2009 Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendar

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

TLN approved for age and source verification
Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendar

Appreciation is expressed to the University of Kentucky Beef IRM Coordinating Committee for allowing use of its Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendar in Tennessee.

**Tennessee Beef IRM Coordinating Committee**
Clyde Lane, Jr., Extension Beef Specialist, Chairman; James B. Neel, Extension Beef Specialist; David Kirkpatrick, Extension Beef Specialist; Fred Hopkins, Extension Veterinarian; Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist

Integrated Resource Management is a system of producer management utilizing all resources available to optimize production and net income. This calendar has been developed to assist you in formulating an overall management plan for your beef operation. Utilize the calendar to schedule various management practices and farm-related activities.

**General Assumptions**
- Spring-calving cows are bred to calve beginning January 1, with first calf heifers beginning approximately 30 days earlier.
- Fall-calving cows are bred to calve beginning October 1.

**Herd Health Assumptions**
- Local veterinarians should be consulted to develop the appropriate health programs.
- All practices should be carried out according to label and Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) recommendations.
- Four general working opportunities should be considered:
  - Pre-breeding, Pre-weaning, Weaning and Mid-summer.
1. Have employees complete I-9 and W-4 forms on their first day of employment.

2. Beginning of business year:
   a. Arrange for a line of operating credit for the beef enterprise. A monthly cash flow estimate will be useful in determining the line of credit.
   b. Inventory the resources (land, labor, capital, management) available for the beef enterprise. Prepare a budget to determine the cost of producing a calf. This will assist in marketing the calves at a profitable level.
   c. Set goals that include the financial and production aspects of the beef cow/calf enterprise. Keep financial records on a monthly basis to monitor profitability and cash flow.
   d. Determine the annual quantities of feed, medicine and other inputs needed. Negotiate an annual price for each of the required inputs and then schedule different delivery dates prior to the time products are needed.

3. Every month:
   a. Record all cow purchases, sales, deaths and movements among pastures.

4. End of year:
   a. Prepare an income statement and balance sheet as of the last day of the business year. Determine if the financial and production goals set forth in the beginning of the year were met.
   b. Put insurance on assets to protect against wind, fire, theft, flood, lightning, liability, collision, etc.
Customizing Your 2009 Beef IRM Calendar

Introduction
The following instructions will guide you through the process of customizing your Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendar. University of Tennessee Extension publications referred to in this calendar are available at your local county Extension office.

Keys to Maximum Benefit from the Beef IRM Calendar
Having a planned breeding/calving season and the availability of handling or working facilities are very important to getting the most from the Beef IRM Calendar. Neither is essential for using the calendar. Both a planned breeding/calving season and handling facilities would be good goals if they are lacking on your farm.

Record Keeping for Process Verification Program
To participate in Process Verification marketing programs, records must be maintained that show the birth dates of the first and last calf born in a calving group. Using the calendar to write the identification number of these calves on the appropriate date on the calendar will serve as the official record for the program. Although not required, it is recommended that the birth date and other appropriate information for each calf be kept on the record sheets in the back of this calendar.

General Assumptions for Recommendations in the Beef IRM Calendar
Spring-calving cows are bred to calve beginning January 1, with first calf heifers beginning approximately 30 days earlier. Fall-calving cows are bred to calve beginning October 1.

Setting Goals and Finding Limiting Factors
Although not necessary for customizing your Beef IRM Calendar, spending some time on the following will help to develop a stronger farm plan. As a result, the planning done on this calendar will be more focused on the specific areas that most need improvement.
1. Set personal and business goals.
2. Determine limitations to meeting your goals and getting the maximum benefit from your beef/forage operation. The following are some, but not all, areas to consider:
   a. Cattle limitations: herd health, genetic potentials, nutritional status, reproductive status and marketing.
   b. Forage limitations: soil type, fertility, land use, forage resources, hay quality, grazing system and match of forage resources to monthly animal needs.
   c. Financial and management limitations: available credit, knowledge of financial position and management skills.
Step 1. Define the calving period you expect for 2009
These dates are based on the breeding season that you used in 2008.
- Write “Calving season begins” on calendar.
- Write “Calving season ends” on calendar.

Step 2. Define the calving period you want for 2009-2010.
Define your desired calving period you want for 2009-2010. Find these “due dates” using the gestation Table at the end of this calendar. For example, if you want your calves to begin coming on March 1, you will find this “due date” corresponds to a breeding date of May 22. Therefore, you should begin your breeding season on May 22, 2009. Some dates are included in the calendar itself for convenience. (Caution: You should not go from year-round to short-season calving in one year).
- Write “Put bulls with cows” on calendar.
- Write “Calving season begins” on calendar.
- Write “Remove bulls from cows” on calendar.
- Write “Calving season ends” on calendar.

Step 3. Take care of bull/semen needs.
At least 45 days prior to breeding season, purchase bulls (tested for breeding soundness) and/or order semen. Get a Breeding Soundness Evaluation on farm bulls.
- Write “Buy bull(s)” on calendar.
- Write “Order semen” on calendar.
- Write “Breeding Soundness Evaluation for bulls” on calendar.

Step 4. Decide how many times and when you will work cattle.
- Suggest working periods:
  - Pre-breeding or turn-out (most important working, but can be done at any time prior to putting the bulls with the cows).
  - Mid-July (good time to deworm and implant).
  - Pre-weaning* (usually done 3 to 4 weeks prior to weaning).
  - Weaning* (unless you sell at weaning).
  - Write the appropriate management practice on the calendar (e.g., pre-weaning working).

Step 5. Forage planning
- Place appropriate forage-related information on calendar (suggested month(s) in parentheses).
  - “Soil test” (fall).
  - “Apply fertilizer” (March/April or October/November, except for N for stockpiled fall pasture).
  - “Nitrogen application for fall-stockpiled pasture” (late August to early September).
  - “Sample hay for quality” (August to October).
  - “Pasture renovation with clover” (February for frost-seeding or later if drilling).
  - “Remove cattle from fields to be fall stockpiled” (late August to early September).
  - “Take first cutting of alfalfa hay” and take first cutting of other hay” (first cutting of grasses and legumes usually should come in the first two weeks of May).
  - “Take last cutting of alfalfa hay” (usually before mid-September).
  - “Start feeding higher-quality hay for last trimester” (November 1 for January-calving cows).

Step 6. Economic practices
- Place economic information on calendar:
  - Inventory the beef herd (usually January).
  - Estimate annual quantities of inputs (January).
  - Arrange for line of credit (January – March).

* Might be combined
### January

#### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Calving season begins**
- Supplement with magnesium mineral at least 30 days prior to calving.
- Increase feed to cows that have calves. Grain may be needed if you are feeding lower-quality hay (3 to 4 lb for mature cows and about 8 lb for first-calf heifers).
- Have calving equipment, facilities and labor arranged prior to calving.
- Observe cows closely now, since they should begin calving January 1. Expect calving difficulty and intervene if:
  - No progress after 90 minutes of labor.
  - Calf is backwards (only the calf’s tail is visible or the dew claws are pointed “up”).
  - Calf’s head and two feet are not visible.
- Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo while it is young and easy to handle. Record dam ID and birth date. Commercial male calves should also be castrated and implanted according to product recommendations. Castration and dehorning are less stressful when performed on young animals. Registered calves should be weighed during the first 24 hours.
- Inform tax preparer of sales of un-bred heifers in the breeding pool because they are considered breeding livestock by the IRS.
- Call AI technicians for spring breeding appointments.
- Start making bull selections. Place order for semen if needed.
- Record the identification number of the first calf born on the appropriate calendar date to serve as a record for the Process Verified Program (PVP).

#### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Breeding season ends**
- Cows nursing calves need 25 to 30 pounds of good-quality hay, or its equivalent, throughout the breeding season.
- Remove bulls February 28 to end the breeding season for the last calves to be born by December 8.
- Consider creep-feeding or creep-grazing of small grain pastures to add extra pounds, since calves need more than just their dam’s milk for maximum growth. Maintain high-quality forage for cows for good body condition, milk production and calf gains.
- Finish castrating, dehorning and implanting.
- Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.

#### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE

- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem.
- Increase feed provided as the temperature drops.
- Provide clean water at all times. Be aware of the hazards of frozen ponds.
- Begin looking for herd sire replacements that meet herd and farm goals. Yearling bull availability is best in late winter and spring.

#### FORAGES

- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc., and getting equipment ready.
- Determine the need for N fertilization of selected grass pasture fields for early-spring growth.
- Access hay quality and inventory.
- Allocate hay feeding based on animal needs and hay quality.
- Determine varieties to be used for renovation.
- Plan pasture utilization strategy (fencing, water, shade)
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Notes:

Saturday
JANUARY 2009
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Notes:
February

SPRING-CALVING HERD

Spring-calving continues
- Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo while it is young and easy to handle. Record dam ID and birth date. Commercial male calves should also be castrated and implanted according to product recommendations. Castrating and dehorning are less stressful when performed on young animals. Registered calves should be weighed during the first 24 hours.
- Watch for calf scour:
  - Give fluids to scouring calves that become dehydrated.
  - Consult your veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment.
  - Move cows that are approaching calving to a clean pasture.
- Vaccinate calves (should be 12 weeks of age or older) for clostridial diseases (blackleg) according to label recommendations.
- Separate cows that have calves and increase their feed.
- Continue grass tetany prevention. Cows need 20 grams of magnesium daily or 4 oz/day of a 15 percent magnesium mineral mix.
- Line up AI sires and/or purchase new bulls at least 30 days before the breeding season. Demand performance records and check health history, including immunizations. Choose a breed and use EPDs plus visual observation to select the bull that best fits your production and marketing program.
- Evaluate yearling replacement heifers for pelvic area, reproductive tract score, and weight. Heifers should reach their target weight of 65 percent of expected mature weight by breeding season.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Begin looking for herd sire replacements that meet herd and farm goals. Yearling bull availability is best in late winter and spring.

FALL-CALVING HERD

Breeding season begins
- Breeding season should end February 28.
- Remove bulls and feed to regain “normal” weight and condition.
- If economical, provide creep for calves.
- Provide windbreaks or clean shelter for calves.
- Vaccinate heifer calves for Brucellosis according to your veterinarian’s recommendation (optional).
- Consult your veterinarian for proper deworming of the fall-calving herd.

FORAGES
- Begin pasture renovation with legumes.
- Apply nitrogen fertilizer by mid- to late February to promote early grass growth.
- Plan pasture utilization strategy (fencing, water, shade).
- Consider herbicide options such as dormant applications for alfalfa.
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Notes:
### March

#### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Prepare for breeding season**
- Line up AI services and/or purchase replacement bulls at least 45 days prior to the start of the breeding season.
- Choose a breed and use EPDs and visual observation to select the bull that best fits your program’s production and marketing goals.
- Have a veterinarian perform breeding soundness evaluations on bulls.
- If you are going to use artificial insemination and/or estrus synchronization, make plans now and order needed supplies and semen.
- Make final selection of heifer replacements based on weight and reproductive tract score.
- Spring or “turn-out” working is usually scheduled for late April or May. Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs (see April for suggestions).
- Continue providing magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees F.
- Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo while it is young and easy to handle.
- Record dam ID and birth date. Commercial male calves should also be castrated and implanted according to product recommendations. Castrating and dehorning are less stressful when performed on young animals. Registered calves should be weighed during the first 24 hours.
- Begin breeding replacement heifers for “head-start” calving. Mate to known “easy-calving” bulls.
- Record the identification number of the last calf born on the appropriate calendar date to serve as a record for the PVP Program.

#### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Pre-weaning period**
- Consult your veterinarian about a pre-weaning working of the herd, which may include:
  - Vaccinating calves for:
    - IBR-PI3 - BVD - BRSV
    - Hemophilus somnus
    - Clostridial diseases (blackleg)
  - Deworming calves
- Calves intended for feeders should be re-implanted.
- Consider the economics of creep-feeding calves with grain or high-quality forage.
- **Marketing:** Make an economic analysis of all marketing options for calves, including selling at auction barn, video and private treaty. Another option is retained ownership, either by backgrounding or sending the calf to the feedlot.

#### CONSIDERATIONA FOR ALL CATTLE

- Repair fences, equipment and handling facilities.
- Plan new working facilities, if needed.

#### FORAGES

- Complete renovations by March 15.
- Smooth and re-seed hay feeding areas and heavy traffic areas.
- Control competition from grasses with young clover plants by grazing or mowing as needed.
- Prepare for spring seeding of alfalfa.
- If growth permits, begin grazing.
- Plan and implement grazing system and rotation.

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## April

### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Breeding season begins**
- Begin breeding cows no later than April 1, especially if they are on high-endophyte fescue. Use best-quality pastures during the breeding season. If possible, avoid high-endophyte fescue pastures during breeding.
- Record inventory of all cows in each breeding pasture.
- Spring or “turn-out” working. Consult your veterinarian on the vaccines and health products for your herd. These may include:
  - Deworming calves.
  - Vaccinating cows for Vibrio, Lepto (5-way), IBR, BVD and *Hemophilus somnus*.
  - Vaccinating calves for Clostridial disease (blackleg) and *Hemophilus somnus*.
- Dehorn, castrate and implant calves if not already completed.
- Continue supplying supplemental magnesium until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees F.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Continue supplemental feeding as needed.

### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Pre-weaning period**
- Pregnancy check: Consider selling open cows and heifers and those weaning poor calves. Inform tax preparer if the cows and heifers were raised or purchased.
- Finish vaccinations of calves (see March).
- Calves intended for feeders should be re-implanted.
- **Marketing**: Make an economic analysis of all marketing options for calves, including selling at auction barn, video and private treaty. Another option is retained ownership, either by backgrounding in a grazing program or sending the calf to the feedlot.
- Obtain cow and calf weights at weaning and see your county Extension agent for information on record keeping programs. Cull cows based on performance and pregnancy status and make initial heifer selections, keeping more than you intend to retain for the next breeding season.

### FORAGES
- Complete seeding of alfalfa.
- Determine need for supplemental summer forages such as millet or Sudan grass.
- Prepare for start of hay harvest.
- Prepare fencing, and water for grazing season and begin grazing early pastures.
- Plant corn for silage and warm-season grasses if weather permits.
- Assess opportunity for weed control using recommended herbicides (always read and follow label recommendations).

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### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Breeding season continues**
- Utilize breeding pastures that do not contain high levels of endophyte if possible.
- Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. If the number of cows returning to estrus is large, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.
- Maintain salt-mineral feeders. Provide a free-choice mineral mix containing adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, copper, zinc and other trace minerals at all times.

### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Weaning period**
- Weaning Working
  - Give any necessary booster vaccinations to calves.
- Obtain cow and calf weights at weaning and see your county Extension agent for information on record keeping programs. Cull cows based on performance and pregnancy status. Make initial heifer selections, keeping more than you intend to retain for the next breeding season.
- Pregnancy test cows if not previously done.
- Creep graze calves or wean and put on best pasture. If calves are weaned, restrict pasture access for cows.
- Weaned calves can be conditioned by feeding a complete dry ration for a short period of time after vaccinating, deworming and implanting.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Don’t start fly control until population builds up.
- Consider vaccinating for pinkeye.

### FORAGES
- Start hay harvest to ensure adequate quality.
- Seed warm-season annuals for supplemental forage as needed.
- Seed warm-season perennial grasses.
- Clip seed heads to prevent seed head formation on fescue and to control weeds as needed. Consider herbicide options.
- Rotate pastures as needed.

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### June

#### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Breeding season is almost over**
- Continue pasture rotation and avoid high-endophyte fescue during this month for best rebreeding performance.
- Remove bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month. This will eliminate summer-born calves and help prevent nursing heifer calves from becoming pregnant.
- Mid-summer working opportunity (when the herd is gathered to remove bulls)
  - To avoid heat stress, work cattle early in the morning.
  - Consider deworming cows and calves (mid-July is optimum).
  - Re-implant calves.
  - Vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases (blackleg) if not done previously.
  - Spray for flies while cattle are gathered (if not using other control methods).

#### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Weaning period**
- Finish collecting cow and calf weights at weaning.
- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously.
- Consider selling open cows and heifers, cows weaning lightweight, poor-quality calves and problem cows. Inform tax preparer if the cows and heifers were raised or purchased.
- Make initial selection of replacement heifers.

#### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE

- Prevent/control pinkeye:
  - Clip tall, mature grass
  - Reduce flies with adequate fly control
  - Treat problems quickly
  - Consider vaccinating
- Control flies, Methods may include:
  - Back rubbers, spray, dust bags, pour-ons
  - Insecticide ear tags (2 per animal)
  - Salt-mineral mix containing oral larvicide
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.

#### FORAGES

- Continue hay harvests.
- Clip pastures for weeds and seed heads as needed.
- Rotate pastures as needed.
- Soil test for late-summer seeding.
- Protect round bales of hay from weather damage to minimize storage losses of yield and quality.

*University of Tennessee Beef IRM Calendar*
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## SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Breading season ends**
- Bulls should be removed from the cow herd, grouped together in a pasture with good fence and allowed to regain “normal” weight and condition.
- Manage to minimize the effect of high-endophyte level in fescue. Pasture, other than fescue, can be beneficial this month.
- Watch pastures! If pasture is running short, start supplemental feeding.
- Check pastures for poisonous plants.
- Creep-graze or advance-graze calves, providing them with the best forages available.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning.
- Consider limited creep-feeding during last summer.

## FALL-CALVING HERD

**Dry period**
- Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant. Their nutrient needs are minimal and they can be maintained on lower-quality pasture to avoid over fattening.
- Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times.
- Get ready for fall-calving and plan to have good pasture available for fall calving.
- Replacement heifers should gain at an adequate rate to reach their “target” breeding weight (65 percent of mature size) by Nov. 25.
- Consider deworming cows.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE

- Continue to watch for pinkeye and treat if necessary. Minimize problems by clipping pastures, controlling face flies and providing shade.
- Check pastures for downed wild cherry trees after storms (wild cherry leaves can be toxic to cattle).
- Be sure that clean water is always available, especially in hot weather.

## FORAGES

- Identify fescue pastures for accumulation of fall growth (stockpiling).
- Attend county, regional and state field days for timely information.
- Clip pastures as needed.
- Assess need for weed control in alfalfa.
- Soil test fields to be seeded in fall and to determine pasture fertilization needs.
- Determine species and varieties to be seeded in fall.

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Notes:
# August

## SPRING-CALVING HERD
- Manage to minimize the effect of high endophyte level in fescue. Pasture, other than fescue, can be beneficial this month.
- Watch pastures! If pasture is running short, start supplemental feeding.
- Watch for poisonous plants in pastures.
- Creep-graze or advance-graze calves, providing them with the best forages available.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning.
- Consider limited crop-feed during late summer.

## FALL-CALVING HERD
### Dry period
- Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant. Their nutrient needs are minimal and they can be maintained on lower-quality pasture to avoid over fattening. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times.
- Get ready for fall-calving and plan to have good pasture available.
- Inform tax preparer of sales of unbred heifers in the breeding pool because they are considered breeding livestock by the IRS.
- Determine breed and type bull needed for next breeding season.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Provide shade and water. Check water supply frequently - as much as 20 gallons may be required by high-producing cows in very hot weather.
- Don’t give up on fly control. Methods may need to be combined (i.e., spraying of “tagged” cattle) in late summer.
- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. Provide a free-choice mineral mix containing adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, copper, zinc and other trace minerals.

## FORAGES
- Remove livestock and apply nitrogen to fescue pastures to be stockpiled.
- Take soil samples to determine perennial pasture fertility needs.
- Fertilize alfalfa and other hay/pasture fields as needed.
- Plant perennial grasses at optimal rate, date and depth.
- Harvest corn silage.
- Secure desired varieties for late-summer seeding.

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### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Pre-weaning working**
- Consult your veterinarian on the merits of a pre-weaning working of the herd, which may include:
  - Vaccinating calves for:
    - IBR - PI₃ - BVD - BRSV
    - *Hemophilus somnus*
    - Clostridial diseases (blackleg)
  - Pregnancy examination of the cows
  - Treatment of cows for grubs and lice
  - Deworm if retaining calves more than 30 days
- Creep-feeding may give extra gain and prepare calves for eating dry feed at weaning.
- **Marketing:** Make an economic analysis of limit feeding and of all marketing options for calves including selling at auction barn, video and private treaty. Another option is retained ownership, either by backgrounding or sending the calf to the feedlot.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Don’t give up on fly control. Methods may need to be combined (i.e., spraying of “tagged” cattle) in late summer.
- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. Provide a free-choice mineral mix containing adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, copper, zinc and other trace minerals.

### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Prepare for calving**
- Pregnant cows should be moved to better pastures as calving approaches.
- Observe first-calf heifers closely now, since they should begin head-start calving by September 10. Expect calving difficulty and intervene if:
  - No progress after 90 minutes of labor.
  - Calf is backwards (only the calf’s tail is visible or the dewclaws are pointed “up”).
  - Calf’s head and two feet are not visible.
- Arrange for enough labor to assist during the calving period.
- Inform tax preparer of sales of unbred heifers in the breeding pool because they are considered breeding livestock by the IRS.
- Get equipment ready for calving season (may include):
  - Puller and chains, ear tags, record book and scales.
  - Determine breed and type bull needed for next breeding season.

### FORAGES
- Continue taking soil samples for perennial crops and apply fertilizer as needed.
- Plant perennial grasses at optimal rate, date and depth.
- Harvest hay as needed.
- Continue harvest of corn silage.

*University of Tennessee Beef IRM Calendar*
### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Wean the calves**
- Give any necessary booster vaccinations to calves.
- Consider selling open cows and heifers and those weaning poor calves. Inform tax preparer if the cows and heifers were raised or purchased.
- Put thin cows (body condition score less than 5) on high-quality feed or pasture, such as accumulated tall fescue.
- Obtain cow and calf weights at weaning and see your county Extension agent for information on record keeping programs. Cull cows based on performance and pregnancy status and make initial heifer selections, keeping at least 20 percent more than you intend to retain for the next breeding season.
- Keep back the best of the heifer calves born during the first half of the calving season as replacements.
- Plan your calf marketing program. Alternatives include:
  - Special feeder calf sales
  - Weekly auction markets
  - Private treaty sales to dealers or feeders
  - Backgrounding the calves yourself
  - Retaining ownership through the feedlot

### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Calving season begins**
- Cows should be moved to a clean, accessible pasture for calving.
- Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo while it is young and easy to handle. Record dam ID and birth date. Commercial male calves should also be castrated and implanted according to product recommendations. Castration and dehorning are less stressful when performed on young animals. Registered calves should be weighed during the first 24 hours following birth.
- If applicable, schedule AI technicians. Record the identification number of the first calf born on the appropriate calendar date to serve as a record for the PVP program.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE

- Treat calves for internal/external parasites.
- Remove fly-control ear tags.

### FORAGES

- Apply phosphate, potash and lime according to soil test recommendation.
- Do not harvest or graze alfalfa fields to replenish root reserves.
- Graze crop residues (beware of grazing restrictions on certain crop herbicides).
- Beware of prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning from grazing summer annual grasses following frost.
- Start inventory of hay supplies and needs and test hay quality.
- Consider broadleaf weed control in grass pastures.
**SPRING-CALVING HERD**

Plan your winter feeding program.
- Obtain cow and calf weights and see your county Extension agent for information on record keeping programs. Cull cows based on performance and pregnancy status and make initial heifer selections, keeping more than you intend to retain for the next breeding season.
- Evaluate body condition (BCS) of cows after weaning their calves. Sort thin cows (BCS<5) away from the main cow herd so they can receive extra feed, if needed.
- Dry cows can utilize crop residues and poor-quality hay but don’t let them lose too much weight. Save higher-quality feeds until calving time.
- Replacement heifers should gain at an adequate rate to reach their “target” breeding weight (65 percent of mature weight) by March 1.
- Increase feed to cows 45 - 60 days prior to calving.

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**CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE**

- Record all cow deaths, purchases, sales and movements among pastures.
- This is a good time to freeze-brand replacement heifers for permanent identification.
- Evaluate performance of calves and consider changes in your breeding program.

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**FALL-CALVING HERD**

Fall-calving continues
- Check calving pastures frequently.
- Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo while it is young and easy to handle. Record dam ID and birth date. Commercial male calves should also be castrated and implanted according to product recommendations. Castrating and dehorning are less stressful when performed on young animals. Registered calves should be weighed during the first 24 hours following birth.
- Move cows with young calves to the best stockpiled fescue pasture.
- Line up AI sires and/or purchase new bulls at least 30 days prior to breeding season. Choose a breed and use EPD’s and visual observation to select the bull that best fits your program and budget.
- Have veterinarian perform breeding soundness evaluations on bulls.
- Evaluate yearling replacement heifers for reproductive tract score and weight. Heifers should reach their target weight of 65 percent of expected mature weight by breeding season.

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**FORAGES**

- Begin using stockpiled tall fescue.
- After November 1 or a killing frost, fall alfalfa can be grazed or mowed.
- Use crop residues as needed or available.
- Graze alfalfa after November 1 or freeze down (24 degrees for a few hours).
- Continue inventory of hay supplies and needs.
- Continue testing hay for nutrient content.
### SPRING-CALVING HERD

**Begin winter feeding**
- Divide the herd into groups for winter feeding, which may include:
  - Weaned calves
  - First and second-calf heifers and thin cows
  - The remainder of the dry cows that are in good body condition
  - Herd sires
- Feed the lowest quality forage to mature dry cows during early winter.
- Be sure that weaned heifer calves are on “target” and being fed so that they weigh 65 percent of mature weight by 14 to 15 months of age.

**Prepare for calving**
- Prepare a calving area and equipment:
  - Facilities to warm chilled calves (warming box, truck cab, heat lamp, etc.)
  - Puller and chains
  - Ear tags and applicator
  - Frozen colostrum or commercial colostrum supplement
  - Oral calf feeder
  - Iodine for calf’s navel
  - Record book
  - Scales (optional)
- Arrange for enough labor to assist during the calving period.
- Mature dry cow’s needs are minimal if they are in the desired body condition (BCS of 5).
- Keep replacement heifer calves gaining enough to reach their “target” weight (65 percent mature wt.) by the start of the breeding season.

### FALL-CALVING HERD

**Breeding season begins**
- Pre-breeding working. Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. These may include:
  - Deworming cows
  - Vaccinating cows for Lepto (5-way), IBR, BVD and vibrio
  - Vaccinating calves for clostridial diseases (blackleg) and IBR-PI3-BVD-BRSV
  - Dehorn, castrate and implant and ID calves if not already completed.
- Cows must be fed when the pasture runs out. Cows with calves need 25 or 30 pounds of good quality hay or its equivalent. Supplement with grain, if needed.
- Start breeding cows by December 22 for fall-calving to begin in October.
- Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. If the number of cows returning to estrus is large, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.
- At beginning of breeding season, record inventory of all cows in each breeding pasture. Record the identification number of the last calf born on the appropriate calendar date to serve as a record for the PVP Program.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE
- Review this year’s calf crop and start plans for next year’s breeding program.
- Plan to attend Master Beef Producer and other educational meetings to update your knowledge of beef production.
- Develop criteria for bulls to be purchased and start attending bull sales.

### FORAGES
- Continue using stockpiled tall fescue and crop residues as available.
- Continue testing hay for nutrient content.
- Begin hay feeding, minimizing waste.
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**Note:**
- Due Dates are based on a 283-day gestation period, accounting for variations in breeding seasons and other factors.
- Dates are inclusive, indicating the start and end of the gestation period for a given breeder or group of breeders.
- For specific breeding dates, consult a veterinarian or gestation chart for precise dates.

**Information:**
- The table provides a comprehensive guide to predict due dates based on breeding dates.
- Useful for livestock and farm management to plan and coordinate breeding and care schedules.
- Accurate gestation predictions help in timely and effective health monitoring, resource allocation, and financial planning.

**Further Resources:**
- Consult with local agricultural extension services or veterinary experts for the most accurate gestation predictions.
- Utilize online tools and software designed for livestock management and breeding prediction.

**Caution:**
- Always consider specific animal health conditions and environmental factors when using gestation prediction tools.
Tennessee beef cattle producers have an opportunity to increase marketing opportunities for their calves by participating in the Process Verified Program (PVP). The Process Verified Program is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and provides suppliers of agricultural products or services the ability to assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products or services. The programs covered by the PVP are limited to programs where specific process-verified points are supported by a documented quality management system.

The Process Verified Program for calves in Tennessee will document the source and age of calves. Other claims may be added at a later date. Age and source verification can then be used as a marketing tool. The procedure to be followed will provide an auditable process that provides prospective buyers with assurance as to the farm of origin as well as the maximum age of livestock. The way the system works is that producers agree to maintain good management records for identification and age. Participating producers tag their livestock using approved identification methods. The information is maintained by a livestock data service, which acts as the certification entity for buyers and sellers of livestock and performs reviews of producer records for verification purposes.

The Process Verified Program in Tennessee will be managed by the Tennessee Livestock Network (TLN). The board of directors includes representatives of the American Dairy Association of Tennessee, the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and the Tennessee Livestock Markets Association. Other non-voting member organizations include the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association and University of Tennessee Extension. The Tennessee Livestock Network has partnered with the Southeastern Livestock Network, LLC to deliver services in Tennessee. The SLN is a 10-state effort that provides a process verification program (PVP) for export certification by AgInfoLink, USA along with tag allocation tools provided by IMI Global. The PVP Program Management Calendar has been accepted as an official record keeping document.

For additional information about the Tennessee Livestock Network and the Process Verified Program contact:

Dr. Charles Hatcher
Tennessee Livestock Network
Ellington Agricultural Center
Porter Building
440 Hogan Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220
615-837-5183
1. **What is a Process Verified Program (PVP)?**
   A PVP is a USDA approved process-verified program. A process-verified program is a quality management system that is implemented by a company or business entity to provide products or services that consistently meet specified product requirements.

2. **Can a PVP be used to qualify for Beef Export Verification?**
   Yes, a PVP can be implemented to verify the age and source of the animals to be marketed in a Beef Export Verification program provided they are uniquely identified back to the farm of origin and all suppliers are enrolled and approved.

3. **Who has to be PVP/QSA approved for Beef Export Verification?**
   Any supplier of cattle or beef including packers, fabricators, cold storage facilities, forwarding warehouses, feedlots, cow-calf producers, stocker operators, cooperatives, auction markets and order buyers.

4. **What can the TLN PVP provide for me?**
   The ability to make age and source verification claims as well as other claims (like feeding practices, natural, etc…) without enrolling into a separate QSA.

5. **Can I make claims other than Age and Source Verification?**
   Yes. The TLN PVP is currently designed to only accommodate age and source but future plans include accommodating a variety of claims that a customer may desire to make such as natural, preconditioned, etc. All claims must be auditable and verifiable through on-site review of documentation.

6. **Do I need to be covered by a PVP or QSA?**
   Both USDA programs are important for the industry. QSAs are very specific in their defined processes, but offer little flexibility. PVPs can cover a broader variety of claims, but also require a higher level of auditing. QSAs may be very specific to a single packer or feedyard.

7. **If I am approved under the PVP, will I be recognized as an approved supplier for a QSA?**
   Because of the higher level of auditing in the Process Verified Program, most QSAs will accept documentation from a PVP supplier without requiring additional auditing. The Process Verified Program is responsible for ensuring the auditability and verifiability of the participant’s information, and thus relieves the QSA of this responsibility.

8. **If I am approved as a supplier under the Tennessee Livestock Network (TLN) Process Verified Program, will I be audited?**
   Yes. You would participate in an on-site data verification audit prior to approval and would be subject to random audits by TLN or its contractors, or USDA AMS. USDA AMS could audit your operation as part of the audit process insuring that the AgInfoLink Process Verified Program is meeting its requirements.
9. **Do suppliers of cattle under the TLN Process Verified Program need to be trained in the requirements for Age and Source Verification?**
   Training is required for any personnel who have responsibilities in PVP documentation process. TLN personnel or an agent of TLN will train you and/or your personnel based on the claims you have been approved for.

10. **How do I become enrolled and approved in the TLN PVP?**
    Participants must have a current customer contract with AgInfoLink or with an AgInfoLink network partner such as TLN. Participants must then complete a PVP Enrollment Form. AgInfoLink or TLN will conduct an on-site evaluation of the participant. AgInfoLink will then notify the participant of approval/disapproval.

11. **How will buyers know my animals are covered by the PVP?**
    Participants will receive an official certificate recognizing their PVP approval. Participants may also request that AgInfoLink provide official certificates for groups of animals that the participant can provide to subsequent owners or agents. AgInfoLink may also provide these certificates directly to subsequent owners at the PVP participant’s request.

12. **What is conforming or non-conforming product under the PVP?**
    Conforming product are the animals and the verified data in the AgInfoLink Private Data Sharing Network (TLN) where the producer belongs. Nonconforming products are animals and data that cannot be verified for age and source, or who weren’t identified uniquely to the ranch of origin and all suppliers who are not TLN PVP approved or approved under another USDA Process Verified Program.

13. **Can I source- and age-qualify a group of cattle already in my feed yard?**
    Yes, if you have documentation that completely supports verification and auditability of those animals for age and source as well as intermediary owners. For example, you should have cross reference to ranch tags, and rancher must have age documentation (calving records, calving season, etc.) for those animals. Additionally, the rancher would require an on-site evaluation.

14. **Can I qualify for the PVP by using only signed affidavits?**
    No, all participants require site evaluation by TLN staff or auditors to review customer process and documentation. Signed affidavits alone are not sufficient to qualify participation.

15. **How are animals identified in the TLN PVP?**
    All animals in the TLN PVP must be uniquely and individually identified. For cattle, all animals must be tagged with ISO-compliant RFID ear tags.

16. **How much does it cost to participate in the Process Verified Program?**
    There is no charge for the training to become a PVP certified producer. There will be a cost for the electronic identification tags plus a service charge for data management. The exact amount has not been determined. Contact the Tennessee Livestock Network at 615-837-5189.

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1. The record keeping requirement is standardized to include the following:
   
a. Record the beginning and ending of calving season on a TLN-approved calendar.
   b. If two or more calving seasons exist on the same farm there must be an explanation of how to differentiate between calves from different seasons. (An example would be spring calves tagged with white tags and fall with yellow or spring calves numbered from different seasons. (An example would be spring calves tagged with white tags and fall with yellow or spring calves numbered from 100 and fall from 200).
   c. Record the series of EID tags and the date that they are applied and note the season the calves are from. Attach a list of the EID numbers to the calendar and reference it to the date of tag application.

2. Producers may keep more in-depth records than are required to meet this basic standard and are invited to represent those as supplemental information.

3. Producers that maintain more in-depth records such as calving books, computerized records or any other form of individual record will be recognized as compliant to the basic requirements as long as they are appropriately associating the EID tags to their on-farm records.

4. Group age (using the birth date of the first calf in the season as the birth date of all calves in the season) will be the standard for TLN cattle. Calves originating from producers with individual records will be claimed as group aged to establish a standard that is deliverable across all consignors.

5. All calves are to be electronically identified prior to leaving the farm. Tag distribution records can be used instead of electronic tag reads but there must be an exact match of the cattle that go on the truck.

6. Tags will be allocated through the TLN tag allocation system and the allocation to the producer recorded in the online tag allocation system.

7. Data collected at the delivery point will be loaded into the TLN online reporting system along with tag allocation events to establish an auditable trail for verification.

8. Producers participating in this system will be audited at a rate not less than 10 percent on an annual basis. Audits will begin upon enrollment and TLN reserves the right to audit at a higher level to insure compliance. Individual sale management groups may choose to audit at a higher level as a part of their regular on-farm screening process.
# Individual Calf Record Form

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<th>Cow ID</th>
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<th>Sire ID</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Birth Wt</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Wean WT</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>B</td>
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The form includes columns for Cow ID, Calf ID, Sire ID, Birth Date, Birth Wt, Sex, Wean WT, and Remarks. The example entry shows a calf with Cow ID 631 and Calf ID 801, sired by AN31, born on March 15th, weighing 85 pounds, and being a bull (B). The weaning weight is 550 pounds, and the remarks indicate that the calf died.
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The Tennessee Livestock Network is a producer & industry driven organization whose mission is to expand marketing opportunities for Tennessee Livestock through Voluntary Verification Systems.

What can TLN do?

1. Provide **age & source verification**
2. **Qualify cattle** for export market
3. Increase **buyer interest**
4. **Add value** to TN feeder cattle
5. **Improve reputation** of TN feeder cattle