



Angus Advisor

▶ OCTOBER herd management tips

Southern Great Plains

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Spring-calving herds

1. Wean and individually weigh calves and administer booster vaccinations according to the herd health plan.
2. Individually weigh, condition score and preg-check cows and bred heifers. Vaccinate cows and replacement females according to herd health plan. Consider culling females that are open; are poor producers; or have feet, leg, eye and udder problems.

Guide to abbreviations and acronyms

To make the "Angus Advisor" more concise and consistent, we have used the following abbreviations or expressions:

\$Values	dollar value indexes
AI	artificial insemination
ADG	average daily gain
BCS	body condition score
BLV	bovine leukemia virus
BMP	best management practices
BQA	beef quality assurance
BRD	bovine respiratory disease
BRSV	bovine respiratory syncytial virus
brucellosis	Bang's disease
BSE	bovine spongiform encephalopathy
BVD	bovine viral diarrhea
Ca	calcium
DM	dry matter
EPD	expected progeny difference
FMD	foot-and-mouth disease
GnRH	gonadotropin-releasing hormone
IBR	infectious bovine rhinotracheitis
ID	identification
IM	intramuscular
in.	inch
lb.	pound
lepto	leptospirosis
Mg	magnesium
MiG	management-intensive grazing
MLV	modified-live virus
N	nitrogen
P	phosphorus
PI	persistent infection
PI ₃	parainfluenza-3 virus
preg-check	pregnancy-check
Se	selenium
sq. ft.	square feet
TB	bovine tuberculosis
THI	temperature-humidity index
trich	trichomoniasis
Zn	zinc

3. Report whole-herd records to your breed association.
4. Treat cows and calves for internal and external parasites as recommended by your veterinarian.
5. Nonlactating, spring-calving cows can gain one full BCS during the fall, provided they have access to high-quality forage or stockpiled native range and a protein supplement. The equivalent of 0.3 lb.-0.4 lb. of supplemental protein is usually adequate for cows grazing abundant native range during late October and early November. This is equivalent to 1 lb. per day of a 32%-40% protein product or 2 lb. per day of a 20% protein product.

Cows grazing fertilized, stockpiled fescue; Bermuda grass; or cool-season annual forages will not require protein supplementation. However, if cows are in marginal body condition at weaning, 1-2 lb. per day of an energy supplement (10%-16% protein) will facilitate body condition gain.

6. Pregnant replacement heifers and growing heifer calves may require more supplemental feed than indicated above, depending on the producer's goal for pregnancy rate the following year. Most purebred producers aim for a high pregnancy rate in replacement heifer calves. This goal generally requires more supplementation or higher-quality forage to achieve a minimum of 65% of expected mature body weight by the beginning of the breeding season. A rate of gain of 1.25 lb. to 1.5 lb. per day is generally adequate to achieve this goal.

Some purebred breeders have chosen to put more selection pressure on reproductive efficiency. One way to achieve this is to limit gain of heifers so they weigh between 55% and 60% of expected mature body weight by the beginning of the breeding season. A rate of gain of 1 lb. to 1.25 lb. per day is generally adequate to achieve this goal.

Fall-calving herds

1. Continue weaned bulls and heifers on the highest-quality pasture available and provide a supplement such as Oklahoma Gold (1 lb. per day of high-protein supplement with an ionophore) for cattle grazing native grass pasture or low-quality

Bermuda grass pasture.

2. Evaluate bulls for semen quality and trim feet, if necessary.
3. Purchase new herd bulls using EPDs as major selection criteria. Check history on health, including immunizations and diseases on the farm of origin. If possible, ask to see the dams of bulls you are interested in purchasing. Selection for good udder quality and other desirable female characteristics begins with bull and semen purchases.
4. Closely monitor late-calving heifers for possible calving problems.
5. Purchase herd health products that will be needed for the fall "branding" time herd health program.
6. Lactating cows grazing abundant native range forage should receive a minimum of 0.8 lb. per day of supplemental protein. Cows grazing stockpiled, fertilized fescue, Bermuda grass or cool-season annuals should receive 3 lb.-6 lb. of a 12%-20% protein product, depending on cow condition, genetic potential for milk production and forage quality.
7. Young, lactating cows have 20%-25% greater supplemental needs than indicated above.

General recommendations

1. Review range conditions and plan pasture stocking for fall and winter accordingly. Unfortunately, many ranches are still overgrazed. Some managers have increased cow size and/or genetic potential for growth and milk without reducing the stocking rate accordingly. The result is a gradual increase in the need for hay, supplement, fertilizer, herbicide, etc. One simple way to reduce brush control, fertilizer, and purchased or harvested feed cost is to reduce the stocking rate on a ranch. More standing forage allows cattle to select a higher-quality diet (resulting in less need for supplementation), reduces hay feeding, leaves adequate fuel for controlled burns and minimizes erosion.
2. See "Angus Advisor" in the September *Angus Journal* for critical mineral considerations in this region. Carotene, which is the precursor to vitamin A in ruminant animals, declines to almost zero in standing dormant forage. Therefore, vitamin supplementation, specifically