

Due to the severe drought we are experiencing in our part of the country, many producers have been faced with some serious decisions to make regarding the future of their cattle operation. Several producers decided it was best to completely sell out of the cattle business. This has resulted in an increase of land available to lease or purchase. We believe that this increase in available land presents an opportunity for producers to expand, or better establish the replacement female program in their operation.

This week we want you to think about your replacement female program, and take a few moments to answer the following questions. Do you raise your own replacements, or do you purchase them? Why did you choose that route? If your answer is simply "Because this is the way I have always done it," there is a 50-50 chance that you are missing an opportunity that could help your operation be more profitable. Take into account the various factors associated with both options of a replacement female program- whether you intend to raise your own or purchase from someone else, and study both in depth before making a final decision. Which option will be the most efficient, and profitable route to take?

Because every cattle operation varies greatly from the next, there is not a blanket statement that can be applied to every operation stating which route is best. Instead, each producer should use his/her operation-specific figures to develop a budget that reveals if it is cheaper to raise replacements, or purchase them for his/her operation. Fortunately, there are spreadsheets available that aide in making a decision about which option is the best for your operation. Replacement females are a significant investment to any operation, and we are committed to helping you evaluate your operation and develop a plan that will be most efficient and profitable.

We would love to hear the answers to the questions above. If you would like to know more about the spreadsheets mentioned, please contact us.

Thanks,

Dr. Jesse Richardson, DVM