

Evaluating Backgrounding and Retained Ownership Opportunities

Program Opportunity for Advanced Master Cattleman

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Goal: To teach producers what factors are important in operating a profitable backgrounding or retained ownership enterprise; how to develop an effective budget analysis; and, how to evaluate marketing aspects.

Target Audience: Beef producers who are considering keeping their own calves in a backgrounding program, producers who buy calves to background, and/or producers who are considering finishing cattle in a custom finishing situation.

Summary and Overview: This training program will be operated as a workshop, with an expectation that participants will be working on real situations and that they are committed to staying involved through the entire production process. The workshops will include: information on cattle performance and alternative feeding programs, budgeting, market analysis and evaluation. Participants will be expected to share their economic and performance information with the other participants.

An ideal outcome would be to develop a group of producers who continue to work together after the end of the formal advanced master cattleman sessions. They would share information on an ongoing basis, learning from each other's experiences/experiments.

Time Allotment: The backgrounding/retained ownership program will be conducted in two to three sessions. The first one or two will focus on production attributes and planning. The last session will focus on assessing both production and economic performance – i.e. learning from experience.