



MAXIMISE

Your Breeder Herd's Potential

Fertility is one of the key profit drivers in any beef production enterprise. To maximise your profit, you need to ensure that each of your breeders produces you a good calf, born within a tight calving interval, every year. Meeting this goal requires you to manage your herd to maximise your conception rate, tighten your calving interval, minimise losses during pregnancy, calving and up to weaning, optimise your breeders health and prepare ahead of time for next years calving period. South East Country Vets can help you increase your bottom line by providing you with the tools and advice you need to improve your production or we can completely tailor design a plan for your individual herd. The following are just some of our recommendations.

INCREASE CONCEPTION RATES

Bull testing - Ensure your bulls are up to the job. Full Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness exams before the joining season are a top to tail check of your bulls including feet, structure, reproductive system, crush side semen quality and semen morphological assessment.

Prejoining nutrition - Ensure that your cows are on a rising plane of nutrition leading up to joining and have a body condition score (BCS) of 3. Consider using Multimix to improve their nutritional status, reduce embryonic loss and prevent mineral deficiencies. Utilise dry licks, especially in dry seasons to ensure breeders are making the most of your pasture.

Pregnancy testing - utilise our services to pregnancy test your herd 8 weeks after the bulls come out. This will identify empty cows providing you the opportunity to fatten and cull these infertile cows, whilst ensuring you can replace these with pregnant females to ensure your calf drop is not reduced.



REDUCE EMBRYONIC / FOETAL LOSS

Vaccinate against reproductive diseases

Pestivirus is the leading cause of foetal (abortion) and financial loss (empty cows, stillborn calves, infertility) in any herd. Vaccinate your breeders annually before joining with Pestiguard
Vibriosis - Carried by the bull, this common disease causes mid to late term abortion and can cause permanent infertility. Vaccinate your bulls with Vibrovax annually before joining.
Leptospirosis - carried by cattle, pigs and feral pests, this disease causes abortion and can cause infection in humans causing serious prolonged illness. Vaccinate your breeders and replacement heifers annually against this disease with 7 in 1 before joining.

ENSURE BREEDER HEALTH AND REDUCE MORTALITY

Vaccinate against diseases which cause sudden death

Tick Fever - A number of parasites are carried by cattle ticks. This disease can cause rapid anaemia and death and is easily prevented by giving one vaccination of tick fever vaccine to your weaners that will provide lifelong protection.

Botulism - a toxin produced by bacteria. This disease is seen on phosphorus deficient country where cattle chew on carcass bones and also is found on rotting vegetation (poorly produced silage) and from decaying carcasses (sometimes found in hay). Vaccinate annually with Longrange or Singvac against this fatal disease.

Clostridial disease - Annual vaccination with 7 in 1 will protect against the major clostridial diseases such as tetanus, blackleg and pulpy kidney. Vaccinate your breeders annually and if given 8 weeks before calving, will also protect calves for the first three months of life. Also vaccinate your calves at or before weaning.



PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT YEARS CALVING

Monitoring your breeders BCS and adjusting their nutrition to maintain a 3+ at calving and joining is a major key to successful breeder management. Allowing cows to slip by just one BCS will reduce your subsequent calf drop by up to 20%. Caring for your breeders during this time, especially in first calf heifers is essential. Supplement during joining and if needed, through winter after weaning in order to meet this aim.

Aim for a tight calving interval, preferably 60 days. This will provide a more even line of weaners and reduce your costs in terms of less time in the yards and reduced husbandry costs over multiple weaning batches. Aim to produce a calf every 12 months per cow with calves born between August and October. This leaves only 2.5 months to get your cows back in calf after calving. Cows in lower BCS will often go into lactational anestrus, delaying cycling and lengthening the time to go in calf. Concentrate on breeder nutrition and health to ensure that a tight calving interval of preferably 60 days can be met. This will reduce the number of weans required, provide a more uniform weaner drop and minimise your costs for husbandry for these calves.

Call us at
South East Country Vets for
advice on any of the above principles.

Blackbutt 07 4170 0022
Crows Nest 07 4698 2520
Toogoolawah 07 5423 1303

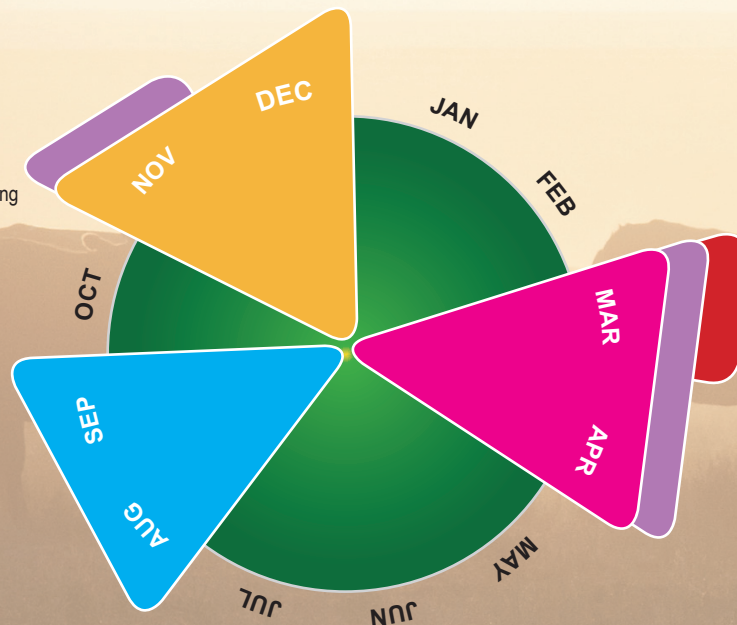


ANNUAL GUIDE TO CATTLE MANAGEMENT & HERD HEALTH

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FEED STATUS	Good Protein & Energy	Highest Protein & Energy	Good Protein & Energy	Fair Protein & Energy	Declining Protein & Energy			Low Protein & Energy		Low Protein & Energy Chance of Rain/Seasonal Break (Sep - Nov)		
COW STATUS	Wet & Pregnant		Wet to Dry Pregnant		Dry & Pregnant			Calving Begins	Calving & Wet		Wet	Wet & Pregnant
EVENTS	JOINING Bulls Out 24 Jan (12w joining)		WEANING & PREGNANCY TESTING (PT 6-8 weeks after Bulls out - Identify cows that will calve in optimum 60 day interval)					CALVING (11 Aug - 3 Nov) (ideally 60 day interval)			JOINING Bulls in Nov 1 for Breeders Maiden Heifers Join 1 Month Earlier	
	SELL YEARLING STEERS + FAT COWS (that did not calve)	SELL FAT COWS (that did not calve)	SELECT REPLACEMENT HEIFERS	WEANER SALES + CULL EMPTY COWS				BULL TESTING SELL INFERTILE BULLS BUY NEW BULLS				BRANDING + Draft off Cows that failed to calve

VACCINATION SCHEDULE

- **REPLACEMENT HEFERS**
MARCH - 7in1 + Botulism + Pestigard Vaccine
(1st vaccine)
APRIL - 7in1 + Pestigard Vaccine
(2nd vaccine - if not done as a calf)
- **WEANERS / YOUNG STOCK**
MARCH TO APRIL - Tick Fever Vaccine, at weaning
NOVEMBER - 5in1 Vaccine
(annual vaccine for yearling steers / cull heifers)
- **COWS**
MARCH - 7in1 + Botulism + Pestigard Vaccine
(annual vaccine)
- **BULLS**
AUGUST - Vibrovax + BEF Vaccine
(annual or 1st vaccine)
SEPTEMBER - Vibrovax + BEF Vaccine
(2nd vaccine for new / unvaccinated bulls)
- **CALVES**
NOVEMBER - 5in1 Vaccine (1st vaccine)
OR 7in1 for replacement heifers >3 mths
DECEMBER - 5in1 Vaccine (2nd vaccine)
OR 7in1 6wks after 1st vaccine



PARASITE CONTROL

All classes of stock: For a parasite control program for intestinal worms, buffalo fly, cattle ticks, and lice tailored to your production system please seek Veterinary advice.

SUPPLEMENTATION & NUTRITION SCHEDULE

(Assuming there is sufficient Dry Matter available & Stocking Rate is matched to Carrying Capacity)

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Phosphorus Supplementation for breeders and growing stock.

MARCH - APRIL

Trace mineral injection for weaners.

APRIL - MAY

Annual Pasture Budget.

Destock to ensure SR:CC & enough grass until October.

APRIL - AUGUST

Degradable Protein Supplementation.

(aim for high crude protein % supplements e.g. urea based) until season breaks.

JUNE - JULY

Trace mineral injection before calving for breeders.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Bypass Protein Supplementation.

(e.g. Protein meals fed separately to degradable protein) for breeders if no season break, to maintain BCS 3+

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Phosphorus Supplementation for lactating breeders.