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## Herd Health Calendar for Cow-Calf Producer

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Herd Health Calendar for Cow-Calf Producers

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The cliché "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" may be worn threadbare, but it has direct application to cow-calf operations today. There is no cure for some cattle diseases once they become established in a herd. Take vibriosis for example. It can string out the calving interval making it virtually impossible to ever get the cows back to a normal, seasonal interval. Vibriosis can be prevented by careful management practices and a vaccination program.

The Herd Health Calendar is a reminder of some of the management practices and procedures that are necessary to help prevent disease problems in the beef cow herd.

January - February

Management and Nutrition

Check frequently

Provide recommended winter ration

- increase energy 30 days prior to calving
- additional vitamin A (30-60 days prior to calving)  
1,000,000 IU
  - injected or 100,000 units daily for 10 days in ration
  - helps quality of colostrum
  - increase conception rate

Watch for lice

March - April

Calving Time

Clean, dry area

- old barn lots harbor scours infection

Some wind protection

- dry calves can take a lot of cold

Watch heifers particularly close

- don't wait too long before seeking assistance

Watch for discharge following calving

- infection or retained placenta

May

Newly Purchased Bulls

Buy from a herd free of vibriosis

Isolate for 30 days following purchase

Test for Brucellosis

Tuberculosis

Leptospirosis

Fertility check before using

Castrate and Dehorn Calves Before Fly Time

Vaccinate Calves for Blackleg and Malignant Edema if a Problem

June

Start Fly Control Program

Spray

Backrubbers

Dust bags

Feed additives

Vaccinate Open Cows and Heifers For:

IBR (red nose)

Lepto

Vibrio

Have Cows in Gaining Condition for Best Conception

July

- Start Breeding Cows
- check herd carefully daily
  - have sufficient bull power

- Continue Fly Control
- will help reduce pinkeye

August

- Remove Bulls After 45 to 60 Days
- reduces calving interval

- Intensify Fly Control
- treat pinkeye cases

September - October

- Pregnancy Check All Cows
- identify open cows to be sold at weaning time

- Vaccinate Calves For:
- IBR
    - if cows have been vaccinated
  - Brucellosis (heifers, 3-8 months)
  - Blackleg
  - Malignant edema

Check for Internal Parasites

October - November

- Wean Calves 2 to 3 Weeks After Vaccination for IBR  
Get Calves Used to Grain  
Spray All Cattle for Lice  
Treat for Grubs

December

- Start Cows on Winter Feeding Program