

Southwest Beef CPA (Cattle Performance Analysis)

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Beef Production celebrates history as much as any livestock or agriculture production entity. The images of cattle drives across western range or major stockyards filled to capacity or the images of 3 frame to 8 frame cattle are the mile posts on the beef production highway. Today, beef production faces more challenges and outside influences than ever before. Beef producers find themselves searching for profitability and rethinking their production methods. Changes in input costs, market dynamics, global demand, the U.S. economy, as well as further government regulation, will force beef producers to change or become obsolete. In an effort to help the beef producers of Southwest Virginia, Virginia Cooperative Extension will launch an in-depth herd analysis program directed at Cow-Calf producers. Tentatively known as the SW Beef CPA, the herd analysis will require producers have access to their production records as well as expenses and income statements. The goal is to not only determine how many pounds each cow produced but the costs of those pounds and the breakeven price a producer must have. In addition the program will generate benchmark data that will allow producers to gauge their production and expense benchmarks of their contemporary producers in SW VA. SW Beef CPA will begin this winter following the change in calendar year. Producers may also need some of the information typically found on their Schedule F used in conjunction to file their federal and state taxes. Producers interested in participating should contact their local ANR Extension Agent in their respective county or may direct questions toward Matthew Miller Extension Agent, Farm Business Management. The goal of SW Beef CPA is to help producers identify the target areas in their production system that are negatively impacting their profitability and to highlight their current business strengths.