

Grazing Alfalfa and Managing Bloat

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In the grazing business there is nothing nicer or more satisfying than watching cattle grazing on lush alfalfa pasture in mid summer.

There is also nothing more gut wrenching than going to the pasture and finding a bunch of animals with 4 feet in the air that have died from bloat.

Our goal is to try and enjoy more of the first scenario by trying to eliminate the second scenario.

NOTES:

- grazing 1 yearling to every 1.15 acres
- use 15 fields and rotate
- do a quick clip then a twice over grazing
- high % alfalfa
- use safe fields

BLOAT CONTROL

- rumensin boluses
- fed old roughage
- used alfasure
- grazed later in strong flower
- used safe fields

RETURNS

2004

cost of gain	.29cts/lb
return/acre	\$52.75/acre
profit	\$41.50/hd

2005

cost of gain	.33cts/lb
return/acre	\$81.20/acre
profit	\$93.71/hd

2006

cost of gain	.35cts/lb
return/acre	\$71.70/acre
profit	\$36.82/hd

2007

cost of gain	.30cts/lb
return/acre	\$65.77/acre
profit	\$-45.24/hd

Grazing alfalfa can be very rewarding but can add an increased stress level to grazing cattle.