



Hay Barn Retro-fitted Into Winter Feeder

Why Does it matter?

The mission of the Conservation Research Center is to conduct research on conservation methods using practical approaches to land and herd management for optimum use and sustainability of water, soil, air and pasture management. Management practices are designed to be environmentally acceptable and selected to be appropriate economically for use by the typical producer in the Southeast. Goals were to reduce labor and time requirements, hay loss and provide shelter.



What was done?



Modification of a hay storage barn for multiple and more efficient uses as a winter feeder for first calf heifers.

- Designed winter feeder for 60 black angus 1st calf heifers – NRCS
- Poured a 36'X50' concrete pad - \$4,600
- Purchased and installed stanchions for hay trough 10'X36' - \$2,600
- Graded, purchased Geo-tex matting and crush/run gravel for heavy use area 36' around barn - \$7760

What was found?

Findings: 90 day calving pasture 1st calf heifers
 Reduction in labor – 150 man hours
 Reduction in hay loss – 20%
 Reduction in destruction of pasture – 18 %
 Reduction in scours, pneumonia and chilled calves
 Observations:
 Animals calmer and easier to handle
 Waste dryer and easier to handle - hay/manure mix



What is the impact?

By implementing conservation practices, such as the Winter Feeder, cow-calf producers can contribute to soil restoration, reduce surface water runoff while preventing sacrifice areas of miring and pasture destruction caused by camping, feces and manure. Hay loss decreases. Labor is saved from feeding hay fewer times allowing a more efficient way to feed animals while providing cover increasing animal protection, encouraging food intake maintaining body condition.

Research Team and Contact information

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