

Minnesota Beef Team

Volume 3
April 1, 2005



Beef Times

PRODUCER TIPS

As temperatures rise and the snow begins to melt up north, thoughts on breeding season preparations appear in the back of our minds. As through their calving season, now is the sider in preparing for the breeding sea- season will begin, the length of the or estrus synchronization and AI will ment heifers this year is part of your your heifers 15 to 20 days prior to weigh and condition score your re- ing season. Make sure your replace- ture weight by the time you breed to 6.5. Fourth, monitor the condi- adequate nutrition to recover from first calf heifers, should be at a condi- Fifth, Make sure your herd bulls have sure their fertility is satisfactory. Whether isfactory fertility will produce you very low pregnancy rates, along with a poor calving rate. These steps will help assist you in having a successful breeding and future calving season.



most spring calving herds are half-way time to begin thinking about steps to con- son. First, decide when your breeding breeding season and if natural service be used. Second, if breeding replace- management goals, plan to breed the remaining cow herd. Third, placement heifers prior to the breed- ment heifers weigh 65% of their ma- and that they condition score at a 5 tion of your cows to ensure they have postpartum anestrus. Cows, especially tion score of 5 to 6 prior to breeding. passed a breeding soundness exam to en- natural service or AI is used, bulls with unsat-

REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. *2005 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Summer Tour & Trade Show*

The MN Beef Team is hosting the MSCA Summer Tour & Trade Show July 13, 2005 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, MN. Seven tour stops will highlight the tour representing this year's theme, "Pasture to Plate". Pre-register by July 6 (\$25/person) with Denise Plonis at 218-327-4490. For more information on the summer tour, visit the website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/

2. *2005 Minnesota Beef Cow/Calf Days Report*

This year's Beef Cow/Calf Days was a success. With 680 producers representing over 21,000 head of cattle, the magnitude of topics presented greatly impacted the knowledge gained from this program. For a full report on the Cow/Calf Days, visit the website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/

For more information on upcoming events, contact Denise Plonis at (218) 327-4490 or visit the beef team website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/. If you have any comments or would no longer like to receive this newsletter, please e-mail your request to Ryon Walker at: walke375@umn.edu

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3. *2005 Beef Home Study Course*

The home study course will be offered again in May (\$40) featuring seven lessons: Nutrition, Health and Grazing Management, Preconditioning, Economics, Facilities, Equipment & Labor and Animal ID. For more information on how to register, contact Gene Krause at 888-241-4546 or visit the website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/components/publications/BrochureHomeStudyMay2005.pdf

4. *Cow/Calf Management Tips Featured in the MN Farm Guide Magazine*

Watch for our monthly articles on topics in cow/calf management in the MN Farm Guide Magazine. Previous topics from February and March include:

- Managing your Calving Season, Dr. Cliff Lamb
- Feeding Distiller's Grains to Beef Cattle, Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo
- Benefits of Making Beef Part of a Healthy Diet and Lifestyle, Dr. Deb Roeber

Upcoming articles for April and May include:

- Are Your Heifers Ready, Dr. Ryon Walker
- Cattle Conditioning Prior to Breeding, Lori Weddle-Schott
- Natural Service vs Estrus Synchronization and AI, Dr. Ryon Walker
- Are your Bulls Ready for the Breeding Season, Dr. Bethany Lovaas

To view these and future articles, visit the website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/components/mediareleases.htm

5. *New Exciting Programs Available!!!*

Estrous Synchronization Planner - the Estrus Synch Planner is an excel spreadsheet in a CD format designed to customize your breeding schedule utilizing estrus synchronization and AI. To purchase the planner, contact Denise Plonis at 218-327-4490. The CD is available for \$35.

The Cow/Calf Planner - the planner is a management calendar that offers timely information and tips on managing your herd utilizing five different management categories. The planner is offered in two formats: An Interactive Cow/Calf Planner Excel Worksheet provides you topics under each category relevant to the time of year and gives you pertinent information for each topic by touching the cell for that topic where a window will appear. The Cow/Calf Planner Print Sheet allows you to print each calendar month with all the pertinent information for each topic. To access the planner, visit the website at: www.extension.umn.edu/beef/components/cowcalfcalendar.htm

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