

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 1 (First month you have your calf)
Month of: May

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

1. Did you purchase a heifer or steer?

Heifer

2. Name of your breeder?

Matt Smith

Monthly Expenses

3. Cost of calf (including ALL purchase certificates awarded) \$3,000

4. Feed \$256.90

5. Vet/Health \$0.00

6. Supplies \$76.97

7. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00

8. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$0.00

9. Other expenses total (list below) \$22.70

- Dust-On (Insecticide)
- Bronco Fly Spray

10. Total expenses this month \$1,606.57

11. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)= \$187.54
- Supplies (Under Budget)= \$145.25

12. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

When you hit a brick wall, do you walk around it or do you try and find a way through? That is the question that I continuously ask myself as the three weeks of ownership of my heifer flew by. One big wall in my path is the halter breaking process. Going in I knew the process was going to be a challenge, but can I just say that the only breed I am seeing in my heifer at the moment is Brahman. This heifer is crazy, but I should have known to expect that. I am just going to run you through the highlights from the month very quickly. Week one, successfully put the halter on Maggie, I began to feed her out of the wall feeder, and then began to feed her with the bucket in my lap to bond with her. Week two, Maggie was tied up before every meal, I began combing her with a curry comb as she would not walk down to the wash stall unless she was dragging me, and I switched her feed up to provide a more complete food ration. Week three, I took her out of the stall for the first time to feed and I tried to walk her using the rope halter unsuccessfully. The month of May was a little crazy as far as Maggie's attitude goes, but just

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan

Monthly Assessment

Month 2

Month of: June

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$101.00
2. Vet/Health \$0.00
3. Supplies \$123.07
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$0.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$385.03
 - Spray Bottle (Fly Spray)
 - Bronco Fly Spray (32oz canister)
 - Semen Shipping (Integrated Breeders)
 - Semen (Bull: Pistolero) (3 Straws)
 - Metal Barrel
 - Tarp for Hay (7'4 X 9'6)
 - Starbar-Disposable Fly Trap
7. Total expenses this month \$609.10
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)= \$343.44
- Supplies (Under Budget)= \$99.15

9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

This month I was still in the adolescent stage of my heifer project if you were to compare my project to the stages of development in a child. I clearly had no idea what I was doing as my ag teacher saw me get dragged off the trailer with the halter wrapped around my hands just barely escaping a broken hand. The learning curve for this project was significant at this point as all I was doing now was trying to bond with my heifer. This entailed the continuance of me sitting with her everyday just waiting for her to let me pet her, or for her to allow me to be able to easily remove the halter and put it back on. My goal this month was halter training as I received an unbroken heifer that was still disoriented from the change in scenery and very ornery to begin with. I knew that this goal would most likely not be fulfilled within one month's time as from what I was told it is a very long process. Some things that I learned as the month dragged on was just how much time it takes to do anything with livestock (especially an animal as strong willed as a heifer), the monthly maintenance needed to promote health (deworming, regular bathing, and regular observation of behavior), and that it is necessary to be extremely aware of body language and where you are located in relation to your animal. Maggie has definitely instilled an extra layer of patience to what I already possessed and has given me another great joy in my life.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 3
Month of: July

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

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Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$273.42
2. Vet/Health \$0.00
3. Supplies \$113.75
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$129.16
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$0.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$49.29
 - Miscellaneous
7. Total expenses this month \$565.62
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal ? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on supplies, however I did exceed my budget for feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)=\$171.02
- Supplies (Under Budget)=\$108.47

9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

This month was full of surprises with Maggie. The goal for this month remained halter breaking and the gaining of trust between my animal and I. The path to this goal still showed no signs of a finish line as Maggie repeatedly kept throwing me into gates, onto the ground, and stepped on my feet just about every time I attempted to remove her from her stall. It was becoming more and more apparent that drastic measure we're going to have to be taken in order to ensure the safety of myself and others around me. The trashing and path of destruction Maggie was leaving behind her each time we "walked" was going to have to cease if we have any chance of stepping into a show ring. After discussing possible solutions with ag advisors, we came to the decision that tying her up for an extended period of time without access to food or water unless I lead her to them. This process meant that I would need to come up to the barn at least three times a day to keep her properly hydrated and well nourished. At the end of this month, and after two weeks of being tied up Maggie finally came around and started letting me walk her out of the stall without being dragged or thrown to the ground like a ragdoll. Some of the takeaways I had from this month was that cattle are unpredictable, that sometimes you must result to drastic measures to reach your goals, and that the will of my heifer was almost unbreakable. It is remarkable how stubborn Maggie could be at times, but I just sit back and laugh because in a way our personalities are mirror images.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 4
Month of: August

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$100.21
2. Vet/Health \$0.00
3. Supplies \$58.23
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$16.16
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$10.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$30.00
 - Hometown Show Entry Fee
 - Hometown Showmanship Entry Fee
7. Total expenses this month \$214.60
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

 - Feed (Under Budget)=\$
 - Supplies (Under Budget)=\$
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

With any positive situation, there is almost always a negative. I discovered this as I inspected Maggie's overall body condition visually at the conclusion of the first show that we competed at, the Hometown Classic. When I did this, my eyes became fixated on the enormous fat pockets she was sporting just behind her hips. At that moment I had so many questions such as, "How do I get rid of them? Do I need to get rid of them? Does this mean that her feed intake is too high?" This stress began to weigh on me as this could have been the possible cause of her miscarriage with the first insemination. In order to fight this dilemma, I got with a few knowledgeable Ag Advisors to come up with a solution. We came to the decision that the best course of action was to turn her out to pasture for about a month with minimal feed and then once a month was up, slowly put her back on. It was very stressful for me to comply with this decision, however I knew that their expertise far overshadowed mine. About two weeks into this program we developed, I saw promising results. Ultimately, I had a good month with my heifer as I continued to work with her everyday regardless of the lack of feed. I look forward to many more memories made with this project and hope that these moments help me build a better future for myself and those around me.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 5
Month of: September

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

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Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$43.55
2. Vet/Health \$43.31
3. Supplies \$3.95
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$10.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$0.00
7. Total expenses this month \$100.81
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)=\$344.23
- Supplies (Under Budget)=\$218.27

9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

Maggie was a stubborn one this month. Actually, she has been stubborn every month that I have had her, be this September was a doozy. She underwent two heat cycles during this month alone and also this month I really pushed her in preparation for my first major livestock show, and hers too. My prep consisted of thirty to forty-five minute sessions every other day in the practice ring at our barn (alternating with the show stick and without), additional bonding methods such as brushing every day and sitting in the stall for extended periods of time, and also playing music with my speaker when I washed. I felt as I continued these actions on a regular basis, I would have her adequately prepared for the State Fair. As I continue with this project, I am awestruck by the richness and substance of the learning curve that I have developed in the short five months that I have been in the ownership of my heifer. Recently one of the agricultural advisors in my school district said, "You don't teach the animals, but the animals teach you." That statement really struck my heart as I realized that couldn't be more true with Maggie. Each day when I arrive at the barn to care for her, and while I'm there doing regular deeds such as filling water buckets, mixing feed, or cleaning my stall, I am learning life skills and developing the ability to work even when I may not feel like it. It is so satisfying to care for a living being that is basically my child even when it may seem like the whole world is caving in on me.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 6
Month of: October

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$128.35
2. Vet/Health \$0.00
3. Supplies \$57.78
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$20.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$99.80
 - Blood Screening (Pregnancy Check)
 - State Fair Show Fees
7. Total expenses this month \$305.93
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

 - Feed (Under Budget)=\$316.09
 - Supplies (Under Budget)=\$164.44
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

On October 9th Maggie and I departed for the State Fair of Texas where we would show in the open breed show, the junior breed show, and the senior showmanship show. From October 9th through the 11th I would see if my heifer would be able to hold her composure in a high stress situation and if her attitude would change at all as a result. As the show progressed and my class was fast approaching on the next day I washed Maggie and prepped her to the best of my ability and until I got back to where we were stalling, I didn't realize that I didn't even have to tug on the halter once. I was in awe that just one day had contributed to a complete 180 degree turn in Maggie's ornery attitude. When we returned from Maggie's first major show, she was a completely different heifer in terms of her attitude, but one thing that still hasn't changed about her was her pregnancy status. I have voiced concern regarding this status throughout my previous reports, and here we are in October and some blood that I drew and sent off confirmed that she was still open. Due to this fact, I elected to send her off to a clean-up bull where hopefully she will get bred. She will remain there for a 45-day period and I will let nature take its course.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 7
Month of: November

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$0.00
2. Vet/Health \$0.00
3. Supplies \$0.00
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$10.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$0.00
7. Total expenses this month \$10.00
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)=\$444.44
- Supplies (Under Budget)=\$222.22

9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

This month was filled with an uneasy feeling in my soul as it would be the first full month in which Maggie would be away with a bull. Throughout the summer I struggles to get her bred and pinpoint exactly when she was in heat, and more importantly in standing heat. We repeatedly put a heat patch just in front of her tailhead in order to detect when she got mounted, and we tried AI two times unsuccessfully so I finally broke down and sent her to a pasture in which she would remain for 45 days and hopefully be serviced naturally. As I said in my report for this month, all the two times a day visits to the barn, the kicking and constant yearning to roam free in the pasture, and the early mornings all stopped due to her absence. I felt an emptiness in my soul as my workload in regard to livestock suddenly dropped off. The goal for this month was breeding as essentially Maggie would be useless if she wasn't able to put a calf on the ground. Throughout November I made weekly trips to work with Maggie and feed the small herd in order to ensure that her BCS didn't get worse and that her skills from the show ring didn't suddenly drop off upon her return. Some things that I took away from this month was that Maggie was visibly happier when she got to constantly be a cow instead of a show heifer, that it is necessary to regularly practice skills even if it may seem trivial, and that when a heifer is around a bull they seem to be a lot more tamed. In the months to come we shall find out if natural service with the bull was successful or not.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 8
Month of: December

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$24.15
2. Vet/Health \$19.00
3. Supplies \$74.53
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$0.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$0.00
7. Total expenses this month \$117.68
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

 - Feed (Under Budget)=\$420.29
 - Supplies (Under Budget)=\$147.69
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

Since her return, the two times a day visits to the barn, the short but sweet cuddle sessions, and the constant battle to keep her off my toes had also returned. Now the true work must begin to get her ready for show and hopefully prepare her to be a mother. While completing my breed essay I discovered just how strong of a maternal instinct that Santa Gertrudis cattle have and I began to see those maternal characteristics slowly begin to appear when Maggie was exposed to young calves at show and in the pasture at home. These characteristics she was exhibiting are getting my hopes very high for a successful first breeding, however, her pregnancy status is once again unknown. Regardless of the pregnancy status Maggie was returned to me in good health and physical appearance as she left fat and unwilling to cooperate with the subtle commands I would give with the halter once again. Maggie's new physique makes me overzealous for the upcoming show. Those females in my class better watch out as this strong and stout female that will hopefully be in production before the year is out is ready to sweep the competition regardless of the competitors that she's up against.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan
Monthly Assessment
Month 9
Month of: January

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$188.54
2. Vet/Health \$60.99
3. Supplies \$119.61
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$0.00
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$0.00
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$189.26
 - Hotel Costs
 - Health Papers
 - Blood Screening (Pregnancy Check)
7. Total expenses this month \$572.42
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No

Yes, I am way below my target line for the amounts that I expected to spend on both supplies and feed.

- Feed (Under Budget)=\$255.90
- Supplies (Under Budget)=\$102.61

9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

This month was a rough one for Maggie and I as Maggie turned her calf at approximately two months into her pregnancy. We confirmed that this was the case due to blood tests that were sent off just days before that came back with a positive reading for pregnancy. When I came to the barn that night, I was hardly expecting to see the remains of a placenta hanging out of the business end of my heifer. I immediately called my ag teacher in freak out mode as no discharge that I have ever seen from her was quite like this. That day was not only discouraging for Maggie but was also for me as I know that my window for breeding is quickly closing with the show season rapidly coming to an end in few month's time. At this moment the goal for this month then became the rapid and healthy recovery of my heifer from the miscarriage, and hopefully still competing at FWSSR at the conclusion of the month. I learned a few things this month, one being that you never know what's going on internally within your animal, that heifers are very resilient when it comes to occurrences such as a miscarriage, and that my heifer may have an unknown disease or health issue that is causing hardship with breeding. Ultimately, Maggie and I did show at Fort Worth at the end of the month as she cleaned just a day after the miscarriage. I always want the best for my animals, so I allowed a week of observation to make sure Maggie cleaned properly and that she was exhibiting signs of being mentally fit to travel and show. Luckily as mentioned before, Maggie is a very resilient heifer despite the challenges her and I have endured during our time together.

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan

Monthly Assessment

Month 10

Month of:

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$
2. Vet/Health \$
3. Supplies \$
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$

7. Total expenses this month \$
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

Scrambler Name:

Club or Chapter:

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan

Monthly Assessment

Month 11

Month of:

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$
2. Vet/Health \$
3. Supplies \$
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$

7. Total expenses this month \$
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

Scrambler Name:

Club or Chapter:

HLSR Calf Scramble Business Plan

Monthly Assessment

Month 12

Month of:

Purpose of the Monthly Assessment:

The purpose of the Business Plan Monthly Assessment is for scramblers to record their monthly expenses and document their experiences.

Monthly Expenses

1. Feed \$
2. Vet/Health \$
3. Supplies \$
4. Capital Improvements/Equipment (barn, trailers, etc.) \$
5. Barn/pasture/stall rent \$
6. Other expenses total (list below) \$

7. Total expenses this month \$
8. Is your business plan still on track to meet your expected outcome/goal? Yes or No
9. Please provide a brief narrative regarding this month, working toward your goal, and knowledge/experience gained with your project.

Scrambler Name:

Club or Chapter: