



## Beef Cow Herd Management Tips

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- ✓ 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 Extension office for details.
- ✓ Vaccinate replacement heifers for Bangs disease if not done already. Requirements vary from state to state. Consult your veterinarian for details.
- ✓ Reimplant non-replacement calves with a 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 are drying up. You can stretch pastures further if you start supplementing early.
- ✓ If you are a seedstock producer who consigns spring-born bull calves to a central test, it is time to check entrance requirements so all rules are met on schedule prior to delivery date.

## Association AI Rules Reviewed

### *Q What is the Association's role on blood typing AI bulls?*

**A** All bulls which are the source of semen used for the purpose of artificial insemination (AI) must be blood typed. A record of their blood types must be filed with the American Angus Association before calves which are sired artificially by such bulls shall be eligible for registration, or before "out of herd" AI Service Certificates may be obtained from the Association.

### *Q How do I apply for an "out of herd" AI Service Certificate?*

**A** The following is one of the requirements that applies to registration of calves conceived artificially when the owner of record of the females is not the owner of record, or one of the owners of record, of the sire at time of conception.

The breeder (owner of record of female) must obtain an AI Service Certificate for each calf to be recorded from the individual or firm who supplied the semen. Such certificate must accompany application for registration of the resulting offspring. When AI Service Certificates are electronically stored in a breeder's membership file, the AI Service Certificate need not accompany the application for registration. In the case of multi-births, only one AI Service Certificate is required.

—Don Painter, Director of Member Services

## USDA Study Identifies BVD as Potential Concern For U.S. Cattle

A U.S. Department of Agriculture study of a severe type of bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) suggests that the emergence of this potentially fatal disease in the United States could present a serious health threat to the cattle industry.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service study was initiated following confirmation of this disease this spring in cattle herds in northwestern Pennsylvania. Veterinarians investigating the Pennsylvania cases have confirmed the disease was caused by BVD-Type 2 virus. USDA researchers have identified BVD-Type 2 virus as having significant genetic differences from the milder form of BVD more commonly found in cattle across the country. The Type 2 BVD virus has been found intermittently in the United States since the 1970s, but had not been linked to outbreaks of severe diseases.

The study, conducted by APHIS' Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), found there is an epidemiological basis for severe BVD to become a disease of concern for U.S. cattle producers. The potential for a disease problem exists because of the following factors: clinical cases of severe BVD have been documented in certain regions of the United States; many cattle are not vaccinated for BVD; the introduction of infected cattle into herds appears to be a risk factor; and the impact upon affected producers can be severe. An estimated 42 percent of dairy producers do not vaccinate for BVD. Only 33 percent of all beef calves are vaccinated before weaning, and 13 percent of cow-calf operations vaccinate cows.

BVD virus usually spreads into a susceptible herd through the introduction of infected cattle. High levels of cattle movement between U.S. herds increase the risk of BVD outbreaks. Once an unvaccinated herd is infected with severe BVD, the mortality rate can be high.

Severe BVD infection may cause cattle to have a high fever, anorexia, decreased milk production, occasional diarrhea and respiratory problems. This disease can affect cattle of any age, sometimes causing death within 48 hours. The disease is transmitted to susceptible cattle through inhalation or ingestion of respiratory aerosols, saliva, nasal discharge, urine or feces from infected cattle. BVD is not communicable to humans and does not present a threat to other animal species.

With fair season upon many, producers and exhibitors should be made aware of BVD vaccinations. Any time animals are introduced to new animals or shipped they are more susceptible to illness.

Cattle appear to be protected from the BVD virus if they are vaccinated appropriately. Appropriate vaccine means two killed virus vaccines distributed three weeks apart, given to six- to 10-month-old heifers and boosted every year. To protect animals without a good vaccination history, it's suggested a two-vaccine schedule before the fair/show/sale. The withdrawal time before slaughter is 21 days. Their first vaccination should be given about three weeks before the last one. This means a six-week lead time before an event.

Breeding cattle should receive their last vaccine no closer than seven to 10 days before an event. They would still need the first vaccine about three weeks before the last one. This means at least a four-week lead time.

To determine the distribution of BVD-Type 2, CEAH requested input about severe BVD from 29 state veterinary diagnostic laboratories located across the country. Seven laboratories reported cases of severe BVD that had been confirmed over the last year in their states. Two of these states, New York and Pennsylvania, indicated the number of severe BVD cases was increasing. Laboratories in Colorado and Washington reported suspected cases were not confirmed.

## Two Cents Worth

*Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way.*

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