Our Calves Lifecycle   
10-12-15  
  
A conventional beef cattle farm, such as ours, begins with farmers maintaining A group of cows (a herd) from which beef calves are raised. We tried to maintain a herd of 30 to 35 mama cows. Our calves, from birth to weaning eight mamas milk and grazed grass from pastures for the first 5 to 6 months of their life.  
  
The decision at winning time presented us with these possibilities: (1) The farmer my market for sale the calves through an auction market. (2) The farmer weans (separates calves from their mothers) The calves and maintains them on the home farm for more growth,  backgrounding. (3) The farmer made precondition the calves for a period of 45 to 60 days, adding weight, teaching calves to eat and drink from troughs and administer vaccines to improve their immune system. Following the decision the calves are market through an auction market or video sale. We preferred a combination of possibilities two and three, vans sale or market our calves through a video sale.  
  
The calves at auction market or video sale are generally bought by other farmers (Backgrounders, preconditioners) or feed yards. These buyers generally purchase Weaned calves to be grazed on grass adding additional weight and preparing the calves for the next phase of the beef lifecycle.  
  
Following the growing phase provided by backgrounders and preconditioners the calves are purchased by feed yards. The Calves generally spend 120 to 150 days eating a grain and hay  diet providing additional weight.   
  
As the finishing phase is completed, The calf weighing 1200 to 1300 pounds, they are purchased by harvest the facility. The harvest facility prepares the meat, produced by the calves, for grocery stores and restaurants to be purchased by American families for their dining pleasure.  
  
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