

September Beef Management Calendar

Dr. Scott Greiner

Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

Spring Calving Herds

- Inventory feed supplies, test hay for nutrient content and plan winter feeding strategies
- Give pre-weaning vaccinations to calves
- Make final preparations for calf crop marketing program
- Pregnancy check cows
- Body condition score cows at weaning and separate thin cows
- Put open, old and very thin cows on cull list
- Make arrangements for backgrounding calves
- Continue feeding high Se trace mineral salt
- Continue to stockpile forages, if possible

Fall Calving Herds

- Body condition score cows; plan nutrition and grazing program on BCS
- Inventory feed supplies, test hay for nutrient content and plan winter feeding strategies
- Make sure all calving supplies are on-hand
- Move pregnant heifers and early calving cows to calving area about 2 weeks before due date
- Check cows 3 to 4 times per day; heifers more often – assist early if needed
- Keep calving area clean and well drained; move healthy pairs to large pastures 3 days after calving
- Ear tag all calves at birth; castrate male calves in commercial herds
- Give selenium and vitamin A & D injections to newborn calves
- Feed cows extra energy after calving especially to two-year-olds; cows calving at BCS < 5 should receive special nutritional attention
- Keep high quality, high Selenium, high magnesium minerals available
- Plan estrous synchronization program; line-up AI technician and supplies