

February Beef Cattle Management Calendar

Seeding:

- Consider managing existing forage in lieu of overseeding
- Legumes can improve quality and quantity of forage. Electric seeder on four wheeler works well.
- Renovate with legumes, broadcast/frost seeded. As a mixture: 2 lbs. Ladino white clover, 4 lbs. red clover, plus 8 lbs. kobe lespedeza on upland fields. Alone/ac.: 2 lbs. white clover, 8 lbs. red clover, or 25 lbs. kobe lespedeza.
- Over 30% clover can reduce your grass stand, reducing total production. Over 40% legumes increase the chance of bloat. Don't turn hungry cattle onto lush, wet legumes.
- Grasses easily established on bare areas for spot seeding brome grass and annual ryegrass

Feeding:

- Feeding in the afternoon improves the number of calves born in the morning.
- Stockpiled tall fescue can hold good quality for dry beef cattle through March.
- Feed on weedy areas and spots of Bermuda.
- Do not feed next to water or other sensitive areas.
- Heavy Use Area runoff into livestock drinking water can cause disease.
- Determine fertilizer, lime, and seeding needs based on hay, feed, and livestock needs.

Grazing:

- Limit graze or fence out streams and other sensitive areas
- No-tilled winter annuals support animals better
- Plan pasture utilization (water, fences, mineral, shade, etc.)

Animal Temperament:

- Cattle with faster exit speeds from the working chute had lower weight gains, more sickness, and more dark cutting meat. Cattle with thin foreleg bones exited faster.
- Exit score of animals leaving the working chute
 1. Walk- have questionable mothering ability
 2. Trot- desirable animal
 3. Canter- evaluate temperament
 4. Jump- consider culling or improvement temperament

Management:

Spring Calving Herd

- Check cows frequently during calving season.
- Tag calves at birth. Record birth dates, tag numbers and cow IDs.
- Castrate, dehorn and implant calves at birth.
- Make sure bulls are in good condition for breeding heifers next month. Trim feet, conduct breeding soundness exams and provide additional feed if needed.
- A cow's nutrient needs increase by at least 50% after calving. If possible, separate dry cows, first-calf heifers and cow-calf pairs to feed more efficiently.

Fall Calving Herd

- Vaccinate calves over 3 months old with clostridial vaccines (black-leg). Check with a local veterinarian about other problems in your area.
- Castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth.
- Implant calves. Calves that were implanted at birth can be re-implanted. (Follow label instructions.)
- Check on the condition of bulls during breeding season. Provide supplemental feed as needed.
- Remove bulls from heifers after a 45-60 day breeding season.

