

GET YOUR BREEDUP UP

FACTORS THAT IMPACT BREEDING SUCCESS

1. COW BODY CONDITION

FOR THE BEST CHANCE OF REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS, COWS SHOULD HAVE A BCS OF AT LEAST 5 AT CALVING, WHILE FIRST CALF HEIFERS SHOULD BE AT 6.

2. NUTRITION

NUTRITION DRIVES REPRODUCTION. AN INCLINING PLANE OF NUTRITION IS CRITICAL TO ENSURE COWS CAN REPAIR THEIR REPRODUCTIVE TRACT AND BEGIN CYCLING BEFORE BREEDING SEASON BEGINS. WHILE ROUGHING YOUR COWS MAY SEEM LIKE A LOW COST APPROACH, CONSIDER ALSO THE COST OF AN OPEN COW.

3. VACCINATIONS

PRE-BREEDING IS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO VACCINATE YOUR COWS AGAINST REPRODUCTIVE DISEASES LIKE BVD AND IBR. TIMING IS CRITICAL; SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINES FOR 45-60 DAYS PRIOR TO BREEDING.

4. BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM

EVERY BULL GOING OUT TO PASTURE SHOULD HAVE A BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM (BSE), WHICH INCLUDES AN EXAMINATION OF FEET, LEGS, EYES, AND TEETH. IT ALSO CHECKS SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (AN INDICATOR OF THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE SPERM) AND DETERMINES SEMEN QUALITY.

5. BULL CONDITION

JUST LIKE COWS, THE BODY CONDITION OF YOUR BULLS IS IMPORTANT. KEEP IN MIND THAT THEY'LL STRUGGLE TO BREED WELL IF THEY ARE TOO FAT OR TOO THIN. A BCS OF 5 OR 6 AT TURN-OUT WILL GIVE THEM THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS. BULLS SHOULD ALSO BE VACCINATED FOR THE SAME DISEASES AS YOUR COWS.

6. BIOSECURITY

BIOSECURITY IS AN OFTEN-OVERLOOKED ASPECT OF HERD HEALTH. BULLS CAN PLAY A ROLE IN SPREADING DISEASES LIKE BVD AND IBR, SO IT MAY BE WORTH ISOLATING THEM FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THEY ARE PUT IN THE BREEDING HERD.

PLUS REPEL THOSE PESKY FLIES!

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