



Beef Herd Health Management CALENDAR

*Agri*LIFE **EXTENSION**
Texas A&M System

Compact Disk Release for Personal Computers

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The Beef Herd Health Management Calendar, a computerized publication authored by Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM and Wayne H. Thompson, is available for purchase on compact disk (CD-ROM) by cattlemen through the AgriLife Bookstore. The instrument is interactive and designed to facilitate self-guided study to learn and group meetings to teach scheduling of annual herd health management plans. This interactive calendar allows the beef producer to generate a schedule of management tasks that fits the length and first month of their calving season. The CD also contains videos that demonstrate how to conduct each activity, as well as a complete library of technical publications.

The CD is configured to automatically launch the "Main Index Page" of the Beef Herd Health Management Calendar. Minimum hardware requirements are: computer equipped with CD-ROM reader, soundcard and speakers, and a computer monitor with 800 x 600 resolution or higher. Required software items are: Microsoft Excel®; Adobe Acrobat Reader®; and Adobe Macromedia Flash®, version 8.0 or later.

Much of the technical information needed to design and implement programs on scheduling annual health management plans for cow-calf herds is provided on the CD. The interface of the application is exceptionally user-friendly and accessible to even the novice computer user, designed to ensure that beef producers with minimal computer literacy are able to access and learn from the information provided by the Beef Herd Health Management Calendar on CD.

Producers must generate an annual 12-month beef herd health management calendar with planned and scheduled health practices related to when cows calve and not to the season of the year. The calendar of specific dates of tasks will ensure "doing the right thing at the right time" for increased effectiveness of the practices. The goal is to increase the production efficiency of the whole herd, all the cows, calves, heifers and bulls.

Introduction

Scheduling Management Practices:

- Producers often wonder what times of year they should carry out management tasks such as castrating, vaccinating, dehorning, deworming and others. The proper times for these activities depend on when the calving season occurs, because health practices are related to the periods of:
 1. Pre-calving
 2. Calving
 3. Post-calving
 4. Pre-breeding
 5. Breeding
- Once the calving season is planned, herd health management tasks can be scheduled for specific dates.
- The interactive calendar allows the producer to generate a schedule of management tasks by entering the month in which calving begins and the length of the calving season. The most effective and efficient management occurs when there is a restricted calving season of 1 to 3 months. With this restricted calving season, the herd is penned four times a year. The cows are worked at least two times (at pre-calving and at 4 to 6 months post-calving) and the calves are worked at least two times (at 2 to 4 months post-calving and at 4 to 6 months post-calving). The "less than 2 months" post-calving practices are carried out at birth. The "6 to 8 months post-calving" practices are carried out at weaning. The cows are worked through the chute at pre-calving, the calves at 2 to 4 months post-calving, and both cows and calves at 4 to 6 months post-calving.

Pre-calving - pregnant cows and heifers

- Pregnant cows and heifers are worked through the chute 1 to 3 months before calving for physical exams to evaluate body condition, udder, teeth and eyes. These exams may reveal the need to improve the nutrition of the herd by increasing the intake of protein and minerals. Examining the fecal pads and having hay and forage analyzed in a laboratory can help determine whether the herd needs protein and mineral supplements. Pastures may need to be fertilized to produce better quality forage. That can be determined by having the soil tested.
- Animals that are not expected to perform well during the calving and nursing periods may be culled.
- Annual, routine vaccines are administered to protect cows and heifers from disease and increase the immunity provided by colostrum during the upcoming post-calving period. If there are significant numbers of worms and flies in and on the cattle, animals are treated with deworming and deflying medicines.
- The cows and heifers are individually identified so health records and production management data can be kept for each animal and each animal's performance during calving, nursing and breeding can be evaluated.

Calving and Post-calving (less than 2 months of age)

- Springer cows and heifers must be observed twice a day in case they need assistance for dystocia or difficult calving. Animals need assistance if, after 2 hours of labor straining, no fetal parts (feet and head) have presented or only the fetal membrane (water bag) has presented. Animals also need assistance when fetal parts are presented but no progress is made after 1 hour.
- Newborn calves are weighed, identified, and their navels disinfected. They are observed to ensure that they begin nursing colostrum within 6 hours of birth and that they are in a sanitary environment. Calves are castrated and dehorned at birth or before 2 months of age.
- Calved cows may need an energy supplement during lactation, based on their hay and forage intake and their body condition scoring.

Pre-breeding (open heifers)

- Open heifers are worked through the chute 1 to 3 months before breeding for physical exams to evaluate body condition, udder, feet, teeth and eyes. A veterinarian can use Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) procedures to determine reproductive tract scores and pelvic measurements. Animals that are in poor condition or not suitable for reproduction are culled. Retained animals are given annual, routine vaccines and treated for worms and flies if necessary. Their nutrition is adjusted if their condition warrants.

Pre-breeding (bulls)

- Bulls are worked through the chute 1 to 3 months before breeding for physical exams to evaluate body condition, prepuce, feet, teeth, eyes and nose. A veterinarian can use Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) procedures to examine accessory sex glands, penis and testicles, and to do microscopic examinations of the semen from electroejaculation.

- This helps in classifying bulls' breeding potential. Animals that are in poor condition or are not suitable for reproduction are culled. Retained animals are given annual, routine vaccines and treated for worms and flies if necessary. Their nutrition is adjusted if their condition warrants.

Breeding (bulls)

- Bulls are turned in to the herd at an optimal bull-to-cow ratio for the stocking rate. Bulls need to be observed to be sure they are adequately working the cows and heifers and properly serving and mating those in estrus. Bulls should be observed periodically to check for injury to the sheath, penis, testicles, feet or legs that could hinder their ability to breed.

Post-calving (calves 2 to 4, 4 to 6, and 6 to 8 months of age)

- Calves are worked through the chute at three different times for physical exams, initial and booster vaccinations, possible treatment of worms and flies, growth implants, branding and weighing. The third working is for weaning and quality grading.
- At the first and third working, cows and heifers in the lot are given physical examinations so that corrections can be made if necessary. At the second calf working, cows and heifers are worked through the chute for pregnancy detection and possible treatment for worms and flies. Cows and heifers are culled based on the physical exam, pregnancy detection, and weaned calf grading.

Implementing the Calendar

- *For a 1- to 3-month calving season:*
 - Select the year, the first month and number of months of calving. For example, for a herd calving March through May, select March as the first month of calving and 3 months as the length of the calving season. The program will generate a single calendar for the cow-calf herd that covers all management practices for the year. Print the page.
- *For a 4- to 12-month calving season:*
 - A herd with a calving season of 4 to 6 months is managed as two herds together on the same pasture, with cows and calves of the two herds identified by two different color ear tags.
 - For a 4-month calving season, divide the season into two 2-month intervals and generate a calendar for each. For example, if the calving season is March through June, enter March as the starting month and 2 months as the calving interval. Print the page. Then enter May as the starting month and 2 months as the calving interval. Print the page. Together, these calendars will cover the whole calving season.
 - For a calving season of 6 to 12 months, divide the season into 3-month intervals and generate a calendar for each. For example, a 6-month calving season from January through June would require calendars for two 3-month intervals.
- *Video Demonstrations and Publications:*
 - To learn more about the management activities that are carried out during each period, refer to the eight management periods, from A. Pre-Calving through H. Post-Calving, for links to related video demonstrations and publications.
 - View videos (Adobe Flash files, flv) and read Extension publications (Adobe Acrobat Reader files, pdf).

Ordering the Calendar

- *To order on-line:*
 - You may order on-line with a VISA or MasterCard, using the AgriLife Marketing and Communications Bookstore secure shopping cart technology at <http://tcebookstore.org/>.
- *To order by telephone:*
 - You may call the AgriLife Bookstore toll-free (888) 900-2577 and order with a VISA or MasterCard.
- *Retail price: \$98.00*

Beef Herd Health Management Calendar



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Wayne H. Thompson - County Extension Agent - ANR, Harris County

Year = 2008

Select 1st Month of Calving ▼

1-mo Calving Interval

INSTRUCTIONS: Select year, first month, and number of months of your calving season. Print page. Repeat for each calving interval (up to 3 months per interval).

Pre-Calving

Pregnant cows and heifers (1 to 3 months prior to calving)

- 1 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 2 Culling evaluations (based on physical)
- 3 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 4 Identifications (ear tag or tattoo, brand)
- 5 Nutritional evaluations (protein, minerals, fecal pad, hay, forage, soil test results)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations

Calving

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 1 Observations (early assistance with dystocia)

New born calves

- 2 Observations (nursing, colostrum intake)
- 3 Birth weights
- 4 Physical exams (behavior, navel)
- 5 Sanitation evaluation

Post-Calving

Nursing calves (less than 2 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, navel)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk intake)
- 3 Identification (ear tag, notch or tattoo)
- 4 Castrate (knife or band)
- 5 Dehorn (hot iron or tube)

Cows

- 6 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 7 Nutritional evaluations (energy, minerals, soil test results)

Pre-Breeding

Open heifers (1 to 3 months prior to breeding)

- 1 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 2 Breeding Soundness Evaluation (reproductive tract scores, pelvic measurements, breeding weights)
- 3 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 4 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 5 Culling evaluations (based on physical, breeding soundness evaluation)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 8 Estrous synchronization, artificial insemination

Bulls (1 to 3 months prior to turning in bulls)

- 9 Physical exams (body condition, prepuce, feet, teeth, eyes, nose)
- 10 Breeding Soundness Evaluation (semen, penis, testicles)
- 11 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 12 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 13 Culling evaluations (based on physical, breeding soundness evaluation)
- 14 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 15 Strategic fly control evaluations

* minimum vaccines

Post-Calving

Nursing calves (2 to 4 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, growth)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk, grass, feed intake)
- 3 Vaccinate (1st 5-way Lepto, 1st 7-way Clostridia, Intranasal Live IBR)*
- 4 Growth implant
- 5 Identification (brand)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations

Cows

- 8 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 9 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 10 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 11 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 12 Estrous synchronization, artificial insemination

Breeding

Bulls

- 1 Turn in bulls (bull to cow ratio)
- 2 Observations (serving, physical)

Post-Calving

Nursing calves (4 to 6 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, growth)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk, grass, feed intake)
- 3 Vaccinate (2nd 5-way Lepto, 2nd 7-way Clostridia, Heifer Brucellosis)*
- 4 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 5 Strategic fly control evaluations

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 6 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 7 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 8 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 9 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 10 Pregnancy detection (palpation, ultrasound)
- 11 Culling evaluations (based on physical, pregnancy, calves)

Post-Calving

Weaned, separated calves (6 to 8 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, quality)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (grass, feed intake)
- 3 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 4 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 5 Vaccinate (Live 4-way IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3)*
- 6 Wean (market, retain)
- 7 Wean weights

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 8 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 9 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 10 Culling evaluations (based on physical, calves)
- 11 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 12 Strategic fly control evaluations

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Beef Herd Health Management Calendar



Floron C. Faries, Jr. - Extension Veterinarian, College Station
Wayne H. Thompson - County Extension Agent - ANR, Harris County

Year = 2009

February - April

▼ 3-mo Calving Interval

INSTRUCTIONS: Select year, first month, and number of months of your calving season. Print page. Repeat for each calving interval (up to 3 months per interval).

Pre-Calving Jan '09

Pregnant cows and heifers (1 to 3 months prior to calving)

- 1 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 2 Culling evaluations (based on physical)
- 3 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 4 Identifications (ear tag or tattoo, brand)
- 5 Nutritional evaluations (protein, minerals, fecal pad, hay, forage, soil test results)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations

Calving Feb '09 - Apr '09

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 1 Observations (early assistance with dystocia)

New born calves

- 2 Observations (nursing, colostrum intake)
- 3 Birth weights
- 4 Physical exams (behavior, navel)
- 5 Sanitation evaluation

Post-Calving Feb '09 - Apr '09

Nursing calves (less than 2 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, navel)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk intake)
- 3 Identification (ear tag, notch or tattoo)
- 4 Castrate (knife or band)
- 5 Dehorn (hot iron or tube)

Cows

- 6 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 7 Nutritional evaluations (energy, minerals, soil test results)

Pre-Breeding Feb '09 - Mar '09

Open heifers (1 to 3 months prior to breeding)

- 1 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 2 Breeding Soundness Evaluation (reproductive tract scores, pelvic measurements, breeding weights)
- 3 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 4 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 5 Culling evaluations (based on physical, breeding soundness evaluation)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 8 Estrous synchronization, artificial insemination

Bulls (1 to 3 months prior to turning in bulls)

- 9 Physical exams (body condition, prepuce, feet, teeth, eyes, nose)
- 10 Breeding Soundness Evaluation (semen, penis, testicles)
- 11 Vaccinate (5-way Lepto, 7-way Clostridia)*
- 12 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 13 Culling evaluations (based on physical, breeding soundness evaluation)
- 14 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 15 Strategic fly control evaluations

* minimum vaccines

Post-Calving Jun '09

Nursing calves (2 to 4 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, growth)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk, grass, feed intake)
- 3 Vaccinate (1st 5-way Lepto, 1st 7-way Clostridia, Intranasal Live IBR)*
- 4 Growth implant
- 5 Identification (brand)
- 6 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 7 Strategic fly control evaluations

Cows

- 8 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 9 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 10 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 11 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 12 Estrous synchronization, artificial insemination

Breeding May '09 - Jul '09

Bulls

- 1 Turn in bulls (bull to cow ratio)
- 2 Observations (serving, physical)

Post-Calving Aug '09

Nursing calves (4 to 6 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, growth)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (milk, grass, feed intake)
- 3 Vaccinate (2nd 5-way Lepto, 2nd 7-way Clostridia, Heifer Brucellosis)*
- 4 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 5 Strategic fly control evaluations

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 6 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 7 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 8 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 9 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 10 Pregnancy detection (palpation, ultrasound)
- 11 Culling evaluations (based on physical, pregnancy, calves)

Post-Calving Oct '09

Weaned, separated calves (6 to 8 months of age)

- 1 Physical exams (behavior, quality)
- 2 Nutritional evaluations (grass, feed intake)
- 3 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 4 Strategic fly control evaluations
- 5 Vaccinate (Live 4-way IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3)*
- 6 Wean (market, retain)
- 7 Wean weights

Pregnant cows and heifers

- 8 Physical exams (body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- 9 Nutritional evaluations (protein, energy, minerals, soil test results)
- 10 Culling evaluations (based on physical, calves)
- 11 Strategic worm control evaluations
- 12 Strategic fly control evaluations

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