

## Early Weaning Management Option Analysis<sup>1</sup>

This decision support aid is designed to help producers decide whether to wean calves at an earlier time in the production cycle than normal, or to keep calves on the cows to the end of the normal production cycle. This decision support aid takes into account the differential in expected weights and price slide, as well as differences in cattle maintenance requirements and expected reproduction rates under the early weaning and normal weaning scenarios.

### Definitions:

**Current sale weight - early weaning:** This estimate should reflect the average expected payweight for both steers and heifers for the early weaning scenario.

**Projected sale weight - late weaning:** This estimate should reflect the average expected payweight for both steers and heifers for the late weaning scenario.

**Current Sale Price for Early Weaned Calves:** This value is the average expected sales price for the early weaned steer and heifer calves in dollars per hundred pounds.

**Projected Sale Price for Weaned Calves:** This value is the average expected sales price for the late weaned steer and heifer calves in dollars per hundred pounds.

**Marketing Costs:** This is the expected marketing cost as a percent of gross receipts.

**Early Weaning Date:** The price for the early weaned calves should match up with what you expect the market to be on this date.

**Normal Weaning Date:** The price for the late weaned calves should match up with what you expect the market to be on this date.

**Nursing Cow Feed Cost - \$/Head per Day:** This cost estimate must be at a level that would provide enough nutrition to attain a re-breeding rate equal to the early weaning scenario, or a % reduction in the next calf crop needs to be entered.

**Cost Differential Increment (\$/Hd/Day):** This value sets the range between the items in the table below.

**Expected Change in % Next Calf Crop:** This value represents the change in expected weaning percentage in the next calf crop given the level of nutrition for the nursing cow scenario.

**Projected Price for Next Calf Crop:** This value is the average expected sales price for steer and heifer calves in dollars per hundred pounds for the next year.

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<sup>1</sup> Version: 2006B -Disclaimer: This spreadsheet is provided by Texas Cooperative Extension for educational use. This spreadsheet is provided by Texas Cooperative Extension solely on an "AS IS" basis. Texas Cooperative Extension assumes no liability for the use of this program.

## Early Weaning Management Option Analysis

Current sale weight - early weaning	200	Cost Differential			
Projected sale weight - late weaning	500	Increment (\$/Hd/Day)	\$	0.05	
Current Sale Price for 200 Pound Calves	\$ 165.00			Sale Price for	Sale Price for
Projected Sale Price for 500 Pound Calves	\$ 110.00	Cost Differential		200 Pound	500 Pound
		\$ per Head		Calves Needed	Calves Needed
Marketing Cost	4%	per Day		to Breakeven	to Breakeven
			\$	1.43	\$ 148.94
Early wean sale/net marketing cost	\$ 317.00		\$	1.38	\$ 151.69
Late wean sale/net marketing cost	\$ 528.00		\$	1.33	\$ 154.45
			\$	1.28	\$ 157.21
Early weaning date	5/18/2006		\$	1.23	\$ 159.96
Late weaning date	9/1/2006		\$	1.18	\$ 162.72
			\$	1.13	\$ 165.47
Days calves would remain on cows	106				
Nursing cow feed cost - \$/Head per day	\$ 1.63	Expected Change in % Next Calf Crop			-15.00%
Dry cow feed cost - \$/Head per day	\$ 0.35	Projected Sale Price for 500 Pound Calves			
		for the Next Calf Crop (\$/Cwt)			\$ 120.00
Savings in Feed Cost Per Cow	\$ 135.68				
<b>Advantage to early weaning/ \$ per Head</b>	<b>\$ 14.68</b>				

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