

Selecting and Raising Commercial Heifers

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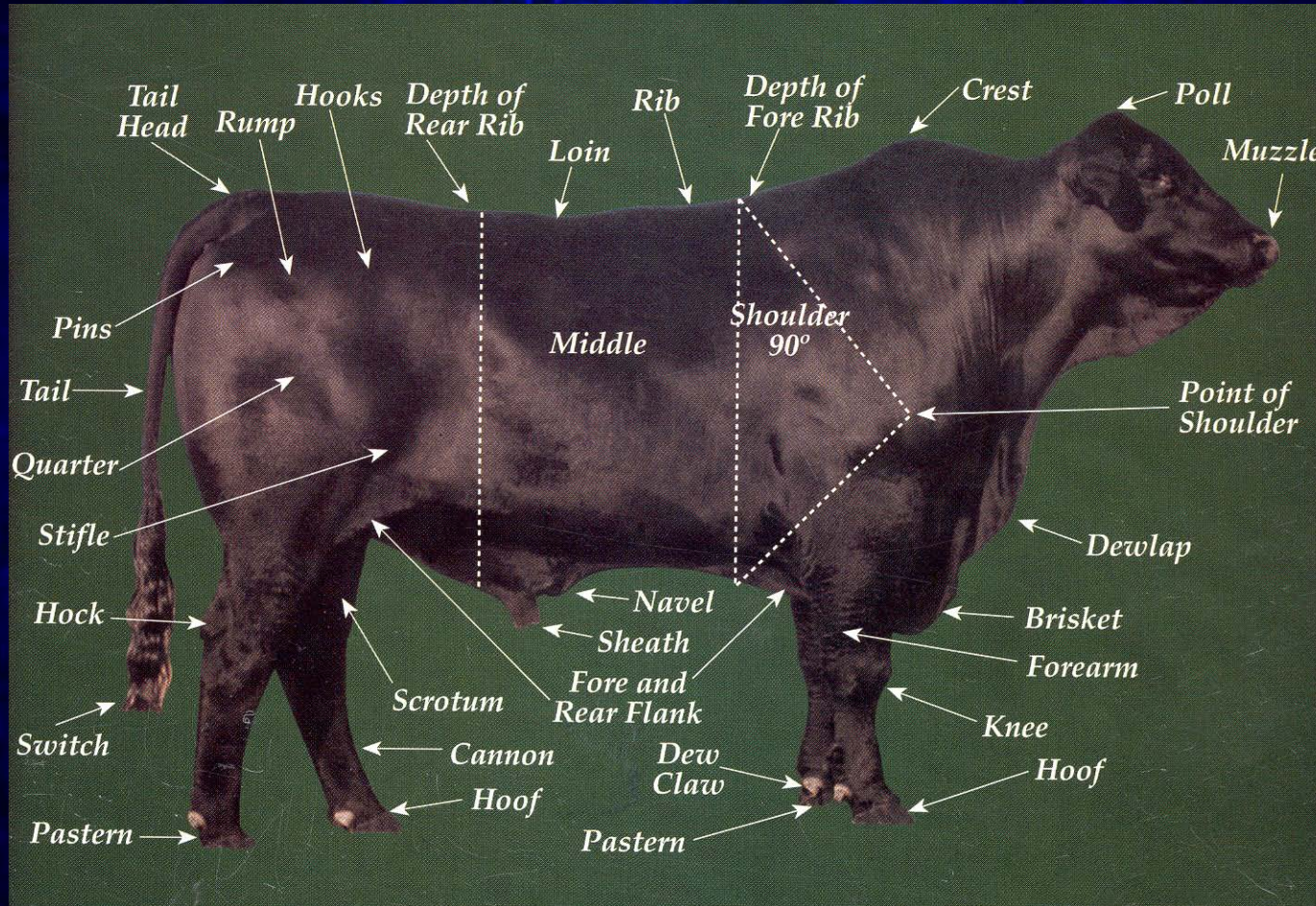
The logo for AgriLIFE EXTENSION features a stylized maroon arch above the text. 'AgriLIFE' is in a serif font and 'EXTENSION' is in a bold, sans-serif font, both in maroon.

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

What breed type???

 Match the cow to the environment and utilize a breed of bull that best complements her genetics to produce a calf that will fit a specific market

Selection





A photograph of a herd of cows in a grassy field. A large, leafy tree is in the background. The text "Getting Heifers Bred!" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font with a black outline.

Getting Heifers Bred!

Heifer Development

- Replacement heifers are long term investments for cow-calf producers
- Productivity of your heifers is important
 - Success of your project
 - Satisfaction of the cow-calf producers that purchase your heifers

Heifer Development

- ➔ Management as a yearling has been shown to affect performance as a first calf heifer and subsequent performance as a three and four year old cow
- ➔ Obtain at least 65% of mature weight by breeding
- ➔ Obtain at least 85-90% of mature weight by calving

**Nutrition will play an important
role in determining the success of
your project!!!!**



When do I feed???

- Be consistent!!!!



What do I feed????



Basic Types of Feeds

“Grains”

- 
- Grains such as corn, barley, sorghum grain
 - High in energy
 - Energy is important for maintenance and growth
 - “Extra energy” will fatten cattle

Basic Types of Feeds

“Protein Supplements”

→ High Protein Supplements

– Used to increase the protein content of the diet

→ Cottonseed meal

→ Soybean meal

→ Canola meal

Basic Types of Feeds

“Roughages”

➔ Roughages help to prevent nutritional ailments “safety net”

- acidosis
- bloat
- founder

Heifer Development

- strategies
 - constant gain
 - low gain, high gain
 - high gain, low gain
- target weights
 - breeding
 - 65% of mature weight
 - calving
 - 85-90% of mature weight
- udder sensitivity to excess condition
 - 4 to 10 months
- determining rate of gain
 - weaning wt (7 months)
 - 480
 - mature wt
 - 1200
 - target breeding wt
 - 780
 - breeding age
 - 15 months
 - target ADG
 - 1.25

Heifer Nutritional Requirements (650 lb heifer)

1 lb ADG

- diet
 - 62% TDN
 - 10.5% CP

1.5 lb ADG

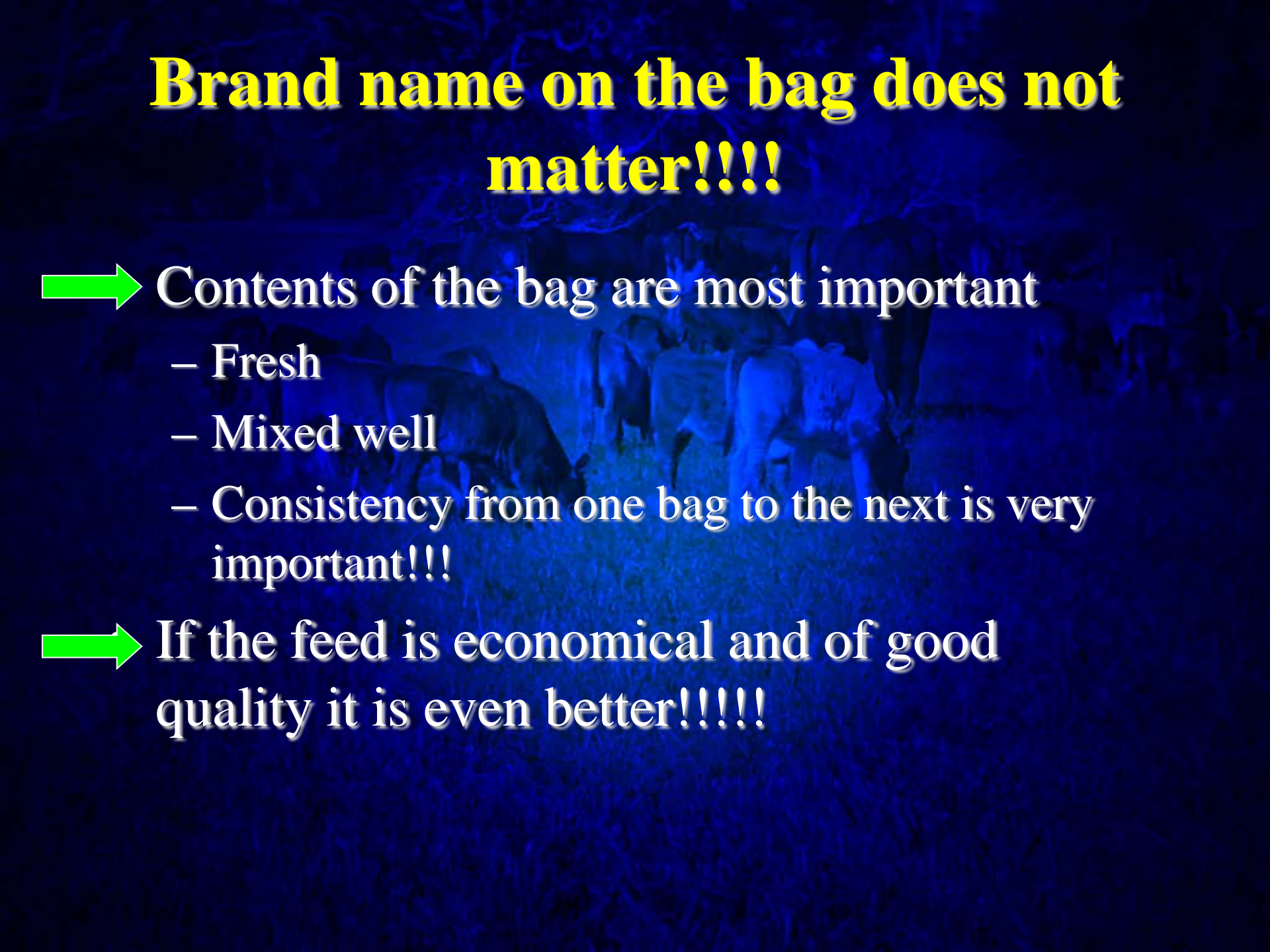
- diet
 - 68% TDN
 - 12.3% CP

What brand do I feed???

- Lone Star
- Lyssy & Eckel Feed
- ACCO
- Nutrena
- Purina
- Martindale Feeds
- The local COOP's feed



Brand name on the bag does not matter!!!!

- 
- ➔ **Contents of the bag are most important**
 - Fresh
 - Mixed well
 - Consistency from one bag to the next is very important!!!
 - ➔ **If the feed is economical and of good quality it is even better!!!!**

Hay???

→ Feed at least one block (flake) of medium quality hay daily

- Sudan hay
- Bermudagrass hay
- Bahia hay
- Grass hay

Sunday - metasin

don't forget

MINTON	CHAMP 15 BUCK	MARBLE	BONES
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7c 1 BIG CUP BEEF RUP 1 cup SHOW BLOOD	8 1/2 F 1 CUP OIL 203 OIL 1 CUP SHOW BLOOD 1/2 CARS	4 1/2 G 1/2 4 F 1 CUP 2 SHOW BLOOD	8 1/2 F 1 BIG CUP BEEF RUP 1 CUP SHOW BLOOD
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9/23	1048	975	597	990
9/30	1065	991	620	1005
10/7	1074	1018	628	1035
10/21	1120	1067	722	1103

* Biz & PROBOS

10/6 FLYBAN

810 SAFE GARD

1/9 WART SHOT

#59 8/9/04 106/EASY
#100 8/12/04 110/EASY
#101 8/15/04 113/HEATSEE
#103 8/16/04 25/LIP...
8/16/04 5...
8/20/04 12/EC...

JENNY - 1 SCOOP
1 3/4 SCOOP
2 SMALL CUPS BANG
BUDS - 1 1/4 SCOOPS
1 CAN OIL
Bull - 2 SCOOPS



Growth Promotants



Feeding Heifers

→ DO NOT get heifers too fat!!!!!!

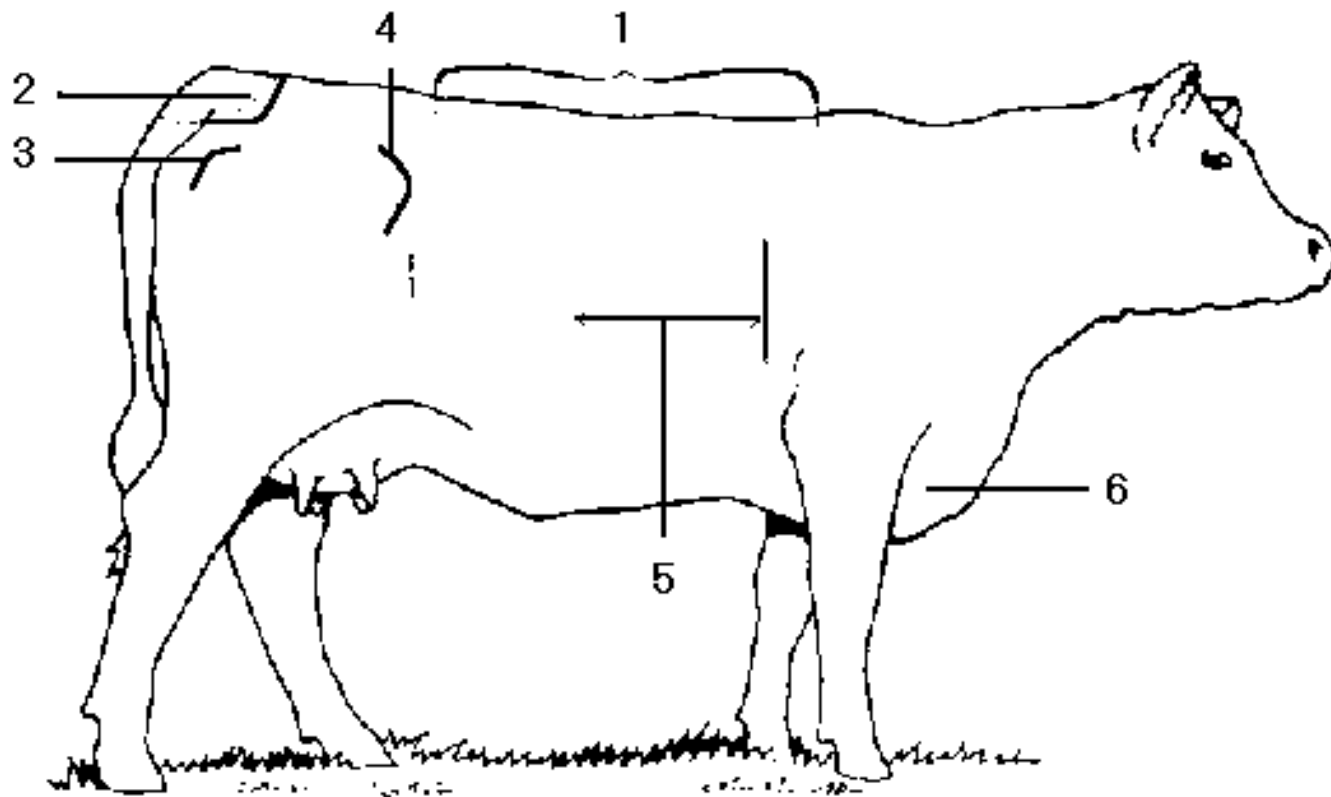


Body Condition Scoring of Cattle

“BCS”

A photograph of a herd of cattle grazing in a field, overlaid with a blue tint. The text "BCS" is prominently displayed in the center of the image.

Areas to evaluate Body Condition



1. BACK

3. PINS

5. RIBS

2. TAIL HEAD

4. HOOKS

6. BRISKET

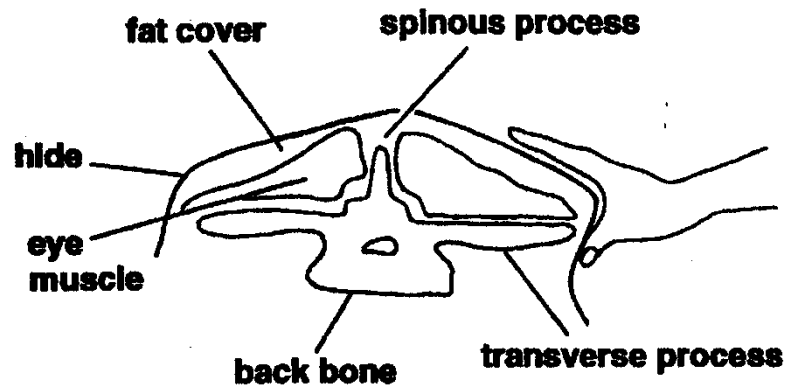
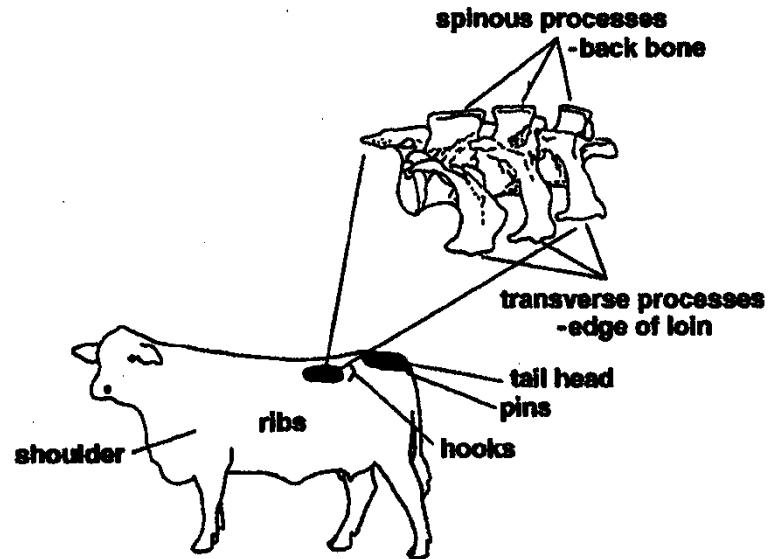


Figure 1. Anatomic areas that are used for scoring body condition in beef cows.

BCS of 2



Little evidence of fat deposition. The spinous processes feel sharp to touch.

BCS of 3



Beginning of fat cover over the loin back and foreribs. Spinous processes can be identified by touch and may be visible.

BCS of 4



Foreribs are not noticeable, 12th and 13th ribs can be seen. Individual spinous processes not visible. Hooks and pins not as sharp.

BCS of 4



BCS of 5



12th and 13th ribs are no longer visible. Areas on each side of the tail head are fairly well filled. Hooks and pins are not as prominent. Hindquarters are beginning to fill.



BCS = 5 - 6

BCS of 5 to 6



Ribs are fully covered. Hindquarters are plump and full. Beginning to take on an overall smooth appearance.

BCS of 5 to 6



BCS of 6 to 7



Smooth appearance. Abundance of fat cover on either side of the tail head. Begin to see patchiness develop.

BCS of 6 to 7



BCS of 8



Animal begins to take on a smooth, blocky appearance. No longer can see the bone structure. Fat cover is thick and patchy.

BCS of 8



BCS of 9



Bone structure not seen or easily felt. “Globs of fat” down the top, around the tail head, and down the rump.

A photograph of a herd of cattle grazing in a field. A large, leafy tree is in the background. The text "Final Exam" is overlaid in a large, yellow, serif font with a drop shadow effect.

Final Exam







A photograph of a herd of cattle grazing in a field. A large, leafy tree is in the background. The text "Animal Health" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, serif font.

Animal Health

Animal Health

➔ Important to keep your project healthy to maximize performance

➔ Consult with your veterinarian

- Vaccinate upon arrival and booster
 - **Blackleg**
 - **Respiratory Complex (IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV)**
 - Safe for pregnant females
- Vaccinate upon arrival and booster
 - **Leptosporosis**
- Vaccinate heifers
 - **Brucellosis**

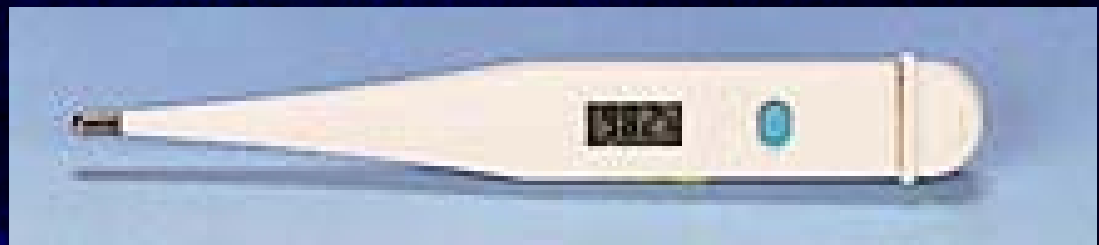


Animal Health

➔ Know how to identify when your calf is sick

➔ Invest in a thermometer (\$6.99)

- 101-102 degrees normally
- 103 degrees, getting sick



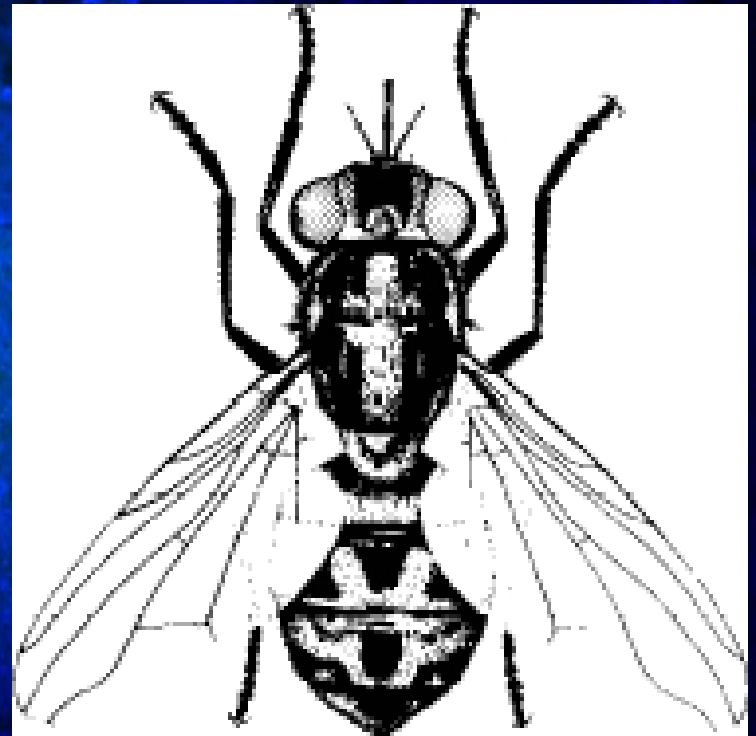
Animal Health

→ Control internal parasites

- Deworm upon arrival and every three months thereafter

→ Control external parasites

- Health of the animal
- Animal performance



Final note!!!

- 
- Observe your cattle carefully and watch for:
 - Bloat
 - Founder
 - Acidosis
 - Nasal discharge
 - Acting different!!!

Calving difficulty


➔ First calf heifers have a higher risk for dystocia than mature cows

- University of Nebraska data indicated that two year old first calf heifers are 3 to 4 times more likely to experience dystocia

➔ Two major causes of dystocia in heifers include:

- Heavy birth weights
- Underdeveloped heifers

Bull Selection

- 
- Low birth weight, calving ease bulls are top priority!!!
 - Bull breed
 - Actual birth weight
 - Birth weight Expected Progeny Differences
 - Disease free bulls
 - Fertile Bulls



**55th Annual Texas A&M
Beef Cattle Short Course
August 2-4, 2010**



Thank You

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