

# BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

This Beef Management Calendar assumes that a cowherd is calving in early March. Cattle producers will need to keep this in mind when interpreting some of the tips.



For more information visit -

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef>

## TIPS FOR DECEMBER

The cows are nicely settled into winter and starting to eat a consistent winter ration. Calves have been weaned for a couple of months and should be doing well on feed. Here are a few reminders of things to do:

- Check your hay inventory and categorize different qualities of hay lots to develop a plan as to what you are going to feed for the months to come. Be certain to have the best feed for pre- and post-calving nutrition.
- If you have not already done so, this is a good time to do feed tests on the major lots of feed you are going to provide to your cattle this winter. With the feed test results, have rations completed. This is important not only for the cows, but even more so for any young replacement or market stock you are feeding.
- It's likely been 5 or 6 weeks since you have gotten the pregnancy diagnosis done on your herd. Check cows frequently for early abortions or any with signs of estrus.
- If the cows are rubbing a lot, it's likely a sign of external parasites.
- Monitor the body condition of the cows and, if needed, pull thin cows from the main bunch to give them better feed. It's a lot easier to get weight back on in December than in the cold January and February weather.
- Make sure you are providing adequate shelter for your cattle – either through portable windbreaks or natural shelter. The effect of wind is 5 times more dramatic than temperature alone. Remember, the more days the cows spend in grain or pasture fields in winter, the more fertilizer the cows will add to those fields.
- You may still want to consider frost seeding legumes into existing pastures. You can broadcast seed with an ATV or snowmobile.
- This time of year a lot of seed companies still provide early booking incentives for 2007 orders of forage seed. Check with your local retailers.

# December 2006

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Sept. 9	<b>2</b> Sept. 10
<b>3</b> Sept. 11	<b>4</b> Sept. 12	<b>5</b> Sept. 13	<b>6</b> Sept. 14	<b>7</b> Sept. 15	<b>8</b> Sept. 16	<b>9</b> Sept. 17
<b>10</b> Sept. 18	<b>11</b> Sept. 19	<b>12</b> Sept. 20	<b>13</b> Sept. 21	<b>14</b> Sept. 22	<b>15</b> Sept. 23	<b>16</b> Sept. 24
<b>17</b> Sept. 25	<b>18</b> Sept. 26	<b>19</b> Sept. 27	<b>20</b> Sept. 28	<b>21</b> Sept. 29	<b>22</b> Sept. 30	<b>23</b> Oct. 1
<b>24</b> Oct. 2	<b>25</b> Oct. 3 <i>Christmas</i>	<b>26</b> Oct. 4 <i>Boxing Day</i>	<b>27</b> Oct. 5	<b>28</b> Oct. 6	<b>29</b> Oct. 7	<b>30</b> Oct. 8
<b>31</b> Oct. 9						

Only 8 or 10 more weeks until there will be some new calves born. The nutrition should now be starting to rise slightly. Your feeder calves should be coming to feed well.

In both cases (cows and feeders), when the thermometer dips below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , be sure to increase feed 10 to 15% for every  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  drop below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



## TIPS FOR JANUARY

- Be sure adequate energy is provided to cows.
- If you are feeding grain/straw based rations, be certain that both protein and energy are properly balanced. If they aren't, cows can over-consume straw on a real cold night and end up impacted.
- Keep your cows moving. If they walk at least 1/8 mile or more from feed to get to water, they will be stronger for calving. Keep this up as close to the calving date as possible as cows will calve more easily.
- Make sure cows have adequate shelter and bedding available, as January usually brings some of the coldest weather.

## Cow Nutrition

Early gestation requirements of cows are relatively low and are usually met with grass or alfalfa/grass hay. When providing grass hay, silage or cereal greenfeed, you should include a 2:1 mineral (ration of calcium to phosphorus). If feeding alfalfa/grass hay, a 1:1 mineral is sufficient. Energy or protein underfeeding at this stage of the pregnancy can result in weak labour, increased dystocia rates, reduced milk production and calf growth and potentially a longer anestrus interval after calving.

## Average Feed Analysis

	Alfalfa hay	Grass hay	Greenfeed	Straw
TDN (%)	55-62	52-60	55-65	42-48
Protein (%)	10-23	5-13	8-13	3-6

## Nutrient Requirements (1350 lb cow/1000 lb heifer)

	First/Second Trimester		Third Trimester		Nursing	
	Cow	Heifer	Cow	Heifer	Cow	Heifer
TDN (%)	48	56	53	64	65	63
Protein (%)	7	8	9	10	13	12

Keeping the values from the above tables in mind, matching feed most closely to the animals' requirements is critical for ensuring improved productivity. Blending lower and higher quality feed is often a good way to keep the ration balanced while at the same time being low-cost.

# January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Oct. 10 <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> Oct. 11	<b>3</b> Oct. 12	<b>4</b> Oct. 13	<b>5</b> Oct. 14	<b>6</b> Oct. 15
<b>7</b> Oct. 16	<b>8</b> Oct. 17	<b>9</b> Oct. 18	<b>10</b> Oct. 19	<b>11</b> Oct. 20	<b>12</b> Oct. 21	<b>13</b> Oct. 22
<b>14</b> Oct. 23	<b>15</b> Oct. 24	<b>16</b> Oct. 25	<b>17</b> Oct. 26	<b>18</b> Oct. 27	<b>19</b> Oct. 28	<b>20</b> Oct. 29
<b>21</b> Oct. 30	<b>22</b> Oct. 31	<b>23</b> Nov. 1	<b>24</b> Nov. 2	<b>25</b> Nov. 3	<b>26</b> Nov. 4	<b>27</b> Nov. 5
<b>28</b> Nov. 6	<b>29</b> Nov. 7	<b>30</b> Nov. 8	<b>31</b> Nov. 9			

## TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

The cows are in the last 3 to 4 weeks of their third trimester. At this stage, most of the fetal growth occurs and a rising plane of nutrition is critical to successful rebreeding results.

Check markets on feeder calves. You may want to do some marketing before you get too close to calving to free up some space.



- Inject cows with Selenium for white muscle disease, if this is a disease problem in your area. Inject also with ADE when processing, if you are not providing ADE in your feed.
- Vaccinate cows for calf scours at 6 weeks and booster at 3 weeks before calving. If the cow has not calved within 4 weeks of the booster, she should be given another booster. Check for product availability.
- A mineral mix with high levels of copper, manganese and zinc should be fed to cattle. Minimum levels of copper on the tag should be 2,500 mg/kg, for manganese 6,000 mg/kg and for zinc 10,000 mg/kg. Equal parts of calcium and phosphorus (1:1) are best fed with rations containing mostly alfalfa or alfalfa grass hay. Rations that are predominantly silage or grass hay should be accompanied by a 2:1 mineral.
- Recheck your feed inventories and feeding plans. Your rations will have more energy in them now and likely you will add some grain or higher energy feeds once the cows calve.
- Get calving areas ready and make a list of all the supplies needed for calving.
- This may be a good time to do some planning on how you will manage next summer's grazing. Are you looking into water development? Are you going to do more crossfencing or introduce some more grasses or legumes on the pasture?
- Check to make sure your bulls are doing well and have regained their weight. In a few more weeks, you may look at testing some of them to ensure you have sufficient bull power for this year's breeding season.

# February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Nov. 10	<b>2</b> Nov. 11	<b>3</b> Nov. 12
<b>4</b> Nov. 13	<b>5</b> Nov. 14	<b>6</b> Nov. 15	<b>7</b> Nov. 16	<b>8</b> Nov. 17	<b>9</b> Nov. 18	<b>10</b> Nov. 19
<b>11</b> Nov. 20	<b>12</b> Nov. 21	<b>13</b> Nov. 22	<b>14</b> Nov. 23	<b>15</b> Nov. 24	<b>16</b> Nov. 25	<b>17</b> Nov. 26
<b>18</b> Nov. 27	<b>19</b> Nov. 28	<b>20</b> Nov. 29	<b>21</b> Nov. 30	<b>22</b> Dec. 1	<b>23</b> Dec. 2	<b>24</b> Dec. 3
<b>25</b> Dec. 4	<b>26</b> Dec. 5	<b>27</b> Dec. 6	<b>28</b> Dec. 7			

## TIPS FOR MARCH

Slowly but surely you are now into another calving season. Are the cows cleaning well? Is all going well with the calving process? Sometimes troubles here often go back to nutrition. Make sure that mineral intake is good. If you are feeding grain, ease the cows on. Five pounds of grain per cow is ample provided your feed is of good quality.



- Observe cows periodically, particularly first calf heifers, to see if birth is progressing normally. Be ready to assist any cow not making progress after 2 to 3 hours of labour. If you need to assist during calving, be sure to pull the calf down, not straight out.
- Calves need to be up and sucking within the first 6 hours of life to make sure they receive adequate colostrum. If they are not even close to making an effort within the first 5 hours, be sure to get colostrum into the calf. This is the most crucial thing you can do for the health of the calf.
- Watch calves for signs of sickness, especially scours and pneumonia. Early treatment is crucial for improved survival rates.
- Castrate and dehorn calves as soon as possible and record any treatments on animals for “Quality Assurance – Quality Starts Here”. At the time of tagging record the CCIA tag numbers along with the calves’ birthdates. Further information is found at [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca).
- Good quality post-partum nutrition is very important. Provide ample bedding and keep calving areas clean. When heifers are born, closely evaluate their dam and make notes. It may come in handy when it is time to select replacements in the fall.

# March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Dec. 8	<b>2</b> Dec. 9	<b>3</b> Dec. 10
<b>4</b> Dec. 11	<b>5</b> Dec. 12	<b>6</b> Dec. 13	<b>7</b> Dec. 14	<b>8</b> Dec. 15	<b>9</b> Dec. 16	<b>10</b> Dec. 17
<b>11</b> Dec. 18	<b>12</b> Dec. 19	<b>13</b> Dec. 20	<b>14</b> Dec. 21	<b>15</b> Dec. 22	<b>16</b> Dec. 23	<b>17</b> Dec. 24
<b>18</b> Dec. 25	<b>19</b> Dec. 26	<b>20</b> Dec. 27	<b>21</b> Dec. 28	<b>22</b> Dec. 29	<b>23</b> Dec. 30	<b>24</b> Dec. 31
<b>25</b> Jan. 1	<b>26</b> Jan. 2	<b>27</b> Jan. 3	<b>28</b> Jan. 4	<b>29</b> Jan. 5	<b>30</b> Jan. 6	<b>31</b> Jan. 7



By now you will have a pretty good chunk of the calves on the ground and likely a chance for a little more rest. Watching calves take a run together is always a lot of fun.

This is a good time to make notes about cows' udder quality with respect to any potential fall culling.



## TIPS FOR APRIL

- You are not over the hump yet! When you check the calves daily, get everyone up and make sure they are having a stretch – no droopy ears, of course. Be vigilant on animal health.
- If you are having trouble with scours and pneumonia, early detection is key to successful treatments.
- Make sure your boots are clean when you enter the pens - not only yours, but also any visitor's. Often it's best to just lend visitors a pair of your boots, otherwise have a boot bath/scrub station.
- When you do check the animals, always check your youngest pen first and proceed to the older animals.
- Look into prebreeding/calfhood vaccination programs with your veterinarian now and get vaccine lots ordered.
- With bull buying season definitely comes bull testing season. Be sure to have a breeding soundness exam done on the boys. If you need to purchase a bull, check with test stations or reputable breeders and start to investigate the right bull choice for you.
- Breed replacement heifers 2 to 3 weeks before the cows. The postpartum interval on first calf heifers is usually 10 to 15 days longer than cows and this will allow first calvers to stay ahead on calving throughout their lifetime.
- Seems like everyone bugs you about this every month – keep good quality mineral in front of the cows. You should see the odd cow display signs of estrus.
- Use soil tests to determine phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen requirements on your pasture and hay land.
- Check alfalfa stands for winterkill. For pure alfalfa stands, 45 stems per sq. ft. is considered a good stand. If plant numbers are 30 stems per sq. ft. or less, consider renovation.
- Grazing of stockpiled forage can be feasible with adequate supplementation.
- If you did 'stockpile' any deadstock in the winter, now is the time to look into proper disposal options. Composting or burial are described here <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/composting>.

# April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Jan. 8	<b>2</b> Jan. 9	<b>3</b> Jan. 10	<b>4</b> Jan. 11	<b>5</b> Jan. 12	<b>6</b> Jan. 13 <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>7</b> Jan. 14
<b>8</b> Jan. 15 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>9</b> Jan. 16	<b>10</b> Jan. 17	<b>11</b> Jan. 18	<b>12</b> Jan. 19	<b>13</b> Jan. 20	<b>14</b> Jan. 21
<b>15</b> Jan. 22	<b>16</b> Jan. 23	<b>17</b> Jan. 24	<b>18</b> Jan. 25	<b>19</b> Jan. 26	<b>20</b> Jan. 27	<b>21</b> Jan. 28
<b>22</b> Jan. 29	<b>23</b> Jan. 30	<b>24</b> Jan. 31	<b>25</b> Feb. 1	<b>26</b> Feb. 2	<b>27</b> Feb. 3	<b>28</b> Feb. 4
<b>29</b> Feb. 5	<b>30</b> Feb. 6					

## TIPS FOR MAY

The grass is turning green and you can't help but want to kick cows out to pasture. We all have some sacrifice areas in the spring, but be sure not to turn cattle out onto your main pasture areas until things are ready out there. This usually means a minimum of a 3- to 4-leaf stage or roughly 5 to 6 inches of growth. Check with local forage experts.

The bulls will go with the cows this month. If you are using different types of bulls, sort your breeding groups accordingly. Like my wife always said...."We've just finished all this calving work and now we are turning more work back into the field (the bulls) for next year!"



- You may want to look at using footrot vaccine on your bulls before turnout.
- All animals should be processed before turnout. Castrate and dehorn calves and give calfhood vaccine and provide prebreeding shots to cows.
- Managing the transition from feed to pasture is a good idea by trying to introduce cows more gently to grass (provide some feed during turnout). This will reduce incidence of sandcracks and hardship grooves.
- If flies are a significant problem on pasture, plan for a fly control program.
- Early tame pasture species, such as crested wheatgrass, meadow brome and creeping foxtail can normally be grazed mid-May, while most other tame species are ready by end of May.
- Avoid turning cattle out on native pastures until late June. Grazing native pasture prior to June can result in a yield reduction of up to 40%.
- Use short grazing periods on fast growing seeded pastures to keep forages in a vegetative state or incorporate rest periods into grazing systems to increase pasture productivity. A good forage site to consult is [www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca)

# May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Feb. 7	<b>2</b> Feb. 8	<b>3</b> Feb. 9	<b>4</b> Feb. 10	<b>5</b> Feb. 11
<b>6</b> Feb. 12	<b>7</b> Feb. 13	<b>8</b> Feb. 14	<b>9</b> Feb. 15	<b>10</b> Feb. 16	<b>11</b> Feb. 17	<b>12</b> Feb. 18
<b>13</b> Feb. 19 <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>14</b> Feb. 20	<b>15</b> Feb. 21	<b>16</b> Feb. 22	<b>17</b> Feb. 23	<b>18</b> Feb. 24	<b>19</b> Feb. 25
<b>20</b> Feb. 26	<b>21</b> Feb. 27	<b>22</b> Feb. 28	<b>23</b> Mar. 1	<b>24</b> Mar. 2	<b>25</b> Mar. 3	<b>26</b> Mar. 4
<b>27</b> Mar. 5	<b>28</b> Mar. 6	<b>29</b> Mar. 7	<b>30</b> Mar. 8	<b>31</b> Mar. 9		

## TIPS FOR JUNE

Well the moment you've been waiting for – the cows are back out to pasture and happily eating grass. You can move on to other burning things on the farm. This time of year, it's a good idea to scout your grass closely. Everything you do now and how you move your cows through grazing paddocks dictates the amount of grass you will have for the second or subsequent rotations.

Be sure to monitor the bulls' performance closely. You're not out of the woods on the breeding season until 45 to 50 days into it.



- Watch for bloat conditions.
- If you are seeing return heats, check bulls daily and monitor breeding performance.
- Provide good quality mineral and ensure cattle are consuming mineral at adequate levels.
- Check water sources and quality regularly.
- Get equipment ready for haying.
  - ◆ Harvest forage early for highest quality
  - ◆ Prebud 67% TDN / Bud to mid-bud 61% TDN
  - ◆ 10% Bloom 56% TDN / Full bloom 53% TDN
- Bale hay at correct moisture (15 to 17%). Allow adequate time for curing. Consider use of hay preservatives when trying to produce high quality hay early.
- Move cattle quickly through first rotation to ensure all pastures have been grazed by month-end.
- Consider harvesting surplus forage from pasture.

# June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Mar. 10	<b>2</b> Mar. 11
<b>3</b> Mar. 12	<b>4</b> Mar. 13	<b>5</b> Mar. 14	<b>6</b> Mar. 15	<b>7</b> Mar. 16	<b>8</b> Mar. 17	<b>9</b> Mar. 18
<b>10</b> Mar. 19	<b>11</b> Mar. 20	<b>12</b> Mar. 21	<b>13</b> Mar. 22	<b>14</b> Mar. 23	<b>15</b> Mar. 24	<b>16</b> Mar. 25
<b>17</b> Mar. 26 <i>Father's Day</i>	<b>18</b> Mar. 27	<b>19</b> Mar. 28	<b>20</b> Mar. 29	<b>21</b> Mar. 30	<b>22</b> Mar. 31	<b>23</b> Apr. 1
<b>24</b> Apr. 2	<b>25</b> Apr. 3	<b>26</b> Apr. 4	<b>27</b> Apr. 5	<b>28</b> Apr. 6	<b>29</b> Apr. 7	<b>30</b> Apr. 8



## TIPS FOR JULY

It seems like all is well. Most breeding of the cows is complete.

You are almost done haying and actually might have a chance to go to the lake!

If anything, July is usually the month with footrot problems and pink eye. Consult with your local veterinarian to stay on top of some of these potential problems.



- Monitor herd health frequently.
- Watch for early signs of footrot.
- Quality and availability of water is important in the hot weather.
- Plan to set aside paddocks for stockpiled forage for late fall grazing.
- Harvest annual forages at the late milk to early dough stage for highest quality and quantity.
- Remove bulls to end a 65-day breeding season.
- Subdivide pastures and allow at least 30 or more days of rest for grazed forages to regrow.
- If native pastures have been continuously grazed for the summer, it is now time to remove livestock from these areas to allow adequate rest.

# July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Apr. 9 <i>Canada Day</i>	<b>2</b> Apr. 10	<b>3</b> Apr. 11	<b>4</b> Apr. 12	<b>5</b> Apr. 13	<b>6</b> Apr. 14	<b>7</b> Apr. 15
<b>8</b> Apr. 16	<b>9</b> Apr. 17	<b>10</b> Apr. 18	<b>11</b> Apr. 19	<b>12</b> Apr. 20	<b>13</b> Apr. 21	<b>14</b> Apr. 22
<b>15</b> Apr. 23	<b>16</b> Apr. 24	<b>17</b> Apr. 25	<b>18</b> Apr. 26	<b>19</b> Apr. 27	<b>20</b> Apr. 28	<b>21</b> Apr. 29
<b>22</b> Apr. 30	<b>23</b> May 1	<b>24</b> May 2	<b>25</b> May 3	<b>26</b> May 4	<b>27</b> May 5	<b>28</b> May 6
<b>29</b> May 7	<b>30</b> May 8	<b>31</b> May 9				



## TIPS FOR AUGUST

You will be within some of your second rotation grazing now and 'harvesting' regrowth and rested forages. Be cautious not to over-graze. Leave adequate litter. Once grazing on cells has been completed for the second round, close the gates and leave the pastures to rest.

This is a good time to revisit your heifer selection and make some notes on which heifers you may want to keep as replacements.



- Consider early weaning if pastures are poor or if calves are nursing first-calf heifers. Calves weaned at 300 to 400 lbs. will require a good commercial starter ration containing 14 to 16% crude protein.
- Beat the rush. Send in samples of harvested forage for feed analysis.
- Be aware that nitrates can accumulate in annual plants and forages suffering from stress related to drought, hail or frost.
- Set aside paddocks in early August to be used for stockpiled grazing in the fall.
- Seed winter annuals by the end of August for fall and/or early spring grazing.
- For best results, perennial forages seeded in the fall need to be sowed by mid-August.
- Storage losses due to spoilage can be significant. For example, a 5-foot round bale with 4 to 6 inches of spoilage is a loss of 25 to 35%. A 6-foot bale with 4 to 6 inches of spoilage results in losses of 22 to 32%.
- Protect your winter forage supplies by using tarps or sheds. Also, investigate storage methods as some have less spoilage associated with them than others.
- Use a system to harvest chaff with cereal straw to improve feed value of straw.
- Select bull calves for submission to test station. Complete applications.
- Prepare for the following weaning-time activities:
  - ◆ Get facilities ready for working and weighing cattle.
  - ◆ Dehorn and castrate calves that were missed earlier.
  - ◆ If you have not already done so, enter birthdates of calves on the Canadian Cattle Identification Age Verification web site [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca).
- Consider preconditioning calves. Start watching the markets and plan a marketing strategy.

# August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> May 10	<b>2</b> May 11	<b>3</b> May 12	<b>4</b> May 13
<b>5</b> May 14	<b>6</b> May 15 <i>Civic Holiday</i>	<b>7</b> May 16	<b>8</b> May 17	<b>9</b> May 18	<b>10</b> May 19	<b>11</b> May 20
<b>12</b> May 21	<b>13</b> May 22	<b>14</b> May 23	<b>15</b> May 24	<b>16</b> May 25	<b>17</b> May 26	<b>18</b> May 27
<b>19</b> May 28	<b>20</b> May 29	<b>21</b> May 30	<b>22</b> May 31	<b>23</b> June 1	<b>24</b> June 2	<b>25</b> June 3
<b>26</b> June 4	<b>27</b> June 5	<b>28</b> June 6	<b>29</b> June 7	<b>30</b> June 8	<b>31</b> June 9	

## TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Grass growth is slowing. The odd early frost and also some killing frosts are pretty usual for this month.

It is the time of year that you start to move into a lot of the stockpiled forage. If using some existing alfalfa hay land for grazing, be sure not to overgraze. The quality of stockpiled alfalfa drops dramatically once the leaves start to fall off the plant. Great stockpiled forage quality can be obtained from tall fescue.



- Consult your local veterinarian for your fall vaccination program needs.
- Check your calves once more before marketing. Make sure you have not missed any horns and all animals are properly castrated.
- Plan your winter feeding program. Inventory feeds and formulate rations. Be aware of potential nitrate problems in some of your feedstuffs.
- Avoid harvesting alfalfa in late August and September to reduce winterkill losses.
- Consider use of herbicides to renovate poor forage fields for spring seeding.
- Swath annuals to be used for swath grazing prior to a killing frost.
- Pregnancy test cows and cull any open or late-bred cows.
- Collect soil samples from forage fields for fertilizer recommendations after mid-September.
- For a list of Crown lands that are currently for rent in your area for hay or grazing, check listings under “Crown Lands for Rent.” These listings are posted in your MAFRI GO Office or Center.
- Certify high-quality hay suited to the cash hay market and list with MAFRI.
- If you are considering grazing alfalfa on hay land, be conscious of bloat risk. Some tips on alfalfa grazing can be found at [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef/baa14s00.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef/baa14s00.html).

# September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> June 10
<b>2</b> June 11	<b>3</b> June 12 <i>Labour Day</i>	<b>4</b> June 13	<b>5</b> June 14	<b>6</b> June 15	<b>7</b> June 16	<b>8</b> June 17
<b>9</b> June 18	<b>10</b> June 19	<b>11</b> June 20	<b>12</b> June 21	<b>13</b> June 22	<b>14</b> June 23	<b>15</b> June 24
<b>16</b> June 25	<b>17</b> June 26	<b>18</b> June 27	<b>19</b> June 28	<b>20</b> June 29	<b>21</b> June 30	<b>22</b> July 1
<b>23</b> July 2	<b>24</b> July 3	<b>25</b> July 4	<b>26</b> July 5	<b>27</b> July 6	<b>28</b> July 7	<b>29</b> July 8
<b>30</b> July 9						



## TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Can it be pay-day month already? You are now scrutinizing a lot of your calves more closely and making some selling decisions. You have different marketing options to research - auction sale (regular or presorted), buying station or direct selling. It is important to know the market and be certain that what you are offering the day you are selling will be met with lots of buyers' orders.

Also, pregnancy check cows and sell some of your mature older animals.

Remember to be safe when you are handling cattle and have a plan made before you work with the cattle. Make sure handling facilities are in good repair before starting into the job.

Delivery dates also fall within this month at Bull Evaluation Stations.



- Remember low stress handling. Time to revisit this subject before going out and working with the stock; [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef/baa14s04.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef/baa14s04.html).
- Treat cattle for internal/external parasites.
- Monitor weaned calves closely for evidence of respiratory disease. Early detection is the key to prevention.
- When marketing calves, either sell directly off the cows or background for at least 70 days before selling.
- Weaned calves should be started on a growing ration containing a minimum of 13% protein and energy levels at 67% TDN.
- Be sure to provide high levels of minerals and vitamins to calves especially when freshly weaned.
- Dry, pregnant cows in good condition during the early part of gestation can be maintained on crop residues.
- Test all feed supplies for winter feeding requirements and develop rations for livestock requirements.
- Use temporary fencing to ration out stockpiled perennial and swathed annuals.
- Weigh calves after they are approximately 205 days old.
- Consider selecting a herd recording program to assist in identifying superior cows and replacement females. MAFRI has a free program available on its website [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/financial/farm/software.html#cowboss](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/financial/farm/software.html#cowboss).

# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> July 10	<b>2</b> July 11	<b>3</b> July 12	<b>4</b> July 13	<b>5</b> July 14	<b>6</b> July 15
<b>7</b> July 16	<b>8</b> July 17 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>9</b> July 18	<b>10</b> July 19	<b>11</b> July 20	<b>12</b> July 21	<b>13</b> July 22
<b>14</b> July 23	<b>15</b> July 24	<b>16</b> July 25	<b>17</b> July 26	<b>18</b> July 27	<b>19</b> July 28	<b>20</b> July 29
<b>21</b> July 30	<b>22</b> July 31	<b>23</b> Aug. 1	<b>24</b> Aug. 2	<b>25</b> Aug. 3	<b>26</b> Aug. 4	<b>27</b> Aug. 5
<b>28</b> Aug. 6	<b>29</b> Aug. 7	<b>30</b> Aug. 8	<b>31</b> Aug. 9			

## TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Your cows are finishing stockpiled forage and perhaps moving into some swathgrazing. Be sure that if cows are consuming mostly annual feeds that you provide 2:1 mineral. If the cows are eating mostly alfalfa-based hay then 1:1 mineral is your choice.

If you have not already done so, this is the time to examine winter feeding rations and plan for which forage resources will be fed to your cows and at what time.



- Separate your herd into different classes according to their nutritional needs and body condition scores as follows: weaned calves, thin and young cows, mature cows, herd sires and young bulls.
- Feed test and develop economical balanced rations.
- Relative Feed Value (RFV) can be used to determine forage use for each management group.
  - ◆ Feed lowest quality forage to mature, dry cows during early winter.
  - ◆ Feed medium quality forage to dry cows in late gestation.
  - ◆ Feed high quality forage to lactating cows and young growing calves.
- If cows are in poor body condition, it is best to get them in better shape now rather than wait until bitterly cold.
- Mid-pregnant cows require 40,000 IU Vitamin A/day. This can be provided by injection every 60 days during the winter or by incorporation of a vitamin premix in the grain on a daily basis.
- Frost seed legumes on pasture.
- Use growth promotants to improve gain and feed efficiency in backgrounded calves.
- Make sure herd records are completed for the year.
- For ideas on winter feeding and other concepts on production management, browse the web. There is some excellent information on [www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca); [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/index.shtml](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/index.shtml).
- Any calves left at home need to be dehorned and castrated if they were held back for this reason.

# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Aug. 10	<b>2</b> Aug. 11	<b>3</b> Aug. 12
<b>4</b> Aug. 13	<b>5</b> Aug. 14	<b>6</b> Aug. 15	<b>7</b> Aug. 16	<b>8</b> Aug. 17	<b>9</b> Aug. 18	<b>10</b> Aug. 19
<b>11</b> Aug. 20 <i>Rememberance Day</i>	<b>12</b> Aug. 21	<b>13</b> Aug. 22	<b>14</b> Aug. 23	<b>15</b> Aug. 24	<b>16</b> Aug. 25	<b>17</b> Aug. 26
<b>18</b> Aug. 27	<b>19</b> Aug. 28	<b>20</b> Aug. 29	<b>21</b> Aug. 30	<b>22</b> Aug. 31	<b>23</b> Sept. 1	<b>24</b> Sept. 2
<b>25</b> Sept. 3	<b>26</b> Sept. 4	<b>27</b> Sept. 5	<b>28</b> Sept. 6	<b>29</b> Sept. 7	<b>30</b> Sept. 8	



Yet another year is about to pass and the snow is starting to settle onto the land. One nice thing about that is you can't see all the work laying around the yard.

The cows are on feed or perhaps finishing up stockpiled grazing or swathgrazing.

At this time, you begin to target the winter feeding program and look at your various lots of feed from best quality to poorest quality. If your cows are in poor body condition, it is best to feed heavier now and get some weight back on rather than to wait as colder months are coming.



## TIPS FOR DECEMBER

- Condition score cows and any that are thin should be separated from the main group to receive better nutrition. Cows should be in good flesh (BCS 2.5 to 3 Canadian score or 5 to 6 US score).
- If you have not already done so, test your feeds and develop a feeding plan.
- If your cows still need a trip through the shoot for pregnancy diagnosis, use this time to control for internal and external parasites with a pour-on endectocide. As the animals move through the shoot, you can also give the first scour vaccine to replacement heifers.
- Plan to attend some cow/calf and feeding meetings. Ag Days as well as Beef Week in January usually boast an excellent speaker line-up.
- Provide adequate salt, mineral/vitamin to meet the needs of your animals. Make sure Vitamin A levels are adequate. Minerals should be kept fresh. This is best done by purchasing no more than a 2-month supply of mineral/vitamin at a time.

# December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sept. 9
2 Sept. 10	3 Sept. 11	4 Sept. 12	5 Sept. 13	6 Sept. 14	7 Sept. 15	8 Sept. 16
9 Sept. 17	10 Sept. 18	11 Sept. 19	12 Sept. 20	13 Sept. 21	14 Sept. 22	15 Sept. 23
16 Sept. 24	17 Sept. 25	18 Sept. 26	19 Sept. 27	20 Sept. 28	21 Sept. 29	22 Sept. 30
23 Oct. 1	24 Oct. 2	25 Oct. 3 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 Oct. 4 <i>Boxing Day</i>	27 Oct. 5	28 Oct. 6	29 Oct. 7
30 Oct. 8	31 Oct. 9					