What is the Cost of an Assisted Calving on Canadian Cow-Calf Operations?

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Importance

Negative consequences of cows and calves after an assisted calving can lead to an economic loss due to:

- Morbidity
- Mortality
- Fertility losses
- Production losses

What We Found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam Parity</th>
<th>Calving ease score</th>
<th>(%)</th>
<th>Expected Cost</th>
<th>Expected Revenue</th>
<th>Expected Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heifer</td>
<td>Assisted</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>$1,463.34</td>
<td>$1,235.91</td>
<td>-$277.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unassisted</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>$1,212.35</td>
<td>$1,136.25</td>
<td>-$76.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Difference</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250.99</td>
<td>$99.67</td>
<td>-$151.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>Assisted</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$1,374.11</td>
<td>$1,307.04</td>
<td>-$67.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unassisted</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>$1,270.66</td>
<td>$1,390.78</td>
<td>$120.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Difference</td>
<td></td>
<td>$103.44</td>
<td>-$83.74</td>
<td>-$187.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What We Did

Modified decision tree model with:

- Historical records
  - 7 cow-calf operations
  - 2015-2020
- Published inputs
  - Revenue
  - Production cost
  - Treatment cost
  - Veterinary service

Take Home Message

Assisted heifers and cows with their calves:

Lost revenue from:

- Mortality in assisted calves and cows
- Weaning weight differences

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