

<sup>2</sup>Based on Southeast Pride Sale on Sept. 6, 2002

<sup>3</sup>Impacted by number of steers and heifers

<sup>4</sup>Feed and pharmaceuticals



## Take Home Message

- Cattle will gain enough in a post weaning program to pay for feed and health program
- A good marketing program is needed to capture the value which has been added to the cattle
- For producers with less than a 50,000 lb load, the graded feeder sale is the best alternative



### Sponsors

- Pfizer Animal Products
- Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
- Local Farmers Cooperatives
- East Tennessee Livestock Center
- Smoky Mountain Feeder Calf Association
- UT Agricultural Extension Service

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