

# Management Calendar

Some basic but timely tips concerning health, nutrition and management are highlighted here. July, August and September are included in this issue. Check the January and March issues for the January through June tips, and future issues for more information.

## JULY (January if fall calving)

### Limit breeding season.

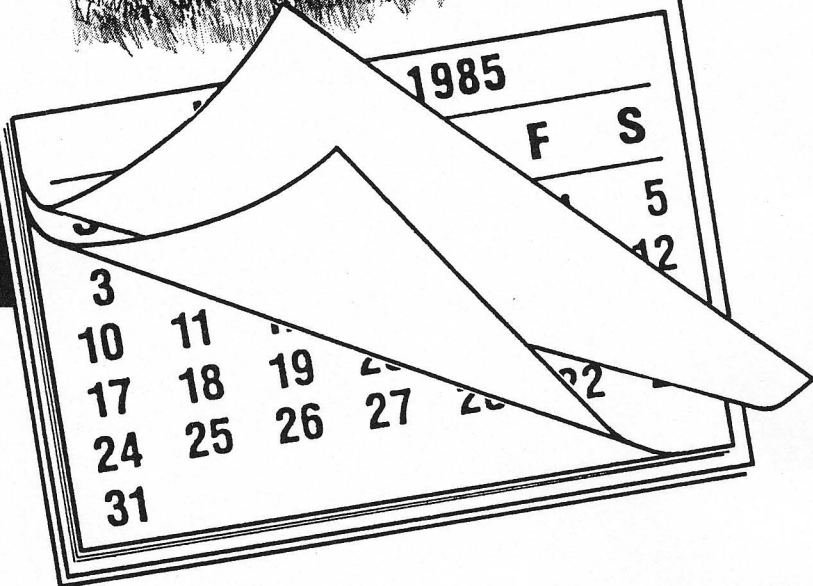
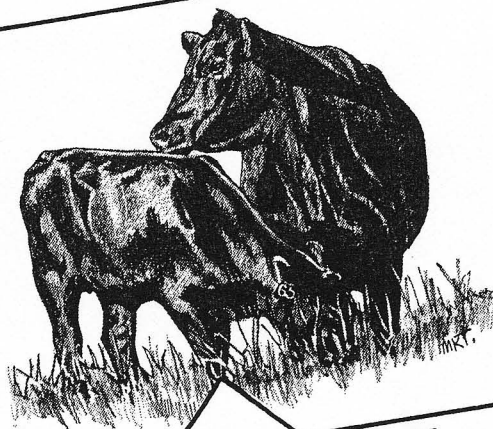
- Remove bulls after a 60-day breeding season. Bulls turned out May 21 should be pulled July 30 for a March 1 through April 30 calving season.
- Continue to check natural service sires daily.
- Continue to observe cows for signs of heat regularly and often. Make note of breeding dates and repeat services.

### Check pastures regularly.

- Continue to furnish adequate water, shade, mineral and salt to all cattle. Pay particular attention to fresh water supplies in the summer months. Beef cows may require up to 20 gallons of water per head daily.
- Continue fly-control program and check for signs of pinkeye.
  - Monitor fly population; whether dust bags, back rubbers, sprays, insecticidal ear tags, salt-mineral mix, or other means are used, make sure fly control is effective.
  - Clip grazed-over pasture so tall, coarse grasses do not irritate eyes.
  - Treat pinkeye by injecting 1 cc antibiotic in each eyelid, and shut out irritating sunlight by gluing patch over eye or by putting animal in dark quarters. (Consider vaccinating for IBR if pinkeye persists.)
- Check condition and health of cows and calves. Unthrifty calves may indicate poor-milking cows or insufficient pasture.

### Continue preventative herd health program.

- Calfhood vaccinate heifer calves for brucellosis (Bangs), if necessary. Consult your veterinarian regarding specific state regulations.
- Vaccinate calves for blackleg and leptospirosis if these diseases are a problem in your area.



### Look ahead to future forage needs.

- Strive to harvest forages at peak quality. This will increase production in your herd and reduce supplemental winter feed costs.
- Watch pasture condition (and condition of cows and calves) carefully. Do not overgraze; rotate pastures when necessary. Pasture rotation, clipping and harrowing can improve pasture quality and lengthen grazing season.
- If pastures are short and it appears they may run out in late summer, plan ahead to compensate (lease extra pasture, plant summer annuals like sudangrass, etc.). Start supplemental feeding, if necessary, before pastures are gone so as to extend grazing as long as possible.
- Look ahead to winter feed needs from the standpoint of deferred grazing of pastures and / or hay making.

### Participate in Angus, cattle and livestock activities.

- Summer is a prime time to get involved in area, state or national cattlemen's tours, field days, judging contests, shows, etc.
- Participate, contribute and interact. Not only are such gatherings informative, but they provide the chance to meet fellow cattlemen. Such "network communication" contacts are

important whether you are buying or selling Angus cattle.

## AUGUST (February if fall calving)

### End of breeding season.

- The planned breeding program of 60 days is at a close now.
- Continue to check herd for any unsettled cows. Open cows can be detected and culled when pregnancy tested in October.

### Continue checking pastures.

- Continue to monitor your fly control program. For many areas of the country, heaviest fly populations can be expected in August.
- Keep mineral feeders filled, and supply ample water. Pay close attention to tanks and ponds, as hot weather and increased needs of cattle will decrease water levels at a faster rate.

### Stockpile winter forage.

- New forage seedings may be established in late summer after tillage in early summer to control weeds. High-yielding quality forage is a key to increasing beef production.
- Be prepared to supplement the herd if pastures dry up. (Consider creep feeding for calves in this case.)
- Check hay supply for coming winter months. You should have at least 20 percent more hay on hand than is essential for meeting inclement weather demands.

#### Winter Feed Requirements of Mature Beef Cows\*

	Tons of feed per 1,000-lb. beef cow
Hay	2.0-2.5
Corn silage	4.0-4.5

\*Assuming 5½ months of winter feeding.

## SEPTEMBER (March if fall calving)

### Think ahead to weaning time.

- Make plans to wean calves during the month of October, or when they are approximately 205 days of age (between six and eight months old).

Weighing at the 205-day interval provides the exact information to be entered on your AHIR records and / or state performance-testing program.

- Plan to separate heifers from the bull and steer calves and pen separately.
- Plan to cull any open cows. Once her calf is weaned, an open cow is not working for you.

### Prepare for fall working needs.

- Line up supplies and drugs for fall roundup and weaning, including supplies for castrating, tattooing and branding.
- Buy ear tags to identify replacement heifers and cows.
- Stock up on wormer; pour-on chemical for grubs and lice; and IBR, PI<sub>3</sub>, and pasteurella vaccine for calves.
- Get facility ready for working cattle. This might include setting up extra pens or adding panels to pens for easier sorting. Make sure the scales and squeeze chute are in good working order for weaning, weighing and pregnancy testing next month.

### Plan marketing program.

- Alternatives for the commercial producer include: (1) special feeder calf sales; (2) weekly auction markets; (3) private treaty sales to cattle feeders; (4) private treaty sales to cattle dealers; (5) retaining ownership or feeding out the calves yourself. For any plan, calves—including those to be kept for herd replacements—should be started on a preconditioning program at weaning time.
- Start evaluating your calves now and select those to be registered. (The registration fee for calves three to 10 months old is \$8. Take advantage of the One More in '85 program and register one calf under a year of age for \$5 before Sept. 30.)
- For questions on registrations, AHIR, consignments to fall sales or other information, contact your area regional manager.
- Attend state fair shows, fall conferences, area and state association meetings. Make such events your opportunity to tell others about your newly-weaned calf crop. Also make plans to visit other herds and have other breeders visit your farm.

### Forage harvest important.

- Graze native grass.
- Graze legume grass rotationally.
- Harvest corn silage in the 30 to 40 percent dry matter range, chop fine and pack tightly into silo.
- Consider taking a third cutting of alfalfa in fall if you have allowed four to six weeks recovery after the second cutting.