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Cattle Recommendations

Managing cattle is the best way to keep them healthy and make them profitable. Some simple recommendations follow to keep your herd healthy and increase profit, the goal being to sell a uniform herd of as close to 750# cattle as cost-effectively as possible.

Vaccines prevent herd diseases & increase market value. Vaccination of unhealthy calves is never recommended. Separate sick animals before vaccination. Eliminate as much stress as possible to help the immune system of a cow and always inject in the neck SQ when possible.

Cows & Bulls		Calves	
Blackleg 7 way	Annual	Blackleg 7 way	Preweaning
IBR-BVD-PI3	Annual	IBR-BVD-PI3	Preweaning
Leptospirosis	Annual	Leptospirosis	Preweaning

*****Brucellosis Recommended for Heifers (4 to 12 months)**

Deworming – An ivermectin-based pour on dewormer lasts 28 days for fly control. Deworm twice a year, once in the early or late summer and then again in early fall. Deworming should take place when calves have been weaned and will be eating from feed bunks to avoid re-infestation. Cows ideally should be dewormed prior to calving and calves should be dewormed at 3-4 months of age prior to shipping. Ivomec injectable is another helpful drug if a pour on dewormer is not used as it is inexpensive and no resistance of *Osterga* sp. Dose once and then redose in 4-6 weeks. LongRange is a new injectable product that can be administered once and last for 150 days.

Nutrition - Remember Growing cattle need 14 % CP, 2-4 oz mineral, at least 50% TDN (calculated by dry matter of feedstuff). Stockers in the growing phase needs limited grain, mostly roughage, looking for a gain of 1.5-2#/day. The finishing phase gets a high grain diet looking for average daily gain of 3-5 #/day. 25-30 # of grain per day will give an average daily gain of 3-5#

Bulls & Breeding - Shoot for a 365 calving cycle: 283 days gestation, post-partum 40 days, 42 days mating. Must have an adequate number of fertile bulls to accomplish this. The bull must go in on the same day every year and out on the same day every year for consistent numbers and to determine when bulls and cows should be culled.

Culling - Animals that do not perform must be culled. Want to achieve a cull rate of < 10-15% a year. Culling reasons:
1.) Bad disposition – these animals waste time and energy and hinder safety. One bad animal can hurt and ruin a whole herd.
2.) Animals do not get bred.
3.) Body condition 60 days prior to calving is < 5-7 (otherwise not rebreed easily)
4.) Animals are not uniform – uniform herds sell easier.

Castration – Recommended to be completed when the calf is a few days old. Banding is not recommended.

Young Calves - The main killer of pre-weaned calves is scours, of calves 4—6 months is blackleg and of weaned calves is respiratory disease. Vaccination can help prevent 2 of those three main killers.

Feet - For any feet problems a copper sulfate or zinc sulfate foot bath on a foot clean of debris is recommended.

Sick Animals - Cattle should be observed frequently. Walk through your herd to see if they are: cleaning their nose, chewing cud, stretching after they stand, eating and drinking, ruminating, ears up, butting back when butted. If you don't see these things ISOLATE THE ANIMAL.

Necropsy – We NEED to know why anything dies. Sending to the UK Diagnostic lab is recommended. LVVS can provide the proper forms and interpret lab data when it is returned.