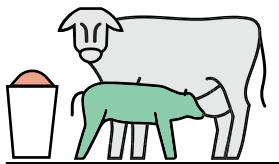


# COW-CALF RESEARCH FINDINGS

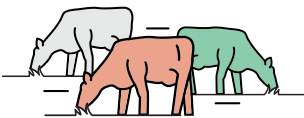
Cow-calf operators provide a steady supply of calves to support the state's large feedlot sector and, in turn, the source of our state's beef. Iowa is home to 17,000 cow-calf operations with 88% having less than 100 cows.

## BOOST COW-CALF PERFORMANCE WITH Dry-Lot Housing During Summer



- Research comparing cow-calf pairs housed in dry lots versus pasture during summer shows that cows in dry lots had higher body weight, better condition scores, and increased milk production, though there was a higher incidence of lameness.
- Calves raised in dry lots had a clear body weight advantage during the pre-weaning stage, which they maintained through the 42-day receiving phase, outperforming their pasture-raised counterparts. Rebreeding rates remained consistent between both housing methods.

## IMPROVE FALL-CALVING ECONOMICS WITH Cover Crop Grazing



- Research on the performance and economics of fall grazing cover crops versus traditional dry-lot systems for fall-calving cow-calf pairs shows that utilizing fall-grown cover crop mixes provides a high-quality, cost-effective feed option for early lactation.
- However, weather variability can impact forage establishment and grazing duration, making a dry-lot alternative valuable during drought conditions.



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