

ON THE RANCH

Beef Profit Tips Workshop

January 29, 2015
 Courthouse Annex
 Meeting Room
 Center, NE
 1:00 p.m.
 Cost: \$10

Beef Profitability Workshops at 11 Nebraska Sites

During the winter of 2015, Nebraska Extension will host 11 Beef Profitability Workshops to help beef producers evaluate their operations to make them more profitable through latest research information.

A team of UNL Extension Educators will present information, as well as practical approaches for beef producers.

Examples of some of the topics that will be presented at each location:

- ▶ Harvesting Crop Residues—does it affect future crop yields?
- ▶ Forage Testing and What the Numbers Mean
- ▶ Balancing the Ranch for Protein
- ▶ Alternative Forages for Grazing – what works
- ▶ Composting Livestock Carcasses
- ▶ Fencing and Watering Options on Crop Residue
- ▶ Economics in the Beef Industry and Beef Outlook
- ▶ Mineral Nutrition
- ▶ Windrow Grazing
- ▶ EPDs and Bull Selection



These workshops are sponsored by Nebraska Extension. The cost is \$10.00, but may vary from location depending on local sponsorship. Register by calling the local Extension Office in the host county at least three days before the workshop to ensure there are enough handouts and refreshments. Location sites are follows:

Date	Location	Time	To Register Contact	Speakers
January 29	Center, Courthouse Annex Meeting Room	1:00 P.M.	Ruth Vonderohe 402-288-5611	Dennis Bauer Steve Pritchard
January 29	Pierce, Courthouse Meeting Room	6:00 P.M. with supper	Ann Fenton 402-329-4821	Dennis Bauer Steve Pritchard
January 30	Leigh, Colfax County Fairgrounds	11:00 P.M. with lunch	Aaron Nygren 402-352-3821	Steve Niemeyer Gary Stauffer
February 2	Hartington, Courthouse Meeting Room	6:00 P.M. with supper	Jim Jansen 402-254-6821	Steve Pritchard Gary Stauffer
February 3	Neligh, Courthouse Meeting Room	12:00 noon with lunch.	Rod Wilke 402-887-5414	Dennis Bauer Larry Howard Jim Jansen
February 5	Ord, Valley Fairgrounds	1:30 P.M.	Doug Anderson 308-750-5071	Steve Niemeyer Gary Stauffer Larry Howard
February 10	O'Neill, Courthouse Meeting Room	1:30 P.M.	Gary Stauffer 402-336-2760	Dennis Bauer Gary Stauffer
February 10	Bassett, Methodist Church	6:30 P.M.	Dennis Bauer 402-387-2213	Gary Stauffer Dennis Bauer
February 17	Albion, location TBA	1:30 P.M.	Steve Pritchard 402-395-2158	TBA
February 19	West Point, Courthouse	6:30 P.M.	Larry Howard 402-372-6006	TBA
February 24	Taylor, Community Room	1:30 P.M.	Steve Niemeyer 308-346-4200	Dennis Bauer Gary Stauffer Larry Howard

Definite Advantages to Calves Born in the First 21 Days of the Calving Season

As the calendar turns over, cow calf producers begin to think about the upcoming spring calving season. The length of the calving season is important, but when the calves are born during the calving season is also important. There are definite advantages for calves born in the first 21 days of the calving season. The most obvious benefit is the ability to market larger, more uniform groups of heavier calves, resulting in a larger payoff at sale time.



However, the advantages of having calves born early extend beyond the simple differences in weaning weight. Research from the University of Nebraska conducted by Dr. Rick Funston, has demonstrated that steer calves born in the first part of the calving season had higher valued carcasses with greater marbling scores (UNL Extension 2010 Nebraska Beef Cattle Report <http://beef.unl.edu/nebeefcattle2010>). In addition, his work also shows that heifer calves born during the first 21 days of the calving season had greater weaning, pre-breeding and pre-calving body

weight. There were also a greater percent cycling before breeding and greater pregnancy rates compared to heifers born in the third period (UNL Extension Beef Cattle Report <http://beef.unl.edu/nebeefreport2012>).

Early calving also has an impact on the cow. Early calving cows are more likely to become pregnant in the next breeding season and early calving heifers tend to remain in the herd longer than heifers calving after the first 21 days. University of South Dakota research by L.K. Kill et al. in 2012 (<http://go.unl.edu/itni>) on a group of 2,195 South Dakota producer owned cattle showed that the average time early calving heifers remained in the herd was 5.1 years compared with only 3.9 years for heifers that calved after the first 21 days. In a group of 16,549 cattle managed at the USDA Meat Animal Research Center, heifers calving in the first 21 days, second 21 days, and later had an average longevity of 8.2, 7.6, and 7.2 years, respectively. These two studies show that early calving heifers have at least a one-calf lifetime advantage compared with late-calving heifers. Added to this one-calf lifetime advantage was the extra weaning weight at the end of the breeding season that accumulated to the weight of an additional calf. Therefore heifers calving in the first 21 days of the calving season had the equivalent of a two-calf lifetime advantage over those heifers that calved after the first 21 days of the calving season.

Nutrition, herd health, management, and fertility can influence calving distribution. Although every herd has its own unique circumstance, here are some performance benchmarks for each calving period:

- 65 percent born by the end of the first 21-day period
- 90 percent born by the end of the second 21-day period
- 95 percent by the end of the third 21-day period

For more information check out the UNL Extension Beef web site at <http://beef.unl.edu>.