

Bold Springs Veterinary Service

Calendar for Spring calving cows (cows to begin calving on March 1st) – cow and calf management.

Following is a brief overview for a spring herd. Every herd is different and there are many variations, but this gives a good general guideline for management. Keep in mind, as a beef calf producer, the biggest decisions made is when to put the bull in and when to take the bull out. The exact dates are flexible, but those two decisions control the calving calendar. The fact that a cow's gestation is about 9 ½ months and that there are 365 days in a year cannot be altered. By keeping a strict calving season, a producer can better manage his herd, be sure he gets a calf from every cow in his herd every year, and better market his calves.

March 1st – April 30th

Newborn calf should have navel sprayed or dipped with iodine (Betadine) ASAP.

Tag calf, keep records of calf # matched to cow and give 1 cc MuSe under the skin.

If banding at birth, give 2 cc CD&T vaccine subcutaneously. Note – a single dose will protect most calves, however, to ensure ~100% protection give booster dose ~3 weeks later.

May

All cows should have calved and now be open.

Vaccinate cows and bulls with prebreeding vaccines – 5-way modified live viral (IBR, BVDI&II, PI3, BRSV) and Leptospirosis/Vibrio. Castrate calves if not done at birth and dehorn if needed. Give calves their first 7-way (Blackleg) dose.

Deworm calves, heifers, and any thin cows.

Bulls should now have a breeding soundness exam to prepare for upcoming breeding season.

May 30th

Bull turn-in time.

FLY CONTROL. Back rubs placed at a common location (i.e. mineral feeders, waters) are best for fly control. Ear tags and pour-on insecticides can also be used effectively.

Keep weeds and thistles cut to help reduce pinkeye.

July

Give all calves their second 7-way clostridial vaccine (Blackleg). Castrate any calves if missed.

Remember fly control.

Deworm calves.

July 31st

Remove Bull.

October-November

Pregnancy check and cull open cows. A good time to age cows, body condition score, inspect hooves and udders and cull any old cows or cows with questionable assets. Also a good time to use those records and identify which cows raised good calves and which raised lower quality calves – may help with culling decisions.

Booster pregnant cows with Lepto.

Deworm all calves and heifers; deworm any thin cows/bulls. Apply lice control.

**Optional Calf Pre-Conditioning* (if selling quality assured calves or retaining ownership post-weaning).

Before weaning, give a 5-way modified live viral vaccine (IBR, BVD I&II, BRSV, PI3) a Pasteurella vaccine, a 7-way clostridial vaccine, and MuSe 1cc/200#.

I hope this helps maintain a productive, healthy herd. There are certain management tools that can increase productivity, such as estrus synchronization, artificial insemination, implanting calves, etc., which have been omitted for simplicity sake. I believe foundational management is necessary before implementing additional procedures. For help constructing a calendar to maximize profitability specifically for your herd, or if you have any questions, give me a call.

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