

You own and operate a backgrounding operation that specializes in purchasing bawling calves and feeding them for 60 days followed by direct merchandising of the calves to feed yards in the Midwest and in Pennsylvania (Do not round any math until the final answer for each question).

1. You bought 55 head of 525 pound bull calves in North Carolina. What is the gross weight of the pen of 55 calves you purchased in North Carolina?

Answer:  $55 \text{ head} \times 525 \text{ pounds} = 28,875 \text{ pounds}$

2. You paid \$135/cwt. for the pen of calves. What is the amount you owe the stockyard for the pen of calves?

Answer:  $\$135 \times 288.75 \text{ cwt} = \$38,981.25$

3. The distance from the stockyard to your processing barn is 185 miles. The trucking company charges you \$3.80 per loaded mile for hauling the cattle. How much do you owe the trucking company per calf (round to the nearest penny)?

Answer:  $(185 \text{ miles} \times \$3.80 \text{ per mile})/55 \text{ head} = \$12.78/\text{head}$

4. While processing you re-weighed the calves and determined you had a 3% shrink. What does the pen of calves now weigh (round to the nearest whole pound)?

Answer:  $28,875 \text{ pounds} \times .97 = 28,009 \text{ pounds}$

5. During the backgrounding period, you had 2 calves die. What is your percent death loss on the pen of calves (round to the nearest tenth)?

Answer:  $(2/55) \times 100 = 3.6\%$

6. Using just the purchase price, how much does the loss of 2 calves cost your operation?

Answer:  $\$1.35 \times 525 \text{ pounds} \times 2 \text{ head} = \$1417.50$

7. During the backgrounding period you treated 12 calves for pneumonia-like symptoms. To treat the sick calves, your veterinarian prescribed the antibiotic of Nuflor. The treatment tells you to administer 6mL/100 lbs. to the sick calves. How much Nuflor do you need to administer to each sick calf?

Answer:  $(525 \text{ pounds} / 100 \text{ pounds}) = 5.25 \times 6\text{mL} = 31.5\text{mL}$

8. The cost of Nuflor is \$289.95 per 500 mL bottle. How much does it cost to treat the 12 calves (Round to the nearest penny)?

Answer:  $(31.5\text{mL} \times 12 \text{ head} = 378 \text{ mL}); (\$289.95/500\text{mL} = \$.5799/\text{mL}); 378\text{mL} \times \$.5799/\text{mL} = \$219.20$

9. You will feed the group a commodity that will equal 1% of their purchased body weight (525 pounds). Cost of the starter rations is \$325 per ton. The calves will also be fed second cutting grass hay at a rate of 2% of their purchased body weight. The cost of the grass hay is \$40 per

800-pound bale of hay. What is the cost of feeding the pen of calves for the 60-day backgrounding period based on the 53 live calves (Round to the nearest penny).

Feed=

$525 \text{ lbs/calf} \times 53 \text{ calves} = 27825 \text{ lbs total}$

$27825 \text{ total lbs} \times 0.01 = 278.25 \text{ lbs/day}$

$278.25 \text{ lbs/day} \times 60 \text{ days on feed} = 16695 \text{ lbs/day}$

$(16695 \text{ lbs/day}) / 2000 \text{ lbs in 1 ton} = 8.3475 \text{ tons}$

$8.3475 \text{ tons} \times \$325 = \$2712.94$

Hay=

$525 \text{ lbs/calf} \times 53 \text{ calves} = 27825 \text{ lbs total}$

$27825 \text{ total lbs} \times 0.02 = 556.5 \text{ lbs/day}$

$556.5 \text{ lbs/day} \times 60 \text{ days} = 33390 \text{ lbs/day}$

$(33390 \text{ lbs/day}) / 800 \text{ lbs in 1 round bale} = 41.74 \text{ bales}$

$41.74 \text{ bales} \times \$40 = \$1669.50$

Total hay and feed price =  $\$2712.94 + \$1669.50 = \$4382.44$

10. In 60 days you plan to sell these calves as weaned calves. The average daily gain on this pen of calves is 2.1 lbs. What is your breakeven price per hundredweight (rounded to the nearest dollar) considering all costs (including death loss)?

Answer:  $(60 \text{ days} \times 2.1 \text{ pounds/day} = 126 \text{ pounds} + 525 \text{ pounds} = 651 \text{ pounds} \times 53 \text{ head} = 34,503 \text{ pounds})$

Initial Cost = \$38,981.25

Trucking =  $\$12.78 \times 55 \text{ head} = \$702.90$

Nuflor = \$219.20

Feed = \$4230.66

Total Cost = \$44134.01

Breakeven Selling Price =  $\$44,134.01 / 34,503 \text{ pounds} = \$1.28 \times 100 = \$128/\text{cwt.}$