

Creep Feeding and Finishing Beef Calves

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Looking for the Creep.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The findings of four years of experimental work in creep feeding conducted at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, during the grazing seasons and following winters of 1933-34; 1934-35; 1935-36; and 1936-37, are considered in detail in this bulletin. Creep-fed calves are compared with noncreep-fed calves during the grazing seasons and also during drylot finishing periods following weaning. The calves were fed for an average of 163 days following weaning.
2. The results of the four years work indicate that creep feeding is not to be recommended for spring calves that are to be full fed on grain for five months or more after weaning. The extra finish acquired will result in the calves making slower and more expensive gains during the finishing period.
3. The results do indicate, however, that the creep feeding of well bred spring calves will produce heavier and fatter calves that can be sold for a higher price at weaning time than similar calves not creep-fed. Each year the creep-fed calves were worth enough more at weaning time to more than pay for the feed consumed in the creep.
4. A weight gain of from 5 to 10 pounds may be expected from each bushel of corn fed to creep-fed calves.
5. The creep-fed calves could have been sold from 30 to 40 days earlier than the noncreep-fed calves in these trials. This advantage is not shown by this experiment as both lots were held until the thinnest lot was ready for market, in order to have both lots sold on the market at the same time.
6. Creep feeding saves shrinkage in weaning. Creep-fed calves can usually be placed on a self-feeder immediately with practically no loss in weight at weaning.
7. Other conditions being equal, creep feeding will be found most profitable and satisfactory where the calves are dropped in the fall and winter so they will be heavy enough to sell at or within thirty or forty days after weaning.

CREEP FEEDING AND FINISHING BEEF CALVES

Bruce R. Taylor, O. S. Willham and L. E. Hawkins*

Oklahoma beef producers were quick to recognize the market trend toward choice, light weight, well finished cattle and realized that this change from the heavy bullock to the baby beef would be of a lasting rather than of a temporary nature. They also observed that young cattle utilize feed much more economically than the more mature steers that were commonly fed in the past.

These two facts, together with the frequent financial loss accompanying the handling of the big steer, led many Oklahoma producers to turn to the maintenance of breeding herds and the fattening of the calves on the farm on which they were produced.

The favorable climate of Oklahoma offers the possibility that many producers are using in providing almost year-round pasture. Then, too, the adaptability of sorghum crops for silage makes the winter feed problem of minimum concern and the opportunity to have the calves dropped early very attractive.

Thus, the feeding of grain to well bred beef calves before weaning, so as to have the calves fat enough to sell for beef at or within 30 days after weaning, has been the logical phase of beef production to which many producers have turned.

This practice is known as "Creep Feeding." The usual recommendation made by those who have studied the creep-feeding problem was that the calves should be dropped early, preferably in the months of December, January or February. Calves dropped at this time could be taught to eat grain before being placed on grass with their dams and would be sufficiently fat and heavy to sell at or soon after weaning.

However, some producers began using the plan on March and April calves thinking that any additional weight they produced would be worthwhile. To test the practicability of this latter practice, experiments were conducted at the Oklahoma Experiment Station during the grazing seasons and following winters of 1933-34; 1934-35; 1935-36; and 1936-37.

* L. E. Hawkins—Resigned Aug., 1935.

FINDINGS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Morrison (2) in a summary of 14 tests in creep feeding calves states: "The calves that were creep-fed while nursing their dams gained an average of 1.79 pounds per head daily, which was 0.42 pound more than others that did not receive the additional feed. In these trials, which averaged 152 days in length the difference in total gain per calf was 64 pounds. The total amount of grain and other concentrates eaten per calf during this time was 495 pounds including that consumed by the cows while the calves were learning to eat. For each 100 pounds of additional gain the creep-fed calves, therefore, were to be charged with 758 pounds of concentrates. In nine tests in which the selling price was reported the creep-fed calves were worth \$1.23 more per hundred weight at weaning time. The greater gains and the increased selling price paid well for the concentrates in most cases."

Moxley (4) states that each bushel of grain fed produces about 10 pounds of additional weight. Creep-fed calves in the Kansas demonstrations have made returns that would allow \$4.50 per ton for the silage the cow consumed, \$10.00 for the grass for the cow and calf and \$1.20 per bushel for the corn consumed by the creep-fed calf.

At the Texas Experiment Station (1) the creep feeding of range calves increased the daily gain from 0.68 pound daily to 1.39 pounds. The calves were creep-fed from August to January and were then weaned and continued on grain until April. The creep-fed calves were valued at \$27.08 per head at weaning as compared to \$18.72 for the grass calves.

In an experiment at the Colorado Station Morton (3) reports that the creep feeding of range calves that were later finished in the drylot resulted in an advantage of 18 pounds in weight and 50 cents per hundred weight in selling price.

Snapp (5) in a review of the subject of creep feeding states: "If calves are to be sold at weaning time or after a comparatively short feed in drylot, grain feeding during the suckling period is highly essential in producing a satisfactory market finish. However, if the calves are to be marketed in late spring or summer, creep feeding is not to be recommended as the extra flesh so acquired will result in slower and costlier gains during the long feeding period."

OBJECT OF THE EXPERIMENT

The object of this experiment was to study the effect of feeding grain to calves while they are nursing as compared to no grain while nursing, where both lots of calves are to be full fed in the drylot after weaning. It was hoped this study would answer the following questions:

1. Which method of handling requires the least total amount of grain to finish the calves?
2. Which method enables the calves to be marketed at the earlier age?
3. Which method gives the greater profit per calf?

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Each year the calves from the Experimental cow herd of approximately twenty Hereford cows were divided as evenly as possible as to number, age, weight, sex and kind of dam into two lots and were grazed with their mothers under similar conditions of pasture, water and shade. One group had access to whole oats or a mixture of whole oats and ground corn in a self-feeder placed in a creep. The other lot received no grain while nursing. All calves from both lots were weaned early in October of each year and placed in separate identical lots where they were full fed for an average of 163 days.

CATTLE USED



**Fig. 2. Type and Thickness are Highly Essential
in the Sire of Creep-fed Calves.
(This Bull Sired the Calves Used in 1933-34)**

The cows were high grade Hereford cows comparable to the better commercial herds of Oklahoma. They were mated with a good purebred Hereford bull. The cows were wintered each year on old grass remaining in the pastures, plus cottonseed cake and, when needed, such other feeds as cane silage, prairie hay or poor quality alfalfa hay. The cows were given sufficient feed to keep them in thrifty condition but not fat. Some wheat pasture was used when it was available. After being turned on grass each spring the cows received no grain or hay. Ample salt and water were provided and shade was adequate in all pastures used. A mineral mixture composed of equal parts steamed bone meal, finely ground limestone, and common salt was kept before the cows at all times.

THE CREEP

Two creeps were erected for this experiment as the pastures were adjoining pastures and were watered by the same well and windmill. The original plan called for alternating the two lots between pastures so that the grazing conditions would be identical. This plan was discontinued after the second year as it was observed that the calves were slow to find the creep when they were changed to the "other" pasture.

The creeps used consisted of a small self-feeder surrounded by a fence with openings which permitted the calves to enter but withheld the cows. The openings ranged from 18 to 22 inches in width.



**Fig. 3. An Ideal Location for the Creep Feeders; Near Water and Shade.
(This shows Both Feeders Used in the Experiment.)**

Experiment No. 1. Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves.

Both lots were hand-fed twice daily during the first 53 days of the finishing period after which time the calves were self-fed oats, corn and cottonseed cake, free choice. Salt and ground limestone were kept before them in separate containers. Corn silage was fed the first 90 days; kafir silage the last 59 days. Prairie hay was kept before the cattle at all times. Two pounds of alfalfa hay per day was fed during the last 60 days.

TABLE I.—Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
 (October 14, 1933-March 12, 1934)
 149 days
 L. E. Hawkins

Summer Management	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot	7	7
Initial weight (pounds)	438	477
Final weight (pounds)	747	767
Total gain (pounds)	309	290
Average daily gain (pounds)	2.07	1.95
Average daily ration: (free choice)		
Shelled corn	1.69	2.36
Whole oats	7.22	7.23
Cottonseed cake	1.46	.94
Silage	3.21	3.15
Hay	2.13	2.32
Feed consumed per 100 lbs. gain:		
Concentrates	500	540
Silage	154	162
Hay	103	119
Feed cost per 100 lbs. gain	\$ 5.08	\$ 5.46
Total calf cost plus feed cost	30.69	33.72
Net selling price per cwt. (35¢ per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing and shrinkage)		
	4.94	5.34
Net selling price per head	36.93	40.94
Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost	6.24	7.22

Feed Prices Used

Corn	\$.45 per bu.
Oats	.30 per bu.
Cottonseed cake	19.00 per ton
Alfalfa hay	7.00 per ton
Prairie hay	5.00 per ton
Silage	2.50 per ton

OBSERVATIONS

1. The creep-fed calves consumed 320 pounds of grain per head during the creep feeding period and were 39 pounds heavier at weaning time than the noncreep-fed calves.
2. Had the two lots been sold at weaning time the creep-fed lot would necessarily have had to return 40 cents more per hundred-weight to pay for the grain consumed during the creep feeding phase. Because they were noticeably fatter and heavier they would have easily been worth 40 cents more per hundred-weight.
3. The noncreep-fed calves gained slightly faster and at 38 cents less cost per hundred-weight of gain than the fatter creep-fed calves.
4. The creep-fed calves were noticeably fatter all through the feeding period than the noncreep-fed calves.

Experiment No. 2. Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves.

Both lots of calves were self-fed ground shelled corn, whole oats and cottonseed cake, free choice, throughout the finishing period. Prairie hay was kept before the cattle at all times; alfalfa hay was fed once daily. Bulk salt and a mixture of salt and limestone were kept before the cattle in separate boxes.

TABLE II.—Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
(October 9, 1934-April 9, 1935)
182 days
L. E. Hawikns

Summer Management	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot	8	8
Average initial weight (pounds)	334	364
Average final weight (pounds)	744	777
Total gain (pounds)	410	413
Average daily gain (pounds)	2.25	2.27
Average daily ration: (free choice)		
Ground shelled corn	7.15	6.22
Oats	4.27	5.32
Cottonseed cake	1.08	1.57
Alfalfa hay	1.36	1.37
Prairie hay75	.84
Feed consumed per 100 lbs. gain:		
Concentrates	555	578
Hay	94	97
Feed cost per 100 lbs. gain	\$10.09	\$10.68
Total calf cost plus feed cost	56.37	63.48
Net selling price per cwt. (35¢ per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing and shrinkage)	11.65	11.65
Net selling price per head	86.68	90.52
Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost	30.31	27.04

Feed Prices Used

Corn	\$.90 per bu.
Oats60 per bu.
Cottonseed cake	40.00 per ton
Alfalfa hay	12.00 per ton
Prairie hay	9.00 per ton

OBSERVATIONS

1. The creep-fed calves consumed 68 pounds of corn and 243 pounds of oats per head and were 30 pounds per head heavier at weaning than the noncreep-fed calves.
2. The feed consumed in the creep feeding phase cost \$4.36. Thus the 364 pound creep-fed calves would have had to sell for 83 cents more per hundred-weight than the non-creep-fed calves to pay the feed bill at weaning time.

3. Both lots sold for the same price per hundred-weight after 182 days in the drylot. The noncreep-fed calves had, however, chosen cheaper feeds, a higher proportion of corn to oats, less cottonseed cake and had utilized 23 pounds less of concentrates per 100 pounds of gain.
4. Again, as last year, the lot which had been creep-fed appeared fatter at the close of the feeding period but both lots sold for the same price per hundred-weight.



Fig. 4. The Feeder Need Not Be Elaborate.
(Actual Feeder Used in the Experiment)

*Experiment No. 3A. Creep Feeding and
Noncreep Feeding. (Pasture Phase)*

The calves were weighed when the division into two lots was made on June 28 and records kept of the gains made during the creep feeding phase.

TABLE III.—A Comparison of Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
Creep Feeding Phase (June 28-October 12, 1935)

106 days

L. E. Hawkins and O. S. Willham

Summer Management	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot.....	11	11
Initial weight (pounds).....	263	248
Final weight (pounds).....	398	418
Total gain (pounds).....	135	170
Average daily gain (pounds).....	1.27	1.60
Average daily ration—oats.....	none	1.45
Cost of oats used in creep (per head).....		\$1.54

OBSERVATIONS

1. The creep-fed calves consumed a total of 154 pounds of oats per head and gained 35 pounds more than the non-creep-fed calves. An increase in value of 16 cents per hundred-weight would have paid for the oats consumed in the creep.
2. The consumption of feed was only 1.45 pounds of oats per day. Apparently the oats were not as palatable as the mixture of oats and corn used the previous two years.

Experiment No. 3. Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves.

The two lots of calves were self-fed in identical lots. Ground shelled corn, whole oats and cottonseed cake were allowed, free choice, throughout the finishing period. Prairie hay was kept before the cattle at all times and alfalfa was fed once a day. Bulk salt and a mineral mixture composed of equal parts steamed bone meal, ground limestone and salt were kept before the calves in separate boxes.

TABLE IV.—Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
(October 13, 1935-April 4, 1936)

173 days

O. S. Willham

Summer Management	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot	11	11
Average initial weight (pounds)	398	418
Average final weight (pounds)	763	764
Total gain per calf (pounds)	365	346
Average daily gain (pounds)	2.10	1.99
Average daily ration: (free choice)		
Ground shelled corn	7.30	8.02
Oats	4.94	4.69
Cottonseed cake	1.22	.58
Alfalfa hay	.83	.79
Prairie hay	1.28	1.15
Feed consumed per 100 lbs. gain		
Concentrates	641	668
Hay	100	97
Feed cost per 100 lbs. gain		
Total calf cost plus feed cost	\$ 7.88	\$ 8.15
Total calf cost plus feed cost	43.73	44.74
Net selling price per cwt. (35¢ per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing and shrinkage)		
Net selling price per head	8.85	8.85
Net selling price per head	67.53	67.61
Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost	23.80	22.87

Feed Prices Used

Corn -----	\$.72 per bu.
Oats -----	.32 per bu.
Cottcseed cake -----	28.00 per ton
Alfalpa hay -----	10.00 per ton
Prairie hay -----	5.00 per ton

OBSERVATIONS

1. The noncreep-fed lot produced 100 pounds of gain on 26 pounds less grain than the creep-fed lot and hence could have been sold for less money.
2. The creep-fed lot showed more bloom and finish throughout most of the finishing period but this advantage was finally overcome by the noncreep-fed lot and both lots sold for the same price per hundred-weight at the close of the experiment.
3. The creep-fed lot was held longer than necessary so that both lots could be sold on the same market. The gains on the creep-fed lot became slow and expensive during the latter days of the experiment.



**Fig. 5. The Creep-fed Lot After 138 Days in the Drylot.
(February 1936)**

*Experiment No. 4A. Creep Feeding and
Noncreep Feeding Calves. (Pasture Phase)*

As in former years, the calves from the experimental cow herd and their dams were divided into two equal lots. The division was made this year on July 11.

**TABLE V.—A Comparison of Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
Creep Feeding Phase (July 11-October 3, 1936)**

84 days

O. S. Willham and Bruce R. Taylor

	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot	7	8
Average birth date	Feb. 24	Mar. 10
Average initial weight (July 11) (pounds)	298.60	301.40
Average final weight (Oct. 3) (pounds)	368.80	419.50
Total gain per calf (pounds)	70.20	118.10
Average daily gain per calf (pounds)84	1.41
Total feed consumed per calf:		
Ground corn		3.78 bu.
Whole oats		6.57 bu.
Wheat bran		28 lbs.
Cottonseed meal		25 lbs.
Feed cost per calf		\$ 8.38
Appraised value per cwt. at weaning time	\$ 6.50	8.00
Value per calf at weaning time—(weight reduced 3% for customary shrinkage	23.26	32.55
Cow cost plus feed cost to produce calf	15.00	23.38
Return per calf over calf cost and feed cost	8.26	9.17

Feed Prices Used

Corn	\$ 1.15 per bu.
Oats50 per bu.
Bran	34.40 per ton
Cottonseed meal	40.00 per ton

OBSERVATIONS

1. The summer was unusually dry and the calves gained less than usual due to poor grazing conditions. As a result the creep-fed lot consumed more grain per head than in any other year.
2. The calves that were creep-fed while running with their dams on pasture were 50 pounds heavier and enough fatter at weaning time to be valued at \$1.50 per hundred-weight above similar calves not creep-fed.
3. The 50-pound advantage in weight and the \$1.50 advantage in appraised value would have slightly more than paid for the cost of the grain consumed in the creep-fed lot.

4. No trouble was experienced in getting the creep-fed calves to eat from the creep. The cows and calves were driven to the creep and an effort was made to work the calves into the creep for the first three days of the trial. After that time the calves went to the feeder of their own accord and all calves were definitely known to be eating fifteen days after the first feed was placed in the feeder on July 11.

Experiment No. 4. Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves.

The closing weights of the creep-feeding phase were used as the beginning weights of the finishing period. The creep-fed lot was placed on the self-feeder immediately, whereas, the noncreep-fed lot was hand-fed for the first 40 days and then placed on the self-feeder. They were eating 10.7 pounds per head daily at this time. Both lots were fed a mixture of approximately one half ground shelled corn and one half whole oats. The allowance of cottonseed meal was fed twice daily. Two pounds of alfalfa hay was fed per head per day throughout the test. Prairie hay was full fed as long as the calves showed a desire for it.

TABLE VI.—Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves
(October 4, 1936-March 2, 1937)
149 days
Bruce R. Taylor

	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot.....	7	8*
Initial weight per calf (pounds).....	368.80	419.50
Final weight per calf (pounds).....	704.80	707.90
Total gain per calf (pounds).....	336.00	228.40
Daily gain per calf (pounds).....	2.26	1.94
Average daily ration:		
Ground corn.....	6.55	6.95
Whole oats.....	3.23	4.05
Cottonseed cake.....	.95	.94
Alfalfa hay.....	2.01	2.02
Prairie hay.....	.82	.22

Continued.

* One calf died Nov. 28, 1936.

Feed required per 100 lbs. gain		
Corn	290.19	359.07
Oats	143.13	208.96
Cottonseed cake	42.23	48.32
Alfalfa hay	89.19	104.21
Prairie hay	36.39	11.30
Cost of feed per 100 lbs. gain	\$10.06	\$12.61
Feed cost per calf (finishing period)	33.80	36.37
Feed cost per calf (creep period)	none	8.38
Cow cost per calf	15.00	15.00
Total calf cost plus feed cost	48.80	59.75
Necessary selling price at home to break even	6.92	8.44
Selling price at Oklahoma City	10.25	10.25
Net selling price per cwt. (35¢ per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing and shrinkage	9.90	9.90
Net selling price per calf	69.77	70.08
Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost	20.97	10.33

Feed Prices Used

Corn	\$ 1.15 per bu.
Oats50 per bu.
Cottonseed cake	40.00 per ton
Alfalfa hay	\$18.50 per ton
Prairie hay	11.50 per ton

OBSERVATIONS

1. The creep-fed lot shrank 2.5 pounds per head in weaning, whereas, the noncreep-fed lot shrank 17.5 pounds.
2. The creep-fed lot started the experiment 50 pounds heavier than the noncreep-fed group, but due to slower daily gains were only 4 pounds heavier at the close of the test.
3. The noncreep-fed lot gained 0.32 pound more per head per day, ate slightly less feed and produced 100 pounds gain more economically than the creep-fed lot.
4. The creep-fed lot appeared noticeably fatter for the fore part of the feeding period but the more rapid gains made by the noncreep-fed calves overcame this advantage and both lots sold for the same price at the end of the trial.
5. The results of the test would indicate that creep feeding does not pay for calves that are to be full fed on grain for five months or more after weaning.



Fig. 6. Enjoying the Creep on an August Afternoon

TABLE VII.—Summary of Four Experiments in Finishing Creep-fed and Noncreep-fed Calves (1933-34; 1934-35; 1935-36 and 1936-37)
Average Length of Test—163 days

	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
Number of calves per lot	9	9
Initial weight (pounds)	384.70	419.60
Final weight (pounds)	739.70	754.00
Total gain (pounds)	355.00	334.40
Average daily gain per calf (pounds)	2.18	2.05
Average daily ration:		
Ground corn	5.67	5.89
Whole oats	4.91	5.32
Cottonseed cake	1.18	1.01
Alfalfa hay	1.25	1.25
Prairie hay	1.04	.51
Silage*	3.21	3.15
Feed required per 100 lbs. gain:		
Concentrates	539.45	596.10
Roughness	144.14	147.63
Cost of feed per 100 lbs. gain	\$ 8.42	\$ 9.53
Feed cost (finishing period)	29.90	31.85
Cow cost per calf	15.00	15.00
Feed cost per calf (creep period)	none	4.74
Calf cost plus feed cost	44.90	51.59
Selling price per cwt.	9.15	9.25
Net selling price per cwt. (35¢ per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing and shrinkage)	8.80	8.90
Net selling price per calf	65.09	67.08
Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost	20.19	15.49

* 1 year only.

Feed Prices Used

Corn	\$.80 per bu.
Oats43 per bu.
Cottonseed cake	31.75 per ton
Alfalfa hay	\$11.88 per ton
Prairie hay	7.62 per ton

TABLE VIII.—Marketing Data
Shrinkage in Transit (By Truck)

	Stillwater weight	Market weight	Shrinkage in pounds	Shrinkage in percent
Noncreep-fed				
1934	747	721	26	3.48
1935	744	714	30	4.03
1937	705	669	36	5.11
Average	732	701.33	30.67	4.19
Creep-fed				
1934	767	734	33	4.30
1935	777	741	36	4.63
1937	733	703	30	4.09
Average	759	726	33	4.35

It was thought that some differences might be brought out by comparing shrinkage in transit between the creep-fed and noncreep-fed calves. The noncreep-fed calves showed slightly less shrinkage two years of the three. This advantage was probably gained from their filling better at the market.

TABLE IX.—Dressed Yields*

	Noncreep fed	Creep fed
1934	56.70%	57.90%
1935	60.36%	62.21%
1937	57.25%	59.50%
Average	58.09%	59.93%

* Dressed yields were obtained through the courtesy of Armour and Company and Wilson and Company at Oklahoma City.

It is interesting to note that the creep-fed calves yielded the higher dressing carcasses each year but in only one year, 1934, did the creep-fed calves command a higher selling price. This would indicate that perhaps the creep-fed calves could have been sold 30 to 40 days sooner than the noncreep-fed calves and been just as attractive to the packer buyers.

ESSENTIAL POINTS IN CREEP FEEDING

1. The calves must have quality and early maturity.
2. The calves should be early. The November, December, January or February calf will prove the most satisfactory on Oklahoma farms.
3. The calves should be taught to eat grain before they go to grass.
4. The creep should be located at the right place in a suitable pasture. The most suitable pasture will be one in which the cows have some common loafing place where the creep may be placed.
5. Close attention to details is absolutely necessary in creep feeding. High quality feed must be available in the feeder at all times. Feed spoiled by rain must be removed promptly or the calves will scour and go off feed.

Shelled corn is the most satisfactory grain for creep feeding. It feeds down well in the feeder, keeps well and is highly palatable. When the grass begins to dry up and the cows fall off in milk flow, 1 part of protein supplement like cottonseed meal should be added to each 8 to 10 parts of corn.

Whole oats can be used very successfully for calves intended for the breeding herd, but are not fattening enough to be used alone for calves intended to be sold at weaning time. A mixture of one half ground corn and one half whole oats is quite good and will feed down well in the feeder.

A good many pastures are not suitable for creep feeding because they do not have a single watering or loafing place, hence many disappointments are to be had by those who try to creep feed under poor conditions. Where possible, the keeping of calves in the barn or lots and turning the cows in at night and morning to allow the calves to nurse will prove to be a splendid method.

On many Oklahoma farms the combination of early calves from a herd of good type beefy cows mated with a thick, early maturing bull, the use of winter pastures and creep feeding will no doubt prove to be a very profitable and satisfactory enterprise.

The early well bred beef calf, that has been creep-fed, should go to market weighing approximately 700 pounds at about 10 months of age and will have consumed 20 to 25 bushels of corn.

The advantages of creep feeding spring calves, namely; more weight and less shrinkage at weaning time are attractive to some producers of feeder calves who, by creep feeding, are offering a more uniform group of calves that will shrink less at weaning and start on feed easier for the new owner.

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