

Steer supplement trial

Weaner cattle supplemented with pellets through 3IN1FEEDERS grew at a far higher rate with a reduced time to grow from 475lb to a target weight of 1000lb



Trial outline

Duration:	200 days
Quantity:	120 Angus weaner steers
Starting weight range:	400-530lb (475lb avg.)
Finishing weight target:	1030lb
Pasture type:	Oat crops and perennial pasture
Feeding amount:	4.4lb/day of 4mm short cut pellets
Feed value:	18% protein, 11.3MJ
Feeding equipment:	3x 3IN1FEEDER 3800

Supplement lifts weight, reduces finishing time

Historic results:

Trial operator, Ken Baldwin, purchases 120 steers from the same breeder, at the start of each financial year, at a weight of approximately 475lb, and grows them out to 1030lb.

On average, these take 315 days to finish, with an average daily weight gain of 1.72lb

Trial results:

Growth rates:

- 32 steers grew to an average of 1030lb at 150 days and were then sold
- 26 steers grew to an average of 1020lb at 180 days and were then sold
- 62 steers grew to an average of 1005lb at 200 days and were kept

Assuming a starting weight of 475lb, the average daily weight gain achieved was 3.06lb – 1.34lb higher than the historic average.

The average time to grow the steers from 457lb to target weight reduced from an average of 315 days to only 182 days.

Another major benefit is that income was received earlier, improving the cash flow of the operation.

Profit increased by
\$257.33 / head
 and could increase profit / acre
 by over \$120 / year!

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Expenditure and profit

Number of steers	120
Average feeding period (days)	182
Average pellet consumption/ day/head (lb)	4.4
Total pellet consumption (lb)	96,100
Pellets cost (lb)	\$0.155
Total pellets cost	\$14,895.50
Pellets cost/head	\$124.13
Feeder filling cost*	\$0.00
Depreciation cost**	\$1,050.00
ADDED EXPENSE	\$15,945.50
ADDED EXPENSE/HEAD	\$132.88
Added daily weight gain/head (lb)	1.34
Value of live weight/lb	\$1.60
ADDED INCOME***	\$46,824.96
ADDED INCOME/HEAD	\$390.21
ADDED PROFIT	\$30,879.46
ADDED PROFIT/HEAD	\$257.33

* The feed price included the filling of the 3IN1FEEDERS.

** This is calculated by multiplying a depreciation rate of 15% by the investment of three feeders, \$7,000.

*** This doesn't include the added potential to finish double the amount of steers per year

Opportunity for higher profit

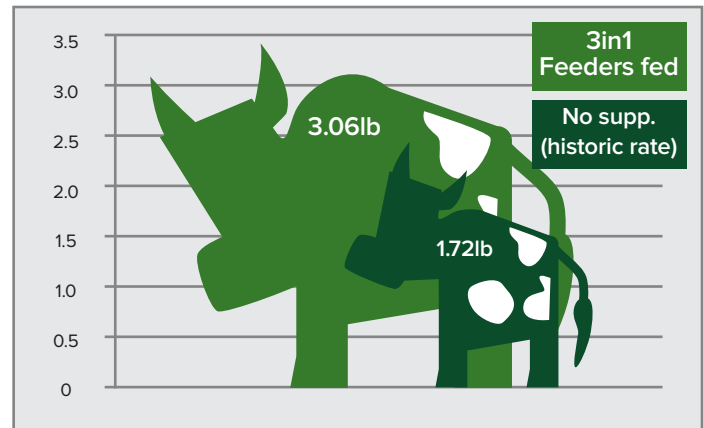
The shortened time for steers to meet target weight means that there is now an opportunity to grow two mobs of steers per year instead of the historic practice of only one.

With an historic income of \$250/acre/year, this can increase to \$450/acre/year by finishing 2 mobs with only increasing expenses of \$73/acre/year – an increase in profit by \$127/ acre/year.

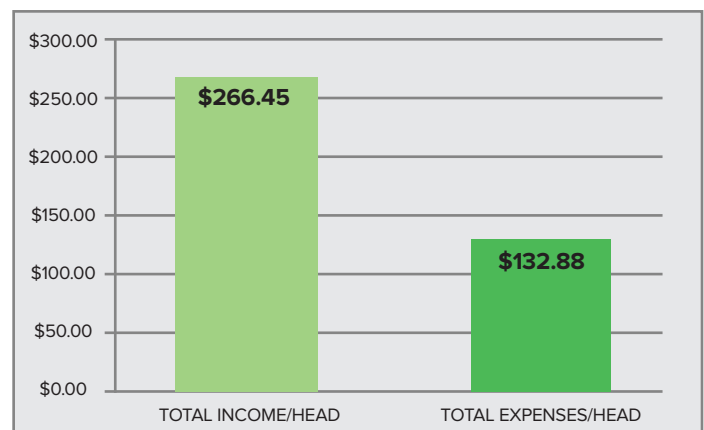
Note: steers that don't reach the target weight of 1020lb in 180 days may have to be sold at a lower target weight of approximately 950lb to allow space for the subsequent mob.

Because yearling prices are so high in early 2015, the trial operator chose to continue growing the 62 unsold steers to a target weight of 1350lb.

Daily weight gain comparison



Added income versus and expenses per head



About the trial operators

Ken Baldwin owns a 366 acre property at Highfields, 10 miles north of Toowoomba, QLD in Australia.

There is 120 acres of pasture, 100 acres of grazing oats and 40 acres of forage sorghum allocated to the steers.

100 acres is also allocated for sorghum production. The grazing area of the property is set up in 16 fields.

Comments from the trial operator

"If the supplement program wasn't implemented in 2014, I would have been in trouble because I had a very dry winter. I would have had to sell steers at depressed prices," Ken said.

"3IN1FEEDERS suit my operation well because I have options to feed the ration that matches my feeding agenda," he continued.

Ken can confidently reduce the ration down to 2lb/day or increase it to an amount of 13lb/ day, simply by moving the dual adjustment system.

"I have been growing steers for 40 years. I'm sure I'm on a good thing with 3IN1FEEDERS," he said.