Cow/Calf Health Calendar

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Cows
Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- 4 O’s – Open, Old, Ornery, Oddball
Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- 4 O’s – Open, Old, Ornery, Oddball
Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

• Bad teeth
• Bad eyes
• Bad udder
• Unsound feet/legs
Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

• Cows that records show have not weaned a good calf
• Cows that will calve too late
Preg Check

For those selected to retain:

• Replace lost ear tags

• Weigh/BCS cows feeding groups
  – Heifers
  – 2\textsuperscript{nd} calf heifers
  – Mature cows
  – Old cows
Preg Check

For those selected to retain:

• Vitamin A (?)
• Lepto
  – hardjo-bovis
  – pomona
• Deworm
• External parasite control
• Move to winter pasture(s)
Preg Check

For those to be culled:

• Take to sale barn
• Cull cow feeding program
Cull Cow Feeding Program

- Adapted from Cattlefax, 2006
Pre-Calving

At least 30 days pre-calving:

- Vit A injection (unless well-supplemented)
- Scours vaccine (if needed)
  - Rotavirus
  - Coronavirus
  - *E. coli*
  - *Clostridium perfringens*
- 7- or 8-way clostridial (Blackleg/Tetanus)
- Move to calving pasture
Calving
Traditional Calving Management

Calving Pasture
Traditional Calving Management

- Scours = #1 disease of newborn calves
- Multitude of possible organisms involved:
  - Viruses
  - Bacteria
  - Protozoa
Traditional Calving Management

Disease will build up on calving grounds over time
Disease vs Immunity

![Graph showing disease vs immunity over 9 weeks with colostral antibody levels.](image)
Disease vs Immunity

Weeks

Colostral Antibody

Natural Immunity
Scours Management

- Carrier cows exist in the herd
- Older calves serve as disease amplifiers which infect young calves
Scours Management
Sandhills Calving System
Sandhills Calving System

• Objective: Keep older “amplifier” calves away from newborn calves
• Will reduce or eliminate scours problems, irrespective of the causative organism
• Will minimize the number of calves involved if a scours break occurs
Protecting against Scours

- “Mothering up”
- Adequate colostrum intake is critical to protect the calf against diseases that it may be exposed to at or shortly after birth
Colostrum

- In the first 24 hours of life, calves absorb antibodies directly through their gut wall and into the blood stream.
- This capacity of the gut wall to absorb antibodies diminishes rapidly over time.
- The gut wall effectively “closes” by 24-hours after birth.
Effect of time of colostrum feeding on % IgG absorption

Colostrum Management

Timing:

• Within first 2 hours of life is best
• Within first 6 hours of life is imperative
Colostrum Management

Volume:

• It is critical that calves receive adequate colostrum
  – 10% of the calf’s body weight
  – 0.5-1 gallon
Inadequate Colostrum Intake

2-year study @ US-MARC

• 263 crossbred calves

• 23% had inadequate colostrum intake
  – <10 g IgG/L serum

Wittum, Perino, et al
Inadequate Colostrum Intake

Results of inadequate colostrum intake:

– Birth to weaning

• 3X more likely to get sick
• 6X more likely to get sick during first 28 days
• 5X more likely to die
• Weighed 35# less at weaning
Inadequate Colostrum Intake

- Feedlot
  - 3X more likely to get sick
  - Gained 24# less over 242-day feeding period
Pre-Breeding

- IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
  - MLV if possible
- Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
- Lepto
  - hardjo-bovis
  - Pomona
Pre-Breeding

• Mark cows that are in poor body condition
  – Probably will not breed back
  – If they breed back, may calve too late

• Mark cows that you want to cull as soon as possible (save bull power)

• Plan to early wean their calves
Bulls
Pre-Breeding

At least 60-75 days pre-breeding:

• Breeding soundness evaluation
  – Physical exam
    • Eyes
    • Feet and legs
    • Scrotum
    • Penis
    • Rectal exam
  – Semen evaluation
  – Trich test
Pre-Breeding

- IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
- Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
- Lepto
  - hardjo-bovis
  - pomona
- 7- or 8-way clostridial (Blackleg/Tetanus)
- Deworm
Preg Check

Don’t forget the bulls!!!

- Vitamin A (?)
- Deworm
- External parasite control
Replacement Heifers
Heifer Calves @ Branding

- **IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI₃-BRSV vaccine**
  - MLV if possible (cow status?)
- **7-way Clostridial (Blackleg)**
- **Test for BVD PI**
Heifer Calves @ Weaning

• 2-4 weeks pre-weaning
  – IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI3-BRSV vaccine
  – Pasteurella bacterin/leukotoxoid
  – 7-way clostridial
  – Brucellosis (Bangs)

• At weaning
  – IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI3-BRSV vaccine
  – 7-way clostridial
  – Deworm / lice control
Repl. Heifers @ Pre-Breeding

60 days pre-breeding:

• IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
  – MLV if possible
• Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
• Lepto
  – hardjo-bovis
  – Pomona
• Repeat Vibrio – Lepto 3 weeks later
Heifer development sets the future for your cow herd!
Questions ?