

COUNTRYSIDE KEYNOTES


OCTOBER 2021



COUNTRYSIDE FEED, LLC
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3

VISIT US ONLINE

 countrysidefeed.com

 Countryside Feed

FALL CHECKLIST

FALL CHECKLIST FOR REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT

BY RYON S. WALKER, PROGRESSIVE CATTLE, 2021

Preparing for any breeding season is a year-round process, regardless of what breeding season you manage your cows for. With fall rolling around, there are things to consider, plans to be developed and decisions to be made. So now is a good time to develop a reproductive checklist tailored to when your calving season is: spring-calving or fall-calving. The fall reproductive checklist includes these important elements, with considerations for both calving seasons in the descriptions that follow:

- Adjustments from last year
- Bull maintenance
- Herd health vaccinations
- Nutrition
- Pregnancy determination
- Heifer development

Adjustments from last year

The reason you adjust is to improve. So you have to ask yourself, am I satisfied with the results I had last year? By asking the questions below, you move yourself closer to reaching your production and/or economic goals faster. Specific questions you should consider asking include, but are not limited to: *Is my calving start date where I want it to be? Were my pregnancy rates where I want them to be? What percentage of my cows/heifers calved in the first 30 days of calving season? How long was my calving season? Am I calving when I want or need to calve (i.e., during the forage growing season or not)? Did I use any reproductive technologies (A.I., estrous synchronization, embryo transfer, pregnancy determination), and was I satisfied with the results?*

You don't necessarily have to adjust everything at once, especially if you are not satisfied with the answers to a lot of the questions you asked. If that's the case, choose the areas where you need the biggest improvement and go from there. Bite off a little bit at a time if you have to.

Bull maintenance

Fall calving. – Bulls should go into the breeding season in a BCS of 6 or better. This should not be a problem if you only have one breeding season in your operation. Those who have two breeding seasons and use the same bulls for both will have a harder time getting bulls back into breeding shape because of the shorter rest and recovery period that they have between breeding seasons. Get your bulls BSE (breeding soundness exam) tested at least 60 days prior to the breeding season. This is critical, because an infertile bull can impact whether 20 to 30 cows get pregnant or not, depending on the bull-cow ratio. Financially, a producer cannot afford that. Having that 60-day buffer before breeding begins allows you to find a replacement bull if your bull did not pass the BSE test.

Spring calving. – Your biggest priority this time of year is getting those bulls on a plain of nutrition that will help them reach that targeted BCS of 6 by breeding time.

Herd health vaccinations

Fall calving. - Herd health vaccinations and choosing vaccines is critically important to maximize the opportunity for high fertility rates. Timing of immunization is critical to success because some vaccines only produce short-term immunity. Knowledge of when each pathogen induces abortion is helpful in planning when and how to immunize your herd. Vaccinations should occur 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the breeding season in

OCTOBER IS



National Pork Month

- Pork is the world's most widely consumed meat. It accounts for 42% of consumed meat (chicken is 33% & beef is 22%)
- Each market hog represents 371 servings of pork.
- The leanest cuts of pork have the word loin in them, such as pork tenderloin or loin chop.
- The phrase "living high on the hog" originated among army enlisted men referring to the top loin cuts that officers received while the enlisted received shoulder and leg cuts.

COUNTRYSIDE KEYNOTES



SENECA
PO BOX 205
1972 K-187
SENECA, KS
(785) 336-6777

HILLSBORO
101 SANTE FE
HILLSBORO, KS
(620) 947-3111



a fall-calving herd. If the cows are already on a modified-live vaccination program given around weaning, check with your vet to see if there are other critical diseases to vaccinate for prior to breeding. Replacement heifers need to be vaccinated 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the breeding season.

Spring calving – If the spring-calving herd is set up on a MLV program, then vaccination usually occurs around weaning and/or pregnancy diagnosis. Remember, MLV vaccines given to naïve pregnant cattle (within approx. 30 days of breeding) may induce abortion of the fetus. If the herd is on a killed-vaccine program at pregnancy diagnosis, just remember, killed vaccines have short-lived immunity. It is important that you consult with your local vet on what type of vaccinations you should give and when, particularly for those diseases that can cause reproductive failure during pregnancy and throughout gestation.

Nutrition

Fall calving – Pregnant cows should be in good body condition at calving (minimum BCS of 5) to begin cycling early on during the postpartum period. The increase in nutrient demands before and after calving put pressure on that cow's ability to recover from calving sooner and begin cycling again. Good management practices allow a producer to increase nutrient availability during the last month of gestation, which is much easier in fall-calving cows grazing during the summer growing season non-lactating. Cattle that calve in a poor body condition can still conceive; however, a cow in poor condition will typically conceive later in the breeding season and risk falling out of the herd because she eventually came up open. Once that cow (or heifer) has calved, it is critical that she maintains or increases body condition over time to ensure she resumes estrus prior to the breeding season.

Spring calving – The fall is not as stressful a time for spring-calving herds. After weaning their calves, those females have one to two months where maintenance energy requirements are the lowest during their production cycle. This is the time to make up for any loss in body condition prior to spring calving.

Pregnancy determination

There is not much to explain here, you either determine pregnancy in your herd around weaning time or not. Pregnancy determination is a powerful tool that gives you an early indication of your overall breeding season success. This information, followed by calving rate and calving information can paint an overall picture of what your herd fertility looks like.

Fall calving – you should have either started calving or are about to start the process of calving soon. However, something we should pay attention to is how many females have not calved by the end of the planned calving season. This is an opportunity to determine if non-calvers are in fact pregnant (preg check) and will calve at the very end of the calving season, or if they aborted the fetus sometime during pregnancy. This will give you the opportunity to deal with those remaining females that were unknown in your mind.

Spring calving – Fall is a great time to conduct a pregnancy evaluation (around weaning) of spring-calving herds so you can identify those open cows early on. This can be done any time before, during or after weaning.

Heifer development

Not everyone keeps their own replacement heifers to develop. However, if you do, fall is a critical time to evaluate where you are in the heifer development phase and make sure each selected heifer is on track for the breeding season.

Fall calving – Heifers should be developed to reach 60%-65% of mature bodyweight at breeding. To achieve this, heifers should typically gain approximately 1.5 pounds per head per day from weaning to breeding. Now is the time to get a check weight and see if they are on track to reach that target breeding weight. This will allow you to sort out any heifers you think may not make weight by the beginning of the breeding season.

Spring calving – For these herds, the weaning process is close and you should be determining which heifers to keep as replacements. Just remember, keeping a heifer that is too light will require higher daily gain to make up for the low weaning weight. On the other hand, heifers that are on the higher end of bodyweight are likely from bigger cows and thus will become bigger cows later in life.

COMEDY CORNER

WHAT DID THE CORN FARMER SAY
AFTER HE HAD A PARTICULARLY
GOOD HARVEST?

THERE'S POLENTA MORE
WHERE THAT CAME FROM!!

COUNTRYSIDE ANNIVERSARIES

LYNN WICHMAN
1 year

RON EHRSAM
1 year

THANK YOU



OUR
SALES & NUTRITION TEAM

HAPPY
HARVEST
HUNTING &
HALLOWEEN!

DEAN BECKER

785-294-0415
dbecker@countrysidefeed.com

KEVIN LUEGER

785-294-0408
klueger@countrysidefeed.com

TARA JO ELLERMAN

913-370-2556
tellerman@countrysidefeed.com

CLAYTON SARDELLA

785-294-0412
csardella@countrysidefeed.com

GREG THOMPSON

620-382-5464
gthompson@countrysidefeed.com

FRANK MOREY

620-382-5463
fmory@countrysidefeed.com

KYLE CEDERBERG

620-382-6284
kcdbrg@countrysidefeed.com

BILL TOEWS

620-382-6173
btoews@countrysidefeed.com