

Cow-calf Management Calendar: Spring Calving Herds – Summer & Fall Management Guidelines

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Management practices required for each operation differ based upon calving season and goals. However, one can use the following calendar as a guide for common management practices for the beef cow-calf operation. This calendar utilizes a calving period of mid-March through Mid-May. For additional information related to available vaccines for the prevention of cattle diseases, see UWEX publication A3673.

May

- Continue management practices related to calving
 - may include ear tagging, navel dipping, record birth date, birth weight, sex, description such as color or markings, tag number, castrate, dehorn, implant, Se injection, dystocia score, Body Condition Score cow
- For March 10-May 10 calving, bulls should be introduced to cows on June 1. Introduce bulls to heifers 2-4 weeks in advance of cow herd
- Conduct Breeding Soundness Exam on bulls if not already done. Bulls should be in good condition for breeding, supplement if needed.
- If not already done, order semen and A.I. supplies
- Body condition score heifers at breeding
- Consider synchronization program and obtain needed supplies
- If spring vaccination program is followed, vaccinate the adult cow

herd and bulls according to product label after consultation with your veterinarian. Vaccines for IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, Leptospira, and Campylobacter (vibrio) are generally recommended and administered 30-60 d prior to breeding

- Plan for pink-eye and fly control and consider vaccination
- Consider internal parasite control to prevent infection of “clean” pastures

June

- Body condition score cows at breeding/bull turn in
- Begin breeding the cow herd via A.I. or natural service. Monitor breeding activity and record standing estrus and breeding dates. Note breed backs or repeats.
- Remove bulls from heifers after 45-60 d breeding season
- Implement fly control programs as fly count increases
- Clean calving pens/areas
- Maintain clean & adequate water supply
- Monitor cows & calves for pink-eye and treat as needed

July

- Consider vaccinating calves according to label for clostridial diseases following Beef Quality Assurance guidelines (most vaccines are recommend for calves at least 3 months of age or older, follow label directions)

- Monitor breeding activity and record noted estrus and breeding dates
- Might consider creep feeding
- Monitor cows & calves for pink-eye and treat as needed
- Monitor fecal egg counts for internal parasite control
- Maintain clean & adequate water supply

August

- Remove bulls from cow herd after 45-60 d breeding season
- Monitor heifers and cows for early term abortions
- Begin thinking about a marketing plan (i.e. pre-condition programs, retained ownership, special feeder calf sales through local markets)
- Pregnancy check heifers 45-60 d after breeding and cull open heifers

September

- Pregnancy check cow herd and heifers if not already done and cull open cows
- Prepare for weaning based upon forage availability and marketing plan
- Consider vaccinating calves for respiratory (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV) and clostridial diseases according to label prior to weaning (many products require booster vaccination 2-4 weeks after the initial dose)

October

- Wean calves as forage availability declines if not already done
- Body condition score cows
- Vaccinate / revaccinate calves at weaning
- Vaccinate the cow herd for IBR,

- BVD, PI3, BRSV, Leptospira, etc... if on a fall vaccination program
- Remove fly tags if they were applied
- Begin considering lice control
- Consider internal parasite control
- Prepare waterers for freezing temperatures
- Prepare for supplemental forage feeding
- Select replacement heifers and begin developing program
- Follow marketing plan for calf crop