



WYOMING HEIFER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2012

Due to the increasing prices of beef cattle now and predicted for the foreseeable future, there appears to be a very real opportunity to capture value for replacement heifer calves and bred heifers. This joint venture between the University of Wyoming's Department of Animal Science and the Wyoming Business Council's Agribusiness Division is designed with the sole intent of creating an expanded marketing opportunity for commercial heifers, both replacement and bred. Our contention is that bred heifers and heifer calves will bring a premium in the market place. The program, cattle listings, and special sales will be promoted and marketed through industry publications and convention trade shows across the country. The program's intent is to create a venue where heifers that are developed and bred according to the guidelines set forth will provide valuable information to buyers and should receive a premium in the market place. Therefore, our objectives are:

1. To increase the education and awareness of heifer development practices that will result in optimum reproductive efficiency of mature cows.
2. To add value, promote and increase nationally the marketing opportunities for Wyoming produced heifers.
3. To increase opportunities for beef producers nationally, to purchase the quality beef replacement females that are produced in Wyoming and under the protocol of this program.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment

Annual application and enrollment fee of \$25 qualifies the ranch for placement of replacement heifer calves and/or bred heifers in the program. **As a promotional item for the first year inauguration the annual ranch enrollment fee will be waived for 2012 only.** Application and tag fees

(make checks payable to the Wyoming Business Council) should be sent to Dr. Scott Lake, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave. Dept 3684, Laramie, WY 82071.

Any producer wishing to qualify for the Wyoming Premium Heifer Program must submit an enrollment application. The application can be downloaded off of the Wyoming Beef Cattle List web site at www.wyobeef.com. **The membership application must be received for enrollment of bred heifers by June 1st. For enrollment of replacement heifer calves, the application and enrollment fee must be received by September 1st.**

There will also be a \$3 per head charge for qualified heifers enrolled which includes the official Wyoming Premium Heifer Program visual tag, and is due prior to tags being sent out. To order the program tags contact Dr. Scott Lake. The visual tag must be placed in the left ear prior to the sale to be certified in the program. For example, program tags can be placed in the heifer's ear at pregnancy check for bred heifers or last time handling for replacement heifer calves prior to the sale date.

For producers not having feed resources or facilities to wean heifer calves, or to have heifers custom developed, a listing of heifer development operations (not inclusive) is included in Appendix A.

Ownership

Heifers must be owned by a person or entity that resides in Wyoming. Ranches with multiple divisions in differing states are also eligible for the program as long as one of their divisions resides in Wyoming and heifers to be marketed in the Wyoming Premium Heifer Program have to be owned by an enrolled producer 60 days prior to breeding or sale date for replacement heifer calves.

Heifers purchased out-of-state by Wyoming producers are eligible for the program as long as the animal meets all requirements, and has been owned by a Wyoming producer for at least 60 days prior to the breeding season for heifers entering the bred female program, or prior to sale date for replacement heifer calves. The requirement for the use of the OCV RFID tag is waived on purchased out of state heifers.

Requirements

Producers who enroll in the program must be BQA certified. To become BQA certified, or renewing certification can be done by following the instructions of the on-line training manual at: http://www.uwyo.edu/wyovet/_files/bqa_manual.pdf.

Minimum vaccination requirements

Producers are encouraged to work with their local veterinarian to develop a comprehensive herd health program.

- 1) All heifers must have received Brucellosis (Bangs) vaccinations in accordance with state and federal laws and be tagged with the orange 840 OCV RFID tags that need to be requested from their veterinarian. **For bred heifers enrolled in 2012 only, the OCV RFID tag requirement will be waived due to the animals already having the brucellosis metal tag in place.**
- 2) Heifers must be vaccinated and boosted for IBR, BVD, PI 3, BRSV, leptospirosis (5 way), vibriosis and 7-way clostridia at weaning with a modified live vaccine.
- 3) Heifers must be booster vaccinated against Leptospirosis (5-way) and Vibriosis and must be given between 30-60 days prior to breeding.
- 4) Heifer calves must be weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to sale date.

Pregnancy examination

Heifers must be pregnancy tested by a licensed veterinarian no more than 60 days prior to sale. Individual animal ID and pregnancy status of each certified heifer are required. Breeding dates (A.I. or natural service) must be reported in the Marketing Form. Any heifer that fails to become pregnant or loses a pregnancy after the original breeding season is ineligible for the program.

The consignor guarantees bred heifers to be safe in calf at the time of delivery. If a heifer is proven by a veterinary exam within 7 days after delivery to be open the buyer must: 1) Contact the marketing agent directly, 2) Procure a signed statement of fact from a licensed veterinarian; 3) Reach an agreement with the marketing agent and consignor as to the settlement procedure.

SALE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The sale of bred heifers and replacement heifer calves from the Wyoming Premium Heifer Program will be special internet video sales. The Marketing Form needs to be completed after the program tags are put in the heifers and submitted. It can be downloaded off the Wyoming Beef Cattle List web site at www.wyobeef.com.

Program ID: In addition to the RFID Brucellosis tag, heifers must have the visual official program ID tag prior to the sale. The official program ear tags will be sent to each producer once the enrollment and tag fees have been paid.

Implants and MGA: Heifers that have received an implant are not eligible for the program. Use of MGA for synchronization purposes is allowable. However, MGA should not be fed for more than 14 days.

Blemishes: Heifers with active cases of pink-eye or scours as a result of pink-eye or have warts are ineligible for the sale. Horns and scurs must be removed and healed by sale date. Heifers with excessively bad dispositions are extremely discouraged.

Weight and Body Condition: Bred heifers are recommended to have a body condition score between a 5 to 7 (1-9 scale) on sale day.

Brown and Gold Levels

Brown 1. All heifers eligible for the program automatically qualify for Brown 1 classification.

Gold 2. To be eligible for ***Gold 2***, heifers must meet all of the Brown 1 requirements, be tested for BVD-PI, and be AI bred to qualifying known sires. Sires must have a direct calving ease in the top 25% of the breed.

Heifers that are bred artificially must not be exposed to a cleanup bull for 15 days post-AI to be eligible for Gold 2, with a total breeding season not to exceed 45 days (including the 15 day post-AI period).

For more information please contact:

Dr. Scott Lake
307-460-8129
scotlake@uwyo.edu



John Henn
307-630-3562
john.henn@wyo.gov



**Wyoming Premium Heifer Program
Timeline and Data Collection**

<i>Bred Heifers/Replacement Heifers</i>	<i>Bred Heifers</i>			
Weaning/Post Weaning Replacement and Bred Heifers	Pre-Breeding Bred Heifers	Breeding Bred Heifers	Pregnancy Exam	Pre-Sale
<p>Procedures:</p> <p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Sept. 1st (replacement heifer calves) • Vaccination and booster- IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, lepto, clostridial, Brucellosis OCV RFID tag req'd. (modified live) • Calves weaned 45 days prior to sale date • BVD-PI (Gold 2) <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and sort for structural soundness • Parasite control 	<p>Required:</p> <p>Application deadline June 1st (bred heifers)</p> <p>Procedures: (30-60 days prior to breeding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinations IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, lepto, vibrio, clostridial, (modified live) 	<p>Required:</p> <p>Breeding program:</p> <p>Brown 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural service and sire registry number • Breeding Season dates • 60 day breeding season (max) <p>Gold 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI and Sire Information • 15 day AI and bull turn-out • 45 day breeding season (max) • Synch protocol 	<p>Required:</p> <p>Documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy status (within 60 days of sale) • Projected calving date <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat for parasites 	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Marketing Form <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCS 5-7 (bred heifers) • Evaluate for structural soundness

Appendix A

Recommended Added Value Practices

No ear mark (looked upon by buyers as frozen ears)
Tags in left ear only
No frozen ears or tails
Provide historical carcass data
Ultra sound for carcass characteristics

Heifer Development Backgrounding Lots

Stuart McLaen, Lingle, WY 307-532-0686
Y 6 Feeders, Rowdy Petsch, Meridan, WY 307-246-3565
John Kinchen, Lusk, WY 307-334-3805
Paul Miller, Torrington, WY 307-532-2338
Scott Salo, Torrington, WY 307-575-0064
Bill Klein, Wheatland, WY 307-331-0136

Required Documentation:

AI and NS breeding dates, clean-up bull turnout date (copy of calendar, redbook, etc.)
Vaccination and parasite control receipts showing vaccines used
Vaccination dates (copy of calendar, redbook, etc.)
Brucellosis certificate
BQA certificate
Pregnancy documentation
NS sires registry numbers
AI sires and EPD information
BVD-PI lab results
Purchased or animal transfer date (brand inspection copy)