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Pasture Rates Survey 2002/2003

Project #: 1999-A

Co-operator: GWFA Membership

Sponsor: Grey Wooded Forage Association

Funded by: PID

Update:

Prior results from 1999 and 2000 show a wide range in pasture rates depending largely on the level of service provided. We are seeing a range of \$10 to \$23 per head/month on yearlings or \$0.40 per lb. of gain when contracted on a gain basis. Rates for cow/calf pairs ranged from \$13 to \$25 per pair/month. Pasture and services ranged from low quality pasture with no input by the pasture owners to high quality pasture with a high level of management of the pasture and livestock by the pasture owner. At this time the pasture rates survey for information from the 2001 grazing season has been sent out and responses are steadily coming in. The information will be compiled after April 1, 2002.

Background:

The Economics Branch has provided a listing of pasture (and hayland) in a rates guide each year. Grey Wooded has been conducting this project for 3 years now. We are the only Forage Association that conducts this survey.

Expected Industry Impact/ Benefits of the Project

There is great value for Grey Wooded Forage Association to continually gather information on pasture rates and the different types of arrangements or contracts. We get quite a few calls for this kind of information. This information helps us to give a better, more current response to these requests.

Communication Plan for Information Transfer

Communication via The Blade, The newsletter, our Annual Report and through responses to the calls we get for this kind of information.

Project Plan

To distribute the survey to all members (approx. 250) each February, collect and compile data and relay the results back to the membership and the community at large. The survey for 2002 has been sent out and responses are coming in. The questions contained in the survey will cover topics such as:

- Date of Entry & Exit
- Cow Size
- Calf Birth Date
- Price/AUM or Price/Animal
- Length of Stay
- Penalties- early removal, feeding
- Responsibilities of Owner and Lessee
- What month of the year did you establish the agreement
- Is this an arm-length of a non-arm-length agreement
- Size of Pasture(s)

Objective:

- To provide producers with a method of price discovery for pastureland.
- To provide the producer with information about the type of pasture and what the pasture owners and cattle owners are responsible for.