

Angus Advisor

Beef Cow Herd Management Tips—Upper Midwest Region

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JULY

1. If you creep-feed on a free-choice basis, simply use a corn-oats mixture. Exotic ingredients are expensive and unnecessary. Small-framed calves should get mostly oats so they don't get fat. Larger-framed calves can take more corn. A typical conversion rate is about 9 pounds (lb.) creep per 1 lb. extra calf gain. Avoid creeping heifer calves—research has shown it may lower their future milk production.
2. Recent research has shown that salt-limited creep-feeding for 30-90 days prior to weaning is more cost-effective than unlimited (free-choice) feeding.
 - Conversion rates range from 3 lb. to 7 lb. creep per 1 lb. extra calf gain.
 - Intake must be limited to no more than 3 lb. creep/calf/day to achieve these conversion rates; 2 lb./day is ideal.
 - Start calves on less than 2% plain white salt in the creep mix. As consumption increases, elevate salt level to 8%-12% so as to limit intake.
3. Remove bulls after 90 days of breeding, preferably 65 days to keep next year's calving season relatively tight.
4. If it looks like pastures will run out, get ready to provide emergency feed. Options could include leasing your neighbor's idle pasture or

planting a summer annual such as Sudan grass or brassicas (rape, turnips, etc.) for fall grazing.

AUGUST

- In many areas, new forage seedings may be established in mid- to late summer after plowing and tillage in early summer to control weeds and grass regrowth. If tillage was not used, a herbicide can be applied, followed by sod seeding. However, sod seedings in summer are not as successful as spring seedings. Consult your area Extension office for details.
- Vaccinate replacement heifers for brucellosis (Bang's disease) if required. Requirements vary from state to state. Consult your veterinarian for details.
- Reimplant nonreplacement calves with growth stimulant if not done already.
- If calves are not doing as well as expected, consider deworming, especially if pastures are short.
- Be prepared to supplement the herd if pastures start to get dry. You can get more from pastures if you supplement early.
- If you are a seedstock producer who consigns spring-born bull calves to a central test, it's time to check entrance requirements to ensure all rules are met on schedule prior to the delivery date. 