Herd Health Calendar for Cow-Calf Producer

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Recommended Citation
The cliche "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 vibroisis
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