



Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.

“Turning Science into Money”



Bull Nutrition

Cattlemen,

Bulls represent a significant investment and it is important that investment provide you with the most return possible. Rest assured that libido, soundness, and longevity are the goals of the Hebbert Ranch bull development program. These bulls have been developed on a low-starch, high-fiber diet designed to provide enough growth that the bulls are ready to go to work, without getting the bulls fat. The bulls were slowly stepped up on feed, and the “hottest” diet contained less than 25% whole corn. Using wet distillers grains (WDG) as an energy source allows the bulls to be well-grown with much less risk than high grain diets. A large part of the energy in WDG is in the form of digestible fiber and fat, virtually eliminating any possibility of acidosis and associated feet problems.

Prior to the sale, your new bull has been gradually transitioned to a diet containing WDG and rough hay, with no grain. Please consider that your new sire has a lot of growing left to do before he reaches maturity. Between now and the breeding season, we recommend the bulls be fed free-choice good quality grass hay or be turned out on pasture with plenty of forage available. Additionally, continuing to supplement the bulls with approximately 0.8-1.0 lbs of crude protein per day until the grass greens up will insure your bull continues to grow and is in optimal condition for the breeding season.

Once the breeding season is completed, take time to evaluate condition of your young bulls and manage them to be at a BCS of 5 or greater going into winter to achieve the most longevity out of the bulls. We expect the bulls to work hard enough as yearlings to lose some weight, and it is much easier to make sure they are in shape before winter than to play catch-up as 2 year-olds. The appropriate management will depend on your situation, if the bulls have good pasture they will likely flesh up without any supplementation, if pasture quality or quantity is limited supplementation will be required. Take care of your young bulls and they should do their job for a long time.

Thank you,

Jeremy Martin
Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.