

Sample Health Program-Spring (Feb-April) Calving Herd

January

Cows and bred heifers

Rota-, Coronavirus, E.coli (scours) vaccine – possibly earlier; depends on vaccine

Begin feeding Hi-magnesium trace mineral mix

February

Begin calving-Observe heifers at least 3x per day

Colostrum is essential in first 12 hours of life. Provide 1.5-2 qts at birth and repeat in 6 hours if calf does not nurse on its own

Watch for diarrhea in calves-esp. first 3 weeks of life.

March

Open heifers (yearlings)

Deworm

Administer primary dose and a booster (according to label recommendations) of a 5 way viral respiratory vaccine + vibrio/lepto including HB. Modified live preferred. The second (booster) dose should be given 4-6 weeks prior to breeding.

Consider synchronization and AI

Cows and First calf heifers

Annual pre-breeding vaccination of a 5 way viral respiratory + vibrio/lepto including HB. Modified live is preferred. Administer 4-6 weeks prior to breeding.

Deworm

Calves (1-2 months of age)

Castrate and dehorn

7-way Clostridial (Blackleg)

Identify with tag

Optional:

5-way viral respiratory vaccine-MLV* preferred (OK if dams received MLV prebreeding) or Intranasal (Inforce 3). Important for calves at high risk for disease.

Implant if castrated

Test for BVD-PI (ear notch calves)-Consult your veterinarian

April

Bull

Breeding Soundness Evaluation

Vaccinate with 5 way viral respiratory + vibrio/lepto including HB

Deworm-Bulls need to be in peak physical condition prior to breeding season. They will normally lose weight during this time.

Begin breeding open heifers 2-3 weeks before begin breeding cows

May

Turn Bull in with cows

Return to regular trace mineral mix

Work any late calves as directed above in March

All cows, calves and bull-

Pinkeye vaccine-should be given just prior to fly season

Institute Fly Control (fly tags, spray, back rubbers)

June-Bale Hay

July

Remove bulls from cows (end of breeding season)

Deworm all cows, heifers, and bull

Continue fly control

Deworm and Vaccinate calves (should all be 4+ months old at this point in time)

Clostridial vaccine (Blackleg)

5 way viral respiratory vaccine (Use MLV if dams received MLV prebreeding)

Brucellosis (Heifers 4-10 months old)-optional-more common in dairy

August

Choose calf marketing plan then decide when to wean/timing of vaccinations

September

To calves at 2-3 weeks preweaning:

5 way viral respiratory-mlv preferred if dam received mlv prebreeding

7 way clostridial vaccine (blackleg)

Low potency implant to steers

***Mannheimia hemolytica* toxoid (may include *Pasteurella multocida*)**

Deworm

To Heifers Exposed to a Bull

Check for pregnancy-Palpate, ultrasound or blood test and cull open heifers

Deworm those to keep

October

Wean calves

To calves at weaning (after walking/bawling has stopped):

5 way viral respiratory-must be mlv

7-way clostridial (blackleg)-if booster required

weigh

Cows

Pregnancy check

Body condition score/ check udder/weigh

Remove fly tags

November

Wean any late calves

December

To Bred heifers

Begin first of 2 shot vaccine series against rota-, coronavirus and E.coli (Scours vaccine)-Check label directions as products vary regarding when to administer

Deworm

7-way clostridial (blackleg)

MLV*=Use modified live respiratory vaccines in a nursing calf only if the dam was vaccinated within the last year with a modified live vaccine