



Highlighting Producer Members: The Value of Sustainability

Sustainability of Beef Cattle Systems in Uruguay.

What type of sustainable system that we need to make focus?

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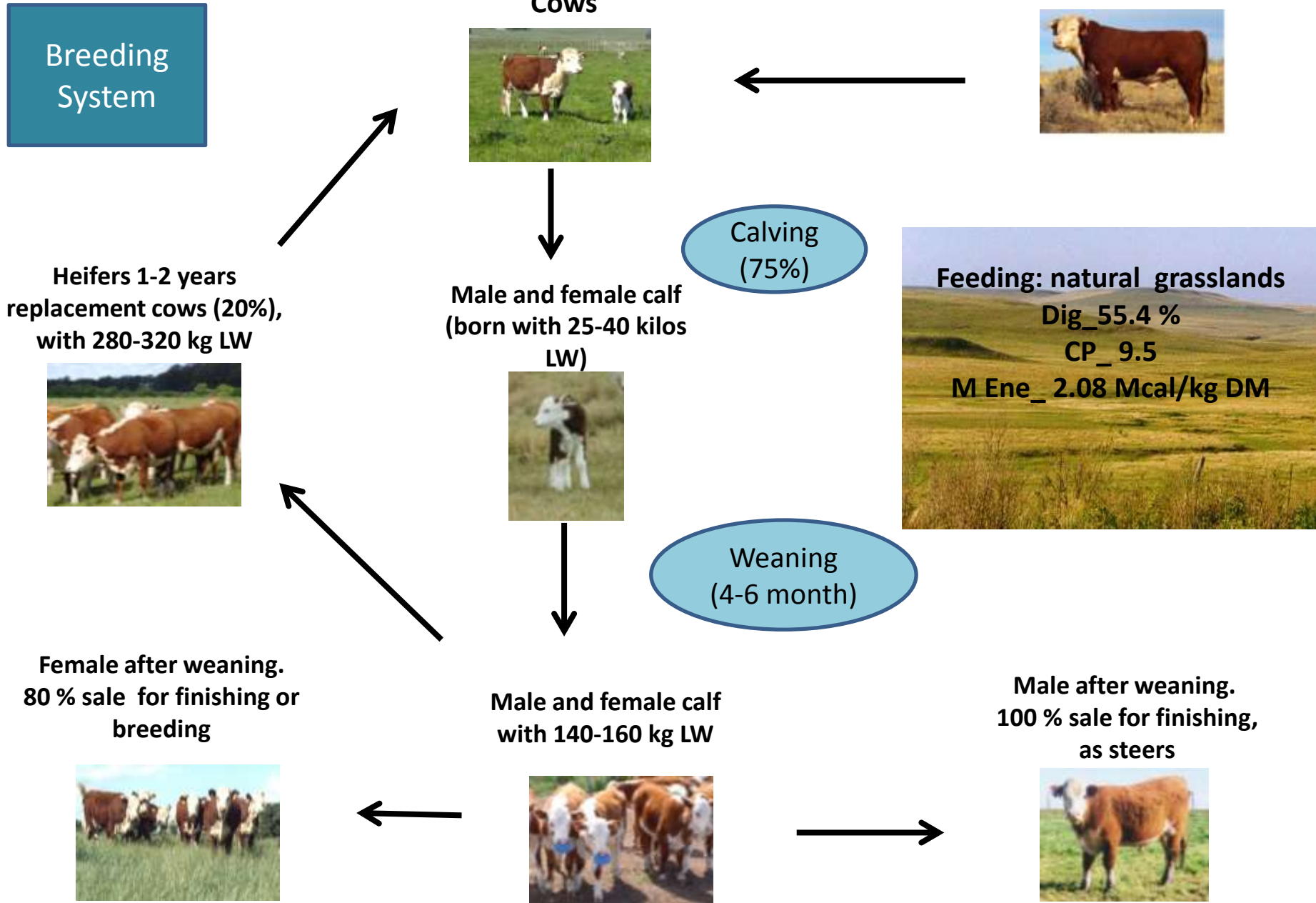




Uruguayan context of beef production

- Uruguay has increased their beef production more than 45% since 1980.
- In the last decade, the expansion of agriculture (mainly soybean production) has reduced the area of grasslands to 70% of the country area.
- Livestock production in some way has been pushed to marginal lands, as well as providing opportunities for intensification of livestock systems based on higher inputs and grains.
- Therefore, climate change mitigation and adaptation, soil erosion control, grasslands biodiversity conservation, and water quality are major environmental priorities for the National Policy Maker.

Breeding System



Rearing and Finishing System

Male and female calf weaning going to finishing (140-160 kg LW)



Feeding: natural grasslands, improvement forage, low amount supplements (150-350 Kg LW)



Rearing

Feeding: natural grasslands and oversown pasture with legume
Daily gain_ 0.3 -0.4 kg LW



Feeding: improvement forage, supplements
Daily gain_ 0.7-0.9 kg LW



Feedlot: 120 days before slaughter
Daily gain_ 1.2LW



Slaughter :
40-48 months age
480-500 kg LW (50 %)

Slaughter :
30-36 months age
480-500 kg LW (40 %)

Slaughter :
Less 30 months age
500-520 kg LW (10%)

In this context we have farmers... System 1

- Low feed , Low costs systems

Overview of the systems

- Systems without a clear productive scheme,
- Overstocking System, overgrazing,
- Strategy to graze route area,
- Low production system between 40-60 kg LW/ha
- Incomes outside Farm (employees) (low scale)





In this context we have farmers... System 2

- Low feed and High costs systems



Overview of the systems

- Systems with productive scheme, without feed budget
- Overstocking System, overgrazing some periods of the year
- Strategy to use external feed ,
- High dependence weather,
- Med-Low production system between 70-90 kg LW/ha
- Some cases received incomes outside Farm (employees)



In this context we have farmers... System 3

- High feed and high costs systems

Overview of the systems

- Clear productive scheme,
- Clear feed budget during year,
- High incidence of inputs technologies
- Strategy to achieve high performance production,
- High Sensibility to external drivers
- High production system between 300-600 kg LW/ha
- Large enterprises (mainly)



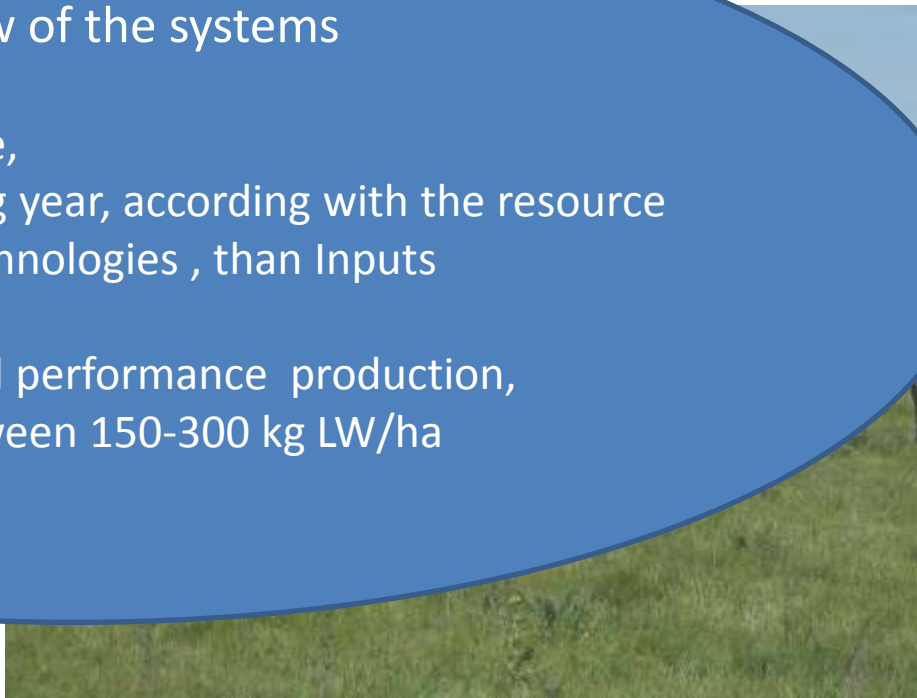


In this context we have farmers... System 4 «Sustainable value system for our conditions»

- High feed and Low costs systems

Overview of the systems

- Clear productive scheme,
- Clear feed budget during year, according with the resource
- High uses of Process technologies , than Inputs technologies
- Strategy to achieve good performance production,
- Production system between 150-300 kg LW/ha
- Family Farms

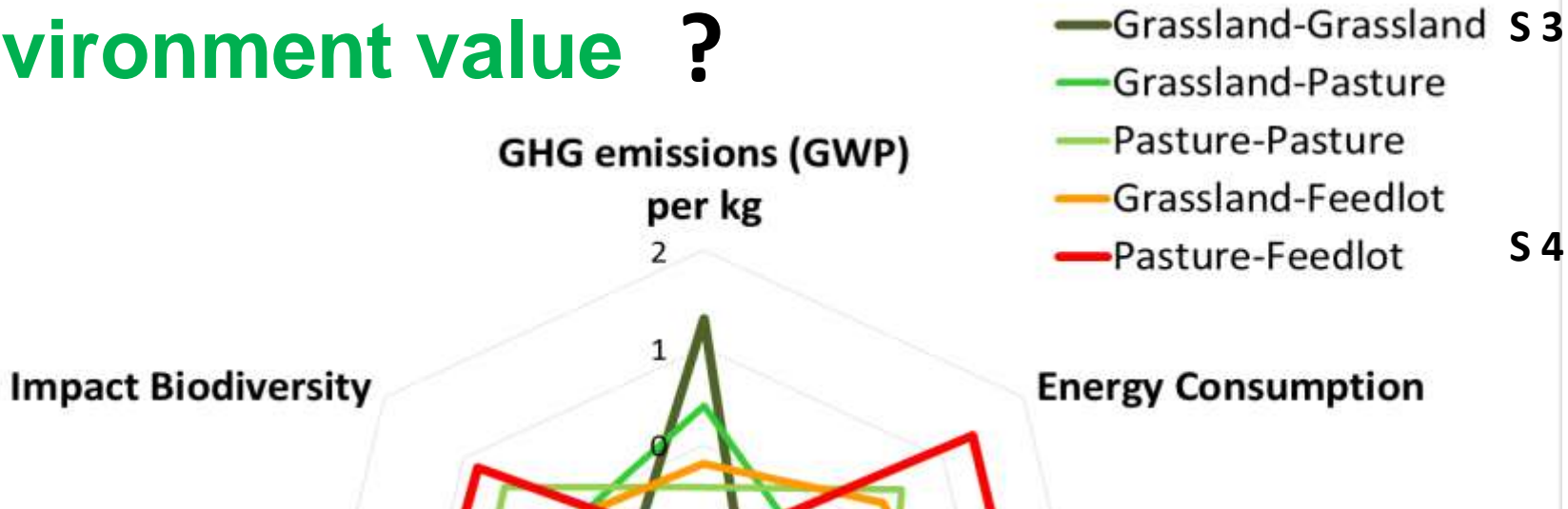


International context

- ✓ Rapidly increasing global population, predicted to peak at 9.2 billion by 2075
- ✓ World agriculture is currently faced with the challenge of feeding an increased demand for animal proteins
- ✓ Beef cattle production has increased in the last three decades almost 40% worldwide, being the Americas one of the regions that led this development (FAO, 2013)
- ✓ Livestock production has been challenged as a large contributor to climate change, and carbon footprint has become a widely used measure of cattle environmental impact



Environment value ?



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Sustainability of meat production beyond carbon footprint: a synthesis of case studies from grazing systems in Uruguay

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? In summary farmers need a clear message and how to achieve the goals



- HF - LC_ System 4

Balance !

- HF - HC_ System 3

- ~~LF - HC_ System 2~~

- ~~LF - LC_ System 1~~

- Technology Transfer
- Capacity building
- Practical Tools
- Confidence

Social value

- We have doubts in the long term?
 - Migration (especially women and young people)
 - Succession
 - Reduce labor from family and employed
 - Infrastructure
 - Community engagement



In summary – Final message

- We need to have a clear and discussed idea, how we want to address sustainable production especially in environmental issues.
- Different regions, with different resources, has different idea what a sustainable system means.
- It is necessary a special approach for social aspects, thinking in the maintenance of the family farms
- For the future challenges, capacity building to farmers are the pathways for better decision making.

Solve the hunger in the world \neq High level of Intensification



Thank you!!

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