



## It Is Time To Begin The Early Evening Feeding

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

It is generally accepted that adequate supervision at calving has a significant impact on reducing calf mortality. Adequate supervision has been of increasing importance with the higher price of live calves at sale time. On most ranching operations, supervision of the first calf heifers will be best accomplished in daylight hours and the poorest observation takes place in the middle of the night.

The easiest and most practical method of inhibiting nighttime calving at present is by feeding cows at night; the physiological mechanism is unknown, but some hormonal effect may be involved. Rumen motility studies indicate the frequency of rumen contractions falls a few hours before parturition. Intraruminal pressure begins to fall in the last 2 weeks of gestation, with a more rapid decline during calving. It has been suggested that night feeding causes intraruminal pressures to rise at night and decline in the daytime.

In a Canadian study of 104 Hereford cows 38.4% of a group fed at 8:00 am and again at 3:00 pm delivered calves during the day, 79.6% of a group fed at 11:00 am and 9:00 pm. A British study utilizing 162 cattle on 4 farms compared the percentages of calves born from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm to cows fed at different times. When cattle were fed at 9:00 am, 57% of the calves were born during the day, versus 79% with feeding at 10:00 pm. In field trials by cattlemen utilizing night feeding when 35 cows and heifers were fed once daily between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm, 74.5% of the calves were born between 5:00 am and 5:00 pm. In the most convincing study to date, 1331 cows on 15 farms in Iowa were fed once daily at dusk, 85% of the calves were born between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm.

On many large ranches, it is physically impossible to feed all of the cows after 5:00 pm. In those instances, the ranch manager should plan to feed the mature cows earlier in the day, then feed the first calf heifers at dusk. The heifers, of course, are the group of females that are of greatest need of observation during the calving season.

Various means have been employed to effectively reduce animal loss at calving time. Skilled personnel should be available to render obstetric assistance and neonatal care to maximize percentage calf crop weaned in the cattle operation. Currently, evening feeding of cattle seems to be the most effective method of scheduling parturition so assistance can be available during daylight hours.

## Cow-Calf Producers: Plan Beyond 2015 To Figure Out What To Do In 2015

*Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist*

The euphoria of high cattle prices in 2014 leads, for some cow-calf producers, to uneasiness and indecision in 2015. The question is how to best take advantage of the current market. The answer to that depends on several factors including;

- 1) The current status of the operation, i.e., is the operation at full capacity or is there room to grow?
- 2) The producer's market expectations for the next several years.
- 3) For older producers: is there a time frame for retiring/exiting the business?

In other words, producers need to ask now where they want to be in 3-5 years. The answer to that question will reveal whether 2015 should be a year of liquidation; holding steady; or expanding the cow herd.



For some older producers, for whom retiring or exiting the business in the next few years is inevitable, the current market provides an opportunity to liquidate cattle assets at previously unheard of values. Hopefully, the decision to liquidate cattle is part of a business transition plan that is already developed and may or may not yet be activated. The decision about when to liquidate will be guided by the business transition plan and also by market expectations. Should the herd

be liquidated in 2015 or perhaps 2016? Is it better to wait to get another calf crop on the ground; or perhaps two more calf crops? There may be very good reasons not to liquidate the entire herd at one time. Now is the time to develop a plan that might include, for example, liquidating older cows in 2015 and saving younger cows and heifers until 2016 or, perhaps phasing the final liquidation into 2017. The point is to determine where you want to be and when and start implementing the plan in 2015.

Some producers may be holding steady for a variety of reasons. If the operation is a full capacity and expansion is not feasible or desirable, the focus should be on maximizing productivity. High prices and increased net returns is a signal to tweak management decisions to increase productivity and efficiency. The market is rewarding calf production and producers should consider any opportunities where spending a bit more on inputs might boost production or reduce the odds of death loss or lost productivity.

Some producers may have the capacity to expand the herd but are holding steady because they either cannot resist the returns from selling heifers now or cannot bear the thought of paying current prices for replacement heifers or cows. Evaluation of how much one can afford to pay or how much a heifer retained for breeding is worth depends critically on one's market expectations for the next several years. Obviously, if current prices are not expected to persist for long, heifer and cow prices are judged to be too high. Current cattle prices are a signal for herd expansion that will persist until enough expansion occurs to satisfy market needs. Herd expansion is likely to take several years and strong cattle prices may be expected over most of that time. Breeding female prices likely have not peaked and will, in any event remain strong in 2016 or beyond. The dilemma for these producers is that hesitation to expand now may turn into expansion desires in the next year or two. If that is possible or likely, it may make sense to expand sooner rather than later. Whether or not female prices are too high now is arguable but there is no doubt that at some point it will be too late to jump on the bandwagon. I expect that point is at least a year away and possibly two. Again, it is a question of how best to take advantage of current markets.

There are some producers holding steady at reduced herd size due to ongoing drought or because time is needed to allow forage resources to recover from drought damage. It is critical to manage forages for long term productivity and it takes management patience and discipline to maintain reduced stocking rates and allow forage recovery. Producers in this situation may be able to consider seasonal stocker enterprises to utilize limited available forage and generate some revenue while managing pastures for recovery. A herd rebuilding plan can be developed that will be triggered by drought and forage recovery thresholds and changing market conditions.

Finally, some producers are already into expansion mode. It appears that heifer retention started in late 2013 and accelerated in 2014. Beef replacement heifers on January 1, 2014 were 18.8 percent of the beef cow herd, slightly higher than the 2013 rate of 18.3 percent and both above the 20 year average of 17.4 percent. The 2014 value is higher than the highest rate that occurred in the 1990-1995 cyclical expansion (18.4 percent in 1994). The Cattle report on January 30, 2015 will provide data on herd expansion in 2014 and replacement heifers for 2015. Beef replacement heifers could be over 19 percent of the beef cow herd; a replacement inventory percentage not seen since the herd buildup to the all-time cattle inventories of the mid-1970s. While this would indicate a relatively aggressive expansion rate, herd expansion is still a slow process over the next several years because of the low herd size from which expansion is beginning.

## **When Do We Intervene And Assist A Cow Or Heifer In Labor?**

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

Before the spring calving season commences, now is the time to put together and post a protocol for family members and hired employees to follow when they find a cow or heifer starting in the process of calving. An issue facing the rancher at calving time, is the amount of time heifers or cows are allowed to be in labor before assistance is given. Traditional text books, fact sheets and magazine articles stated that "Stage II" of labor lasted from 2 to 4 hours. "Stage II" is defined as that portion of the birthing process from the first appearance of the water bag until the baby calf is delivered. Research data from Oklahoma State University and the USDA experiment station at Miles City, Montana clearly show that Stage II is much shorter, lasting approximately 60 minutes in first calf heifers, and 30 minutes in mature cows.

Table 1. Research Results of Length of Stage II of Parturition

Source	No. of Animals	Length of Stage II
USDA (Doornbos, et al.1984. JAS:59:1)	24 mature cows	22.5 min.
USDA (Doornbos, et al.1984. JAS:59:1)	32 first calf heifers	54.1 min.
Oklahoma State Univ. (Putnam, et al. 1985. Therio:24:385)	32 first calf heifers	55.0 min.

In these studies, heifers that were in stage II of labor much more than one hour or cows that were in stage II much more than 30 minutes definitely needed assistance. Research information also shows that calves from prolonged deliveries are weaker and more disease prone, even if born alive. In addition, cows or heifers with prolonged deliveries return to heat later and are less likely to be bred for the next calf crop. Consequently a good rule of thumb: “If the heifer is not making significant progress 1 hour after the water bag or feet appear, examine the heifer to see if you can provide assistance. Mature cows should be watched for only 30 minutes before a rectal examine is conducted.” Make certain the cervix is completely dilated before pulling on the chains. If you cannot safely deliver the calf yourself at this time, call your local large animal veterinarian immediately.

Most ranches develop heifers fully, and use calving ease bulls to prevent calving difficulties. However, a few difficult births are going to occur each calving season. Using the concept of evening feeding to get more heifers calving in daylight, and giving assistance early will save a few more calves, and result in healthier more productive two-year cows to rebreed next year.

### The 3 Stages Of Parturition

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

As the spring calving season approaches, an increased understanding of the parturition process is helpful. The more we understand about the physiology of the process, the more likely we are to make sound decisions about providing assistance. Parturition or “calving” is generally considered to occur in three stages.

**Stage 1:** The first stage of parturition is dilation of the cervix. The normal cervix is tightly closed right up until the cervical plug is completely dissolved. In stage 1, cervical dilation begins some 2 to 24 hours before the completion of parturition (2 to 6 hours would be most common). During this time the “progesterone block” is no longer present and the uterine muscles are becoming more sensitive to all factors that increase the rate and strength of contractions. At the beginning, the contractile forces primarily influence the relaxation of the cervix but uterine muscular activity is still rather quiet. Stage 1 is likely to go completely unnoticed, but there may be some behavioral differences such as isolation or discomfort. At the end of stage one, there may be some behavioral changes such as elevation of the tail, switching of the tail and increased mucous discharge. Also relaxation (softening) of the pelvic ligaments near the pinbones may become visually evident, giving a “sunken” appearance on each side of the tailhead. **Checking for complete cervical dilation is important before forced extraction (“pulling”) of the calf is attempted.**

**Stage 2:** The second stage of parturition is defined as the delivery of the newborn. It begins with the entrance of the membranes and fetus into the pelvic canal and ends with the completed birth of the calf. So the second stage is the one in which we really are interested. This is where we find all of the action. Clinically, and from a practical aspect we would define the beginning of stage 2 as the appearance of membranes or water bag at the vulva. The traditional texts, fact sheets, magazines, and other publications that we read state that stage 2 in cattle lasts from 2 to 5 hours. As was illustrated in last week’s newsletter, data from Oklahoma State University and the USDA experiment station at Miles City, Montana, would indicate that stage two is MUCH shorter. In these studies, assistance was given if stage two progressed more than two hours after the appearance of water bag at the vulva. The interesting thing about the data was that the heifers calving unassisted, did so in about one hour after the initiation of stage two, and mature cows calved within an average of 22 minutes of the initiation of stage two. Those that took longer needed assistance. These and other data would indicate that normal stage two of parturition would be redefined as approximately 60 minutes for heifers and

30 minutes for adult cows. In heifers, not only is the pelvic opening smaller, but also the soft tissue has never been expanded. Older cows have had deliveries before and birth should go quite rapidly unless there is some abnormality such as a very large calf, backwards calf, leg back or twins. If the cow or heifer is making good progress with each strain, allow her to continue on her own. Know your limitations. Seek professional veterinary help soon if you encounter a problem that cannot be solved easily in minutes.

**Stage 3:** The third stage of parturition is the shedding of the placenta or fetal membranes. In cattle this normally occurs in less than 8 to 12 hours. The membranes are considered retained if after 12 hours they have not been shed. Years ago it was considered necessary to remove the membranes by manually “unbuttoning” the attachments. Research has shown that manual removal can be detrimental to uterine health and future conception rates. Administration of antibiotics usually will guard against infection and the placenta will slough out in 4 to 7 days. **Contact your veterinarian for the proper management of retained placenta.**

## **Study Your Lesson Before Calving Season Begins**

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

One popular industry publication listed an Oklahoma State University Extension Bulletin as one of 6 most important pieces of equipment needed for producers during the calving season. The bulletin mentioned was Oklahoma State University [Extension Circular E-1006, “Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers”](#). This circular is free to download and should be recommended reading and reviewing before each calving season. Every member of the family and hired staff that will be involved with watching cows and heifers during the calving season should read this bulletin.

“Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers” discusses the 3 stages of a normal calving and then the causes and impacts of a difficult birth (dystocia). A thorough discussion of the signs of impending calving is followed by a description of when and how to examine a cow to determine the need for intervention. Detailed diagrams of most of the potential abnormal presentations are included with descriptions of necessary manipulations that will be required before the calf can be delivered. Proper placement of the obstetrical chains and the advantages of rotating the calf to ease passage through the pelvic opening are important sections to read.

“Dos” and “Don’ts” of treating retained placentas and understanding prolapses are other important topics that beef producers will want to review. The last page of [“Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers”](#) is a gestation table that will list the estimated “due date” for each potential breeding date.

Before the first heifer of the 2015 calving season needs help, take time to read and study this free document. Some of this information may very well help you save one or more of those valuable calves at calving time. The link to this bulletin is: <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9389/E-1006web2014.pdf>

## **Bigger Beef Cow Herd; Fastest Growth In Southern Plains**

*Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist*

The inventory of all cattle and calves was 89.8 million head on January 1, 2015, up 1.4 percent from one year ago but, except for last year, still the smallest total herd inventory since 1952. The 2014 calf crop was up 0.5 percent from 2013 at 33.9 million head. The 2014 calf crop percentage (calf crop as a percent of all cows) was 88.5 percent, the highest percentage since 2006. Total U.S. cattle on feed on January 1 were 13.1 million head, up one percent from last year. The estimated supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots was up 0.5 percent as a result of one percent increases in the inventory of steers, 500 pounds and over and calves, under 500 pounds; along with a slight decrease in the inventory of other heifers. Dairy cows and dairy replacement heifers were up one percent from one year ago.

The U.S. beef cow herd grew by 2.1 percent in 2014 to 29.7 million head according to the January, 2015 Cattle report. Though beef cow herd expansion was anticipated, this was a larger than expected increase. The largest increases were in Texas, at 107 percent of last year; and Oklahoma, up 6 percent from one year ago. These two states accounted for 62 percent of the total increase in the beef cow herd. Kansas and Missouri each accounted for about 10 percent of the cow herd increase meaning that those four states accounted for 82 percent of the total increase in beef cows. The increase

in Texas beef cow inventory was higher than expected because, despite improved conditions, significant areas of drought remain in the state. There were some other surprising data in the report including the fact that California beef cow inventories were unchanged despite the severe drought in 2014, along with Oregon, which also experienced significant drought but had a 1.7 percent increase in the beef cow herd in the state. The lack of growth in the Northern Plains was also somewhat surprising with decreased beef cow herds in North and South Dakota and a Nebraska beef cow herd unchanged from one year ago.

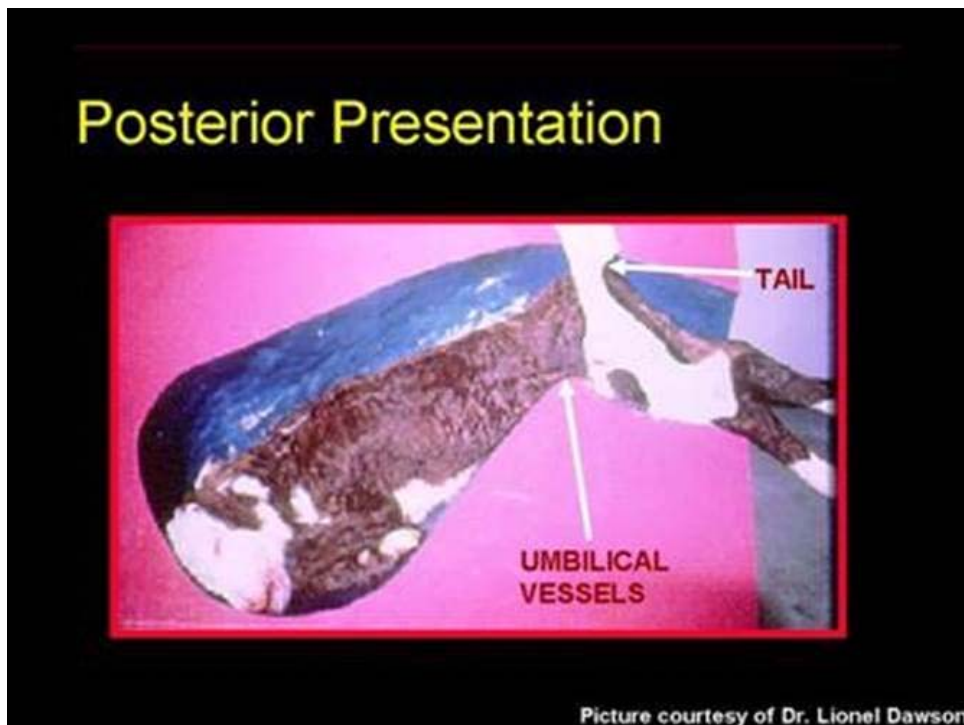
The inventory of beef replacement heifers was up 4 percent year over year indicating that further expansion is planned on the part of cow-calf producers. January 1 beef replacement heifers, as a percent of the beef cow herd was a record 19.5 percent, indicating intensive heifer retention. Moreover, the calculated percent of heifers entering the herd in 2014 jumped 23 percent year over year; with those heifers entering the herd representing 96 percent of NASS reported heifers expected to calve in 2014. Oklahoma beef replacement heifers were up 80,000 head, a 25 percent year over year increase, and accounted for 35 percent of the total increase in replacement heifers. The beef replacement heifer increase of 8 percent in Texas and the 12 percent increase in South Dakota, were the second and third largest increases in absolute numbers and, when combined with Oklahoma, represent 75 percent of the total increase in beef replacement heifers. Kansas also had an 8 percent year over year increase in beef replacement heifers.

This report does not change market fundamentals much, if any, in 2015. The fact that there are more cows than expected does not change the timing of beef production in 2015. The marginal increase in estimated feeder provides little relief to tight feeder numbers and may be offset with even more heifer retention and the possibility of smaller feeder cattle imports from Mexico and Canada this year. The jump-start to herd expansion could shave a year off of the time needed for herd rebuilding, depending on herd expansion in 2015 and beyond. In any event, herd expansion is expected to continue until late in the decade barring setbacks from drought.

### **Assisting The Posterior Presentation (Backwards Calf)**

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

Any cow calf producer that has spent several years in the cattle business has had the experience of assisting a cow or heifer deliver a calf that was coming backwards. Understanding the physiology and anatomy of the calf and mother will improve the likelihood of a successful outcome. Study the diagram of the “posterior presentation” shown below.



Note the relative positions of the tailhead of the baby calf and the umbilical cord that connects the calf to the mother's blood supply. As the calf's hips are pulled through the pelvic opening, the baby calf's tail will reach the outer areas of the mother's vaginal opening. Once a person can see the baby calf's tailhead, the umbilical vessels are being compressed against the rim of the mother's pelvic bone. The blood flow, exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide, between calf and mother is greatly impaired, if not completely clamped off.

Research, many years ago, conducted in Europe illustrates how little time it takes to compromise the calf's survivability when the umbilical cord is clamped. These scientists studied

the impact of clamping the umbilical cord for 0, 4, 6, or 8 minutes.

**Table 1. Impact of clamping of umbilical vessels on calf survivability**

Duration of Clamping	Number of Calves	Fate of Calves
0 minutes	5 calves	All of the 5 calves lived
4 minutes	5 calves	4 lived; 1 died
6 minutes	3 calves	3 died
8 minutes	3 calves	3 died

Certainly, if a producer does not feel confident in their abilities to deliver the backward calf, call your veterinarian immediately. Time is of the essence. As producers examine heifers or cows at calving and find a situation where the calf is coming backward, they need to keep this European data in mind. If the calf's hips are not yet through the pelvic opening, they have a little time to locate help and have someone else to aid in the assistance process.

Once the cow and the producer in concert have pushed and pulled the calf's hips through the pelvic opening and the tailhead is apparent, the calf needs to be completely delivered as quickly as possible. The remainder of the delivery should go with less resistance as the hips are usually the toughest part to get through the pelvic opening. The shoulders may provide some resistance. However, some calf rotation and traction being applied as the cow strains will usually produce significant progress. Remember, the completion of the delivery is to be accomplished in about 4 minutes or less. The calf's head and nostrils are in the uterine fluids and cannot breathe until completely delivered. The calf must get oxygen rapidly to offset the hypoxia that it is being subjected to during the delivery. After the calf is delivered, clean the mouth and nostrils of fluids and tickle it's nostrils with a straw to cause snorting and inhalation of air to get it started to breathing.

## **Are Persistently Infected Cattle In Your Herd?**

*Gant Mourer, Oklahoma Beef Value Enhancement Specialist*

*Barry Whitworth, DVM, Oklahoma State University Area Extension Veterinarian*

Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) is a contributor (along with others) to what is known as "shipping fever" complex or bovine respiratory disease (BRD). However, some animals will be persistently infected (PI) as a fetus with BVDV and will carry BVDV their entire life. These are the animals that are particularly harmful to cattle herds as they may show no clinical signs of the disease at all and yet shed the virus continuously to surrounding animals. Infected calves transmit the virus through secretions such as feces, nasal discharge, tears, saliva, urine, milk and semen. BVDV may also be transmitted during examination or palpation of the reproductive tract when gloves or sleeves are not changed between animals. Needles can transfer the virus from animal to animal as well. The virus can also survive several days in cool environments and be transferred from tools such as nose tongs, halters, and other tools if not properly sanitized.

Prevention of BVD involves the implementation of a well-defined biosecurity plan developed by you and your veterinarian and possibly testing of calves with an accredited laboratory. Removing all PI calves and cows after testing may be the first step. Also, testing outside animals or purchasing cattle that have been verified as PI-BVDV negative prior to entry into the herd will aid in preventing of the disease. A strong vaccination plan will also help prevent BVDV; it will not treat an animal that is already infected but will aid in prevention and will give some protection if cattle come in contact with other cattle via a fence line or other methods.

BVDV has a significant impact on the beef industry as a whole. In a 2007-2008 APHIS measured the occurrence of cattle tested on farm and found that 0.12% of 44,150 animals tested were tested positive and 8.8% of all 205 operations tested had at least one positive animal. Reproductive losses by far are the most expensive to cow/calf producers and difficult to measure. Some estimates of BVDV outbreak in 1998 can be as much as \$400 per cow. Impacts of BVDV in the feedlot have been measured in several studies over the last few years. Even though calves entering the feedlot may only represent 0.3% of cattle, cattle exposed to a PI calf increase its chance of respiratory disease by 43% and 15.9% of all respiratory tract cases can be attributed to exposure to a PI positive animal (Loneragan et al, 2005). Performance alone of exposed calves can result in losses of \$88.26 per animal (Hessman et al, 2009).

# Key Factors That Affect The Percentage Of Cows Cycling At The Start Of Breeding

By Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

The breeding season is only weeks away for those herds that have a fall calving program. The most important factors that determine if, and when, a cow returns to cycling activity were analyzed by Kansas State University physiologists. Over a period of 6 years, Kansas State scientists used more than 2,200 beef cows in estrous synchronization studies. As a part of these studies they determined which cows were cycling before the start of the breeding season both before and after synchronization treatments. They then looked at the previous data about each cow and determined the major factors that influenced the likelihood that she would have returned to heat by the start of the breeding season. The research indicated that three main factors were the most important determinants as to whether the cow would recycle before the breeding season began. **Body condition, age of the cow, and the number of days since calving** were the biggest influences on incidence of cycling activity before breeding.

**Body condition:** Cows ranged in body condition score from 1 (extremely emaciated) to 7 (very fleshy). As body condition score increased the percentage of cows cycling increased in a linear fashion. The Kansas data reported that there was an 18% increase in percentage cycling for every 1 full condition score improvement.

**Age of the cow:** The percentage of first calf two-year-olds cycling was about 10% less than mature cows that were having at least their second calf. The extra nutrient requirement for growth clearly limits the cycling activity at the beginning of the breeding season of two-year-olds. Also two-year-olds are in the stage of life where the baby teeth are being replaced by permanent teeth. Some of these young cows have problems consuming roughage similar to “broken-mouth” older cows. This explains why many producers choose to breed replacement heifers ahead of the cow herd and therefore give them more days before the breeding season begins for mature cows.

**Numbers of days since calving:** Cycling activity was also influenced by the number of days since calving. For every 10 day interval since calving (from less than 50 days to 70 days) the percentage cycling increased by 7.5%. A short calving season is important because it allows a higher percentage of cows to be cycling by the start of the breeding season.

## February Beef Cow Herd Calendar

---

### Fall Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding program
2. Remove bulls after a 90-day breeding season.
3. If needed, continue limit-fed creep to calves

### Spring Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding and increase feed amount for cows that calved early, especially first calf heifers and thin cows.
2. Thirty days before breeding, vaccinate replacement heifers with 7-way Clostridial bacterin; IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV modified live vaccine; and 5-way Leptospira-Campylobacter bacterin. Consult your veterinarian on vaccine types and other vaccinations recommended in the area.
3. Deworm if needed. Also, evaluate growth of yearling replacements. Will they be big enough to breed in April or May?
4. Check the cows regularly for possible calving difficulties, and baby calves for scours or pneumonia.
5. Complete selection and culling of yearling heifers as outlined in January.
6. Prepare for herd sire selection and procurement as outlined in March and April.

*Do not go where the path may lead,  
go instead where there is no path  
and leave a trail.*

## Upcoming Events

April 10<sup>th</sup> - Eastern Oklahoma Beef Cattle Summit  
SE Expo Center, McAlester, OK

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spring Gathering – Cattle Producer’s Meeting  
McAlester Stockyards @ 6:00 pm

Speakers:

Dr. Josh Payne – Livestock Mortality Composting

Dr. Berry Whitworth – Livestock Herd Health

The *Cattleman’s Corner* newsletter is distributed bi-monthly by the following:

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service  
707 West Electric Avenue  
McAlester, Oklahoma 74501  
918/423-4120  
[www.oces.okstate.edu/pittsburg](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/pittsburg)

This Newsletter is one way of communicating cattle information to those interested.

**David Cantrell**  
Extension Educator, Agriculture, CED  
[david.cantrell@okstate.edu](mailto:david.cantrell@okstate.edu)

Prepared By:

Stephanie Wilson,  
[stephanie.wilson12@okstate.edu](mailto:stephanie.wilson12@okstate.edu)

*The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age disability or status as a veteran and is an equal opportunity employer.*

Being a cowboy ain’t about wearing your fancy spotless 50xx beaver hat or riding your horse on a manicured trail on the weekends. It’s about getting up at all hours of the night to check cattle in the winter time and freezing your hands while you do it, and cutting a trail through brush so thick you can’t see ten feet in front of you, it’s not about driving around in a big jacked up pickup being ignorant. It’s about holding doors for your elders and the ladies just like a true cowboy says. Being a cowboy isn’t a job or a hobby that you can just pick up.

It’s a life style that you live from the day you are born..

