

Chawalit KanKaew 2012: Cow-Calf Production of Farmers under the Pon Yang Kham Livestock Breeding Cooperative NSC Ltd. Master of Science (Animal Science), Major Field: Animal Science, Department of Animal Science. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Skorn Koonawootrittriron, Ph.D. 92 pages.

Commercial beef production data of 747 farmers, who are members of the Pon Yang Kham Livestock Breeding Cooperative NSC Ltd., was used to study production cost and profit from raising cows to produce calves for commercial finishing. Beef cattle in this population were 1) 3,279 three-breed crossbreds [Charolais × Thai Native and Brahman; 409 young bulls and heifers, 2,312 fattening, and 558 calves], and 2) 709 two-breed crossbreds [Brahman × Thai Native; 709 cows]. Differences among farmers in education level, farm location, and farm size were tested for their effect on production cost and returns from raising cows to produce calves for commercial finishing. The results revealed that the average daily gain from age at birth to start fattening (300 kg body weight) of cattle in this population was  $560 \pm 101$  grams/day. Production cost from age at birth to start fattening was 32,350 baht/cattle, and if the farmers sell cattle at the age to start fattening, the net profit would be -15,850 baht/cattle. However, considering only production cost paid in cash (excluded cost for labor, opportunity cost of investments, and depreciations), the production cost would be 2,876 baht/cattle (9.58 baht/kg), the net cash profit from sale cattle at this age at 55 baht/kg would be 13,624 baht/cattle, and the benefit cost ratio (cash) would be 5.7 or 57 percent. Level of education had significantly effected on the production cost ( $P < 0.05$ ). However, farm location and farm size of the farmers had not significantly effect on the production cost.

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Thesis Advisor's signature