

# **NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

**COW-CALF PRODUCTION SYSTEM  
D E MOSITO**

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**2020/11/04**



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Introduction

- ❖ cow- calf production system is a method of raising beef cattle in which cow herd is kept to produce calves for sale.
- ❖ The herd comprises of adults cows, heifers and bulls
- ❖ The objective: Weaned **calves** are the main source of revenue for the **beef operation**
- ❖ You can sell at weaning, or when steers are at slaughter weight. Older cows and bulls may be sold after they have reached their end of production.



# Cow-calf Advantages

- ❖ Forage is cheaper than feed
- ❖ Less labor requirements.
- ❖ Good demand for producers, especially small producers, because inexpensive



# Disadvantages

- ❖ Through droughts, cost increases, due to no grass and feeding feed
- ❖ Don't convert grass as good as feed
- ❖ High cost to start operation; i.e. land
- ❖ Fewer offspring per year, compared to other species.



# Nutrition

- ❖ Cattle is fed high quality forages and maybe some grain for about a 4-6 month period.
- ❖ This is done to increase size of your cattle, as cheaply as possible. Because again grass is cheaper than feed.
- ❖ Supplements : mineral should be fed adlib
- ❖ Creep feed: should be fed in restriction,





Thank you