

# The top seven reasons to optimize beef production technologies with high feed costs.

Article Provided By:

**Elanco**

## 01 VALUE ADVANTAGE

Ration prices have increased 10% to 25% in 2021, making improvements in cattle efficiency more valuable. For example, if feed costs are \$200/ton, a one-tenth improvement in feed conversion might be worth \$7/head.\* As ration prices climb to \$250/ton, that efficiency improvement could be worth an additional \$1.75/head\* in terms of incremental opportunity because of the increase in feed price.

## 02 HEAVIER PLACEMENT WEIGHTS

Cattle feeders may need to consider heavier placement weights and/or a leaner marketing end point. Implementing technologies such as Optaflexx® can help increase saleable weight or lower total feed costs and improve incremental performance by selling at the same weight with fewer days on feed.

## 03 GAIN OPTIMIZATION

Recommend best-cost diets to optimize gain and efficiency, and caution least-cost diets that cut costs without considering performance tradeoffs.

- ▶ Increasing the Rumensin® dose can help improve incremental feed efficiency.<sup>1</sup> The rule of thumb based on research is that every 100 mg increase in Rumensin results in about a 1% improvement in feed efficiency<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Evaluating implant dose and adding a beta-agonist like Optaflexx during the late-feeding period can help maintain efficiency as long as possible while cattle are slowing down biologically<sup>3</sup>

## 04 FEED PRICE IMPACT ON ROI

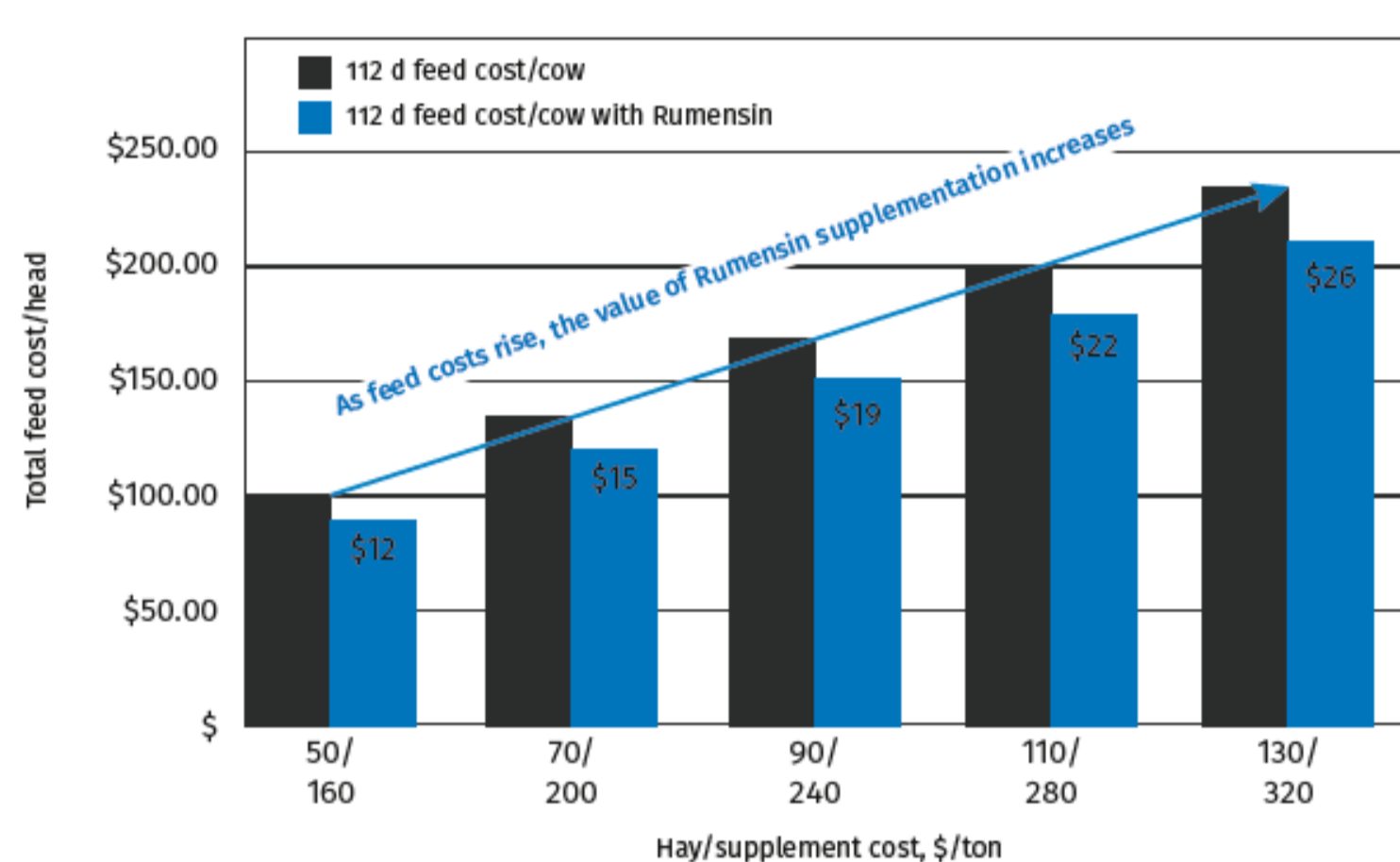
Feed prices (i.e., increased inputs) should be considered in the cost of morbidity and mortality. As feed costs change, so does the financial impact of an animal's health.

- ▶ For example, if a ration costs \$250/ton now and used to cost \$200/ton, a calf that dies 14 days after arrival is going to have a greater financial impact on the bottom line compared to the calves fed on cheaper rations

## 05 FEED EFFICIENCY

For beef producers, the feed efficiency advantage with Rumensin is important to remember, especially when feed prices increase.

- ▶ Adopting and optimizing Rumensin dose can help improve incremental feed efficiency<sup>1</sup> and net return



## 06 ALTERNATIVE FEED SOURCES

It may be time to consider making a feed change, such as evaluating best-cost diets through optimized feed additive technology to enhance performance versus least-cost diets to meet requirements as inexpensively as possible.

- ▶ Rumensin is proven to maintain gain while reducing the feed investment without affecting carcass merit

## 07 LIMIT FEEDING HIGH-ENERGY RATIONS

In times of drought or high-roughage prices, limiting feed at a higher-concentrate ration may be the economical choice. With limited intake of high-energy diets, it may be cheaper for producers to buy complete high-energy feeds from feed manufacturers and achieve lower costs of gain than buying hay or forage, which is expensive and difficult to transport and handle.

- ▶ This technique particularly applies to beef producers and backgrounders, where keeping their cattle under 2% of body weight intake helps them capture margin

Feedyard producers
  All producers
  Cow-calf or stocker

\*Assumes saving 70 lbs of feed on 700 lbs of weight gain at F:G 6.5 vs. 6.4.

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## WORK WITH A NUTRITIONIST TO CAREFULLY WEIGH THE OPTIONS TO OPTIMIZE FEED COSTS AND MAINTAIN GAIN, EFFICIENCY AND PROFITABILITY.

**For all products: The label contains complete use information, including cautions and warnings. Always read, understand and follow the label and use directions.**

**CAUTION:** Consumption by unapproved species or feeding undiluted may be toxic or fatal. Do not feed to veal calves.

**Growing beef steers and heifers fed in confinement for slaughter:**

**For improved feed efficiency:** Feed 5 to 40 g/ton of monensin (90% DM basis) continuously in a complete feed to provide 50 to 480 mg/hd/day.

**For the prevention and control of coccidiosis due to *Eimeria bovis* and *Eimeria zuernii*:** Feed 10 to 40 g/ton of monensin (90% DM basis) continuously to provide 0.14 to 0.42 mg/lb of body weight/day, depending upon severity of challenge, up to a maximum of 480 mg/hd/day.

**Growing beef steers and heifers on pasture (stocker, feeder, and slaughter) or in a dry lot, and replacement beef and dairy heifers:**

**For increased rate of weight gain:** Feed 50 to 200 mg/hd/day in at least 1.0 lb of Type C Medicated Feed. Or, after the 5th day, feed 400 mg/hd/day every other day in 2.0 lbs of Type C Medicated Feed. The Type C Medicated Feed must contain 15 to 400 g/ton of monensin (90% DM basis). Do not self feed.

**For the prevention and control of coccidiosis due to *Eimeria bovis* and *Eimeria zuernii*:** Feed at a rate to provide 0.14 to 0.42 mg/lb of body weight/day, depending upon severity of challenge, up to a maximum of 200 mg/hd/day. The Type C Medicated Feed must contain 15 to 400 g/ton of monensin (90% DM basis).

**Type C free-choice medicated feeds:** All Type C free-choice medicated feeds containing Rumensin must be manufactured according to an FDA-approved formula/specification. When using a formula/specification published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), a Medicated Feed Mill license is not required. Use of Rumensin in a proprietary formula/specification not published in the CFR requires prior FDA approval and a Medicated Feed Mill License.

**Beef cows:**

**For improved feed efficiency when receiving supplemental feed:** Feed continuously at a rate of 50 to 200 mg/hd/day. Cows on pasture or in dry lot must receive a minimum of 1.0 lb of Type C Medicated Feed per head per day. Do not self feed.

**For the prevention and control of coccidiosis due to *Eimeria bovis* and *Eimeria zuernii*:** Feed at a rate of 0.14 to 0.42 mg/lb of body weight/day, depending upon severity of challenge, up to a maximum of 200 mg/hd/day.

**Optaflexx®**

**CAUTION:** Not for animals intended for breeding.

**Complete feed**

**For increased rate of weight gain and improved feed efficiency in cattle fed in confinement for slaughter:** Feed 8.2 to 24.6 g/ton of ractopamine hydrochloride (90% DM basis) continuously in a complete feed to provide 70 to 430 mg/hd/d for the last 28 to 42 days on feed.

**For increased rate of weight gain, improved feed efficiency and increased carcass leanness in cattle fed in confinement for slaughter:** Feed 9.8 to 24.6 g/ton of ractopamine hydrochloride (90% DM basis) continuously in a complete feed to provide 90 to 430 mg/hd/d for the last 28 to 42 days on feed.

**Top dress**

**For increased rate of weight gain and improved feed efficiency in cattle fed in confinement for slaughter:** Feed 70 to 400 mg/hd/d of ractopamine hydrochloride (90% DM basis) continuously in a minimum of 1.0 lb/hd/d top dress Type C medicated feed (maximum 800 g/ton ractopamine hydrochloride) during the last 28 to 42 days on feed.

<sup>1</sup>Elanco Animal Health. Data on file.

<sup>2</sup>Dumfeld TF, Merrill JK, Bagg RN. Meta-analysis of the effects of monensin in beef cattle on feed efficiency, body weight gain, and dry matter intake. *J Anim Sci.* 2012;90(12):4583-92.

<sup>3</sup>Pyatt NA, Vogel G, et al. Effects of ractopamine hydrochloride on performance and carcass characteristics in finishing steers: 32-trial summary. *J. Anim Sci.* 2013;91 (E-suppl. 1):79.

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