

# Highlands County Developing Heifer Nutritional Programs

## Assumptions

Brangus X Angus Heifer

Starting BW of 600 lbs at 8 months old on September 1, Goal BW of 800 lbs at mid-December

Average daily gain (lb/d) goal of 1.25 to 1.50 lb/d

Daily temperatures were 85 degrees with no night cooling – hot environment this would slow down gain potential, as temperatures decrease gain potential will increase slightly.

Utilized bahiagrass hay as base of diet (DM: 90%, NDF:72%, TDN: 51%, CP: 8.2%, Fat: 1.6%)

Each feedstuff amount is listed on a dry matter (all are 88-90% DM) so as fed amounts will be proportionally greater.

Hay is included at approximately 50% of total intake or about 1% of bodyweight. Forage quality has a great influence on the need for supplemental energy and protein for growing heifers

A sufficient vitamin-mineral supplement needs to be supplied.

Inclusion of an ionophore (Rumensin, Bovatec, cattlyst) would improve feed efficiency and potentially accelerate gain. Inclusion of the ionophore would have to come from a manufactured pellet to insure correct formulation and adequate and consistent intake.

What we want is a good growthy heifer not a fat finished heifer.

Feeding options is determined by several factors

- 1) Weight of heifer at start of time period
- 2) Target weight at end of time period
- 3) Number of days from start to finish
- 4) Type of pasture or hay (quality and quantity)
- 5) Type and quality of feed to be fed
- 6) Average daily gain needed to reach target weight

## Programs

- 1) Pasture ( has to be enough volume and quality to be able to support at least a pound of gain/day) plus  
Cubes ( 14-20% at 6-8 lbs/ day)

- 2) Pasture ( has to enough volume and quality to be able to support at least a pound of gain/day)  
plus feed at 1-1.5% BWT
- 3) Pasture and Hay at 1-1.5% BWT plus feed at 1-1.5% BWT
- 4) Hay at about 1.5% BWT plus feed at 1-1.5% BWT

Remember all hay and feeds are not equal and rates will have to be adjusted accordingly

You want Your Feed to be at least 14% Crude Protein

2.5% Fat

68-72% TDN

You want Cubes to be 14-20% Crude Protein

2.5% Fat

68-72 TDN

Average grass hay is going to run about 8-9% crude protein

2% Fat

53% TDN