Beef Cow Herd Calendar

This Beef Cow Herd Calendar was developed as a production practice and management guide for Oklahoma cattle producers. Local adjustments and adaption in some areas may be necessary due to differences in types of grass and cattle, amount of rainfall, length of growing season or other factor.

December

Fall Calving

1. Continue winter feeding program. Vaccinate cows 30 days before breeding season with Leptospira/ Campylobacter bacterins, IBR, BVD, PI3’ BRSV vaccine depending on the local veterinarian’s recommendations.
2. Castrate, dehorn, implant, and vaccinate new calves with 7-way Clostridial bacterin and Intranasal IBR, PI3’ BRSV vaccine. Don’t implant replacement heifers.
3. Treat cows for internal parasites and lice. If needed.
4. For wheat or other small grain pasture:
   a) Limit-graze cows for protein needs.
   b) Provide a special area for calves to creep graze.
5. Watch the herd continuously for health problems. Pay particular attention to cattle grazing fescue for signs of fescue foot.
6. Provide OSU Silver creep for calves.

Spring Calving

1. Continue feeding program which was begun in October and November.
2. Limit-graze dry cows on fescue three to four days per week.
3. Watch the herd continuously for health problems. Pay particular attention to those grazing fescue for signs of fescue foot.
4. Continue to monitor herd for lice infestation. Implement control program as needed.
5. Identify the purebred herds and test stations at which you want to look for herd sires. Check sale dates and review performance criteria to use.
RANCHER’S THURSDAY LUNCHTIME SERIES

Heifer Selection, Development and Breeding

Join our Beef Cattle Extension team, experienced livestock marketers and ranchers to learn and share beef cattle production, management and marketing tips.

► Thursday, December 3, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.
Heifer Selection for Improved Lifetime Productivity
- Burke Teichert, Retired Vice President and General Manager at Deseret Ranches

► Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.
Building an Efficient Cowherd-Reproductive Tract Scoring
- Dr. Richard Prather, DVM, Ellis County Animal Hospital

► Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.
The Genetics of Fertility: Existing and Developing Tools
- Jared Decker, University of Missouri

► Thursday, January 7, 2021 | 12:30 p.m.
Sire Selection to Minimize Dystocia and Improve Performance
- Mark Johnson, Oklahoma State University

► Thursday, January 14, 2021 | 12:30 p.m.
The Latest in Synchronization and AI Tools/Systems
- Jordan Thomas, University of Missouri

► Thursday, January 21, 2021 | 12:30 p.m.
Managing First-Calf Heifers Through the Second Breeding Season
- Dr. Adam Bassett, DVM, Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine

LIVE WEBINARS
► Register Online:
dasnr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_19yRd78Q50wQigqw9tO3Q

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Garden Tips for December

David Hillock

Lawn & Turf

- Remove leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with a mulching mower. (HLA-6420)
- Continue mowing cool-season lawns on a regular basis. (HLA-6420)
- Continue to control broadleaf weeds in well-established warm- or cool-season lawns with a post-emergent broadleaf weed killer.

Tree & Shrubs

- Select a freshly cut Christmas tree. Make a new cut prior to placing in tree stand. Add water daily.
- Live Christmas trees are a wise investment, as they become permanent additions to the landscape after the holidays.
- Light prunings of evergreens can be used for holiday decorations. Be careful with sap that can mar surfaces.

Flowers

- Apply winter mulch to protect rose bush bud unions and other perennials. Wait until after several early freezes or you will give insects a good place to winter.
- Poinsettias must have at least six hours of bright, indirect light daily. Keep plants away from drafts.

Fruits & Nuts

- Cover strawberry plants with a mulch about 3-4 inches thick if plants are prone to winter injury.
- Wait to prune fruit trees until late February or March.

General

- Keep all plants watered during dry conditions even though some may be dormant. Irrigate all plantings at least 24 hours before hard-freezing weather if soil is dry. (HLA-6404)
- Order gardening supplies for next season.
- Now is a great time to design and make structural improvements in your garden and landscape.
- Send for mail-order catalogs if you are not already on their mailing lists.
- Christmas gift ideas for the gardener might include tools, garden books and magazine subscriptions.
- Clean and fill bird feeders.
- Make sure indoor plants are receiving enough light or set up an indoor fluorescent plant light.
- Till garden plots without a cover crop to further expose garden pests to harsh winter conditions.
- Visit your county extension office to obtain gardening fact sheets for the new gardening season.
- Join a horticulture, plant or urban forestry society and support community “greening” or “beautification” projects.
- Review your garden records so you can correct past mistakes. Purchase a new gardening journal or calendar to keep the New Year’s gardening records.
Grazing stocker cattle on winter wheat during the fall and winter months can provide cost-effective gains. Wheat pasture is succulent, palatable and nutritious. However, wheat pasture is typically low in calcium, marginal to sufficient in phosphorus and magnesium, and contains excess potassium for 400 to 600 lb stocker calves. It is also typically low in the trace minerals, copper and zinc. Due to these deficiencies, mineral supplementation on wheat pasture is highly recommended. Calcium is the macro-mineral of primary concern in most wheat pasture-grazing situations.

Two conditions which may occur with grazing of wheat pasture are wheat pasture poisoning (grass tetany) and frothy bloat. Wheat pasture poisoning is a complex metabolic disorder of cows grazing on wheat pasture. It occurs most frequently in mature cows that are in the latter stages of pregnancy or are nursing calves, and that have been grazing wheat pasture for 60 days or more. It results from a dietary deficiency of magnesium or from the presence of some factor in the diet which reduces absorption and/or utilization of magnesium. Studies have shown that high levels of potassium and/or nitrogen in the forage result in impaired magnesium uptake by the plant and/or utilization by the animal. Forage dry matter that contains less than 0.2% magnesium and more than 3% potassium and 4% nitrogen (25% CP) is likely to cause grass tetany. Since wheat pasture is typically high in nitrogen and potassium, magnesium utilization is reduced. Research suggests that a potassium level of 3 to 3.5% reduces magnesium absorption by about 30 to 35%. Cows with wheat pasture poisoning have low blood concentrations of both calcium and magnesium. While a similar, tetany-like condition occurs in stocker cattle, the incidence is extremely low.

Frothy bloat is a major cause of death in stocker cattle grazing wheat pasture and occurs as a result of the entrapment of gases in ruminal fluid froth and/or foam. It is generally thought that frothy bloat is caused by soluble proteins. Soluble proteins contribute to froth or foam formation in the rumen that entraps fermentation gases in the rumen. The chemical composition of wheat forage changes with environmental growing conditions, stage of wheat plant growth or maturity, soil fertility level, etc.; and, therefore, affects the degree or likelihood that a stable ruminal foam will be formed and bloat will occur when wheat is grazed. Oklahoma research has shown that bloat on wheat pasture is more prevalent when plants are low in dry matter and total fiber (neutral detergent fiber, NDF). Thus, bloat is more common when the wheat is actively growing in the fall and spring.

Stockers grazing the more fibrous, less succulent wheat forage may secrete more saliva. This saliva may have an anti-foaming effect and thus reduce the incidence of bloat.

Poloxalene is the only product labeled for bloat prevention. It reduces the surface tension of the gas-trapping froth in the rumen. The froth then forms much larger gas bubbles, permitting the normal release of gas; hence, reducing the danger of bloat. Feeding monensin can also help reduce bloat. Although Monessen (Rumensin®) is not a true bloat preventive compound like poloxalene, studies have shown that it does decrease the incidence and severity of wheat pasture bloat.

The perception exist in the field that a high-magnesium mineral fed to wheat pasture stockers will reduce bloat. However, there is no evidence to support the suggestion that supplemental magnesium will decrease the incidence and/or severity of bloat of stocker cattle on wheat pasture. There may be a relationship between ruminal motility (and the ability of stocker cattle to eructate gases) and the calcium status of the cattle. Research has shown that ruminal and gut motility is greatly compromised by subclinical deficiencies of calcium.

All of the information presented above indicates that calcium is the mineral of primary concern when developing a wheat pasture mineral program. It is generally recommended that stocker calves on wheat pasture be fed a mineral containing 15 to 20% calcium. Phosphorus may be of some concern but a level of less than 5% is adequate. A low concentration of magnesium may be desirable (~2%) even though the incidence of grass tetany in stocker cattle is extremely low.

Research at the USDA Southern Great Plains Range Research Station (Woodward, OK) showed that stocker cattle grazing wheat pasture fed a non-medicated mineral gained 0.51 lb/day more in the fall grazing season and 0.57 lb/day more during the spring graze-out period compared to non-supplemented cattle. In addition, OSU research at the Marshall Wheat Pasture Research Unit has shown that stockers grazing wheat pasture fed a non-medicated gained ~0.25 lb/day more than stockers not fed supplemental mineral. Adding an ionophore (Monessen) to the mineral increased gains by about another 0.20 lb/day. These data illustrate that stocker calves grazing small grain pastures will respond efficiently to mineral supplements and Monessen. Consider using these tools in your management program.

Note: Two ionophores (Monessen and lasalocid) are available for wheat pasture stocker cattle. Both, if delivered at the proper dosage, increase weight gains of growing cattle on wheat pasture by 0.18 to 0.24 lb/day more than that of the carrier supplement and improve the economics of supplementation programs.
The holidays just aren’t the same without Great-grandma Mary’s famous fruit pies. But as we all know, the holiday season is hectic and sometimes there just isn’t time to make some of our favorite family recipes.

Fortunately, you can make those favorite pies in advance and freeze them. This will save valuable time when you’re in a holiday rush, but still get that long-time family favorite pie on the table, said Barbara Brown, Oklahoma State University Extension food specialist.

“You have a couple of options when it comes to freezing fruit pies. First, you can make the pie and freeze it. It’s best to freeze an unbaked pie to help ensure it has a fresher fruit flavor,” Brown said. “Another option is to freeze the filling and crust separately to prevent fruit juice from penetrating and softening the lower crust during freezing. Freezing the unbaked pie will take up more space in your freezer and ties up that pie pan.”

When freezing the filling and crust separately, put the pre-measured fruit filling for one pie in a large freezer bag and squeeze out all of the air. Cooks also can put the bag of cooled filling into a foil-lined pie pan, shaping it to fit the pan. When it’s frozen, simply remove the filling and the pan is ready for other uses in the kitchen. When the holidays arrive, simply put the frozen filling in a fresh crust. Allow an extra 20 or so minutes for cooking.

Brown said freezing pie dough also can be a time saver during the holiday season. Roll the dough into circles and freeze on lined cardboard separated with pieces of parchment paper. You also can freeze unbaked dough in pie pans by stacking the pastry-filled pans with two layers of freezer paper between them. Place in a freezer bag to help ensure freshness.

“This can be done just before baking. A baked pie that has been frozen can be served without reheating. Keep in mind food safety and thaw a baked pie in the refrigerator.

Bake frozen pies in the lower third of the oven at 425 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and move the pie to the center of the oven to finish baking. Be sure to place the pies on a cookie sheet or drip pan to help catch juices that may overflow.

To help maintain color in frozen pies, add one-half teaspoon of ascorbic acid or commercial color preserver with the sugar when preparing peach, pear or apple pies. Also, consider adding an extra tablespoon of flour or tapioca or one-half tablespoon of cornstarch or modified food starch to unbaked fruit pies. This will help keep them from bubbling over when baking.

Freezing causes liquids thickened with flour or cornstarch to separate a bit, so fillings thickened with tapioca or modified food starch will maintain their consistency better.

“Go ahead and prick pastry that will be baked unfilled, but don’t prick dough that will be filled before baking,” she said. “Dough shaped in pans before freezing doesn’t need to be thawed before baking.”

Some bakers choose to freeze the whole pie first, whether baked or unbaked, then wrap them after they are frozen solid. If you choose this option, do not cut vents in the top crust of an unbaked pie before freezing.
January Leader Lesson

“Budgeting Basics”

The leader training lesson, “Budgeting Basics” will be held on Friday, December 18, 2020 at the Extension Office.

February Leader Lesson

January 22, 2021

“Don’t Just Sit There, Get Fit While You Sit” will be presented January 22, by Extension Educator Susan Holliday of Alfalfa County at the Extension Office. All are welcome to attend. Invite a Friend!

Attention New OHCE Group Secretaries!

Secretary’s Books for the year 2021 are available in the Extension Office, and online at: https://humansciences.okstate.edu/fcs/ohce/resources.html

Thank you for all you did to make the Blood Drive on Nov. 19th a great success!! Your blood save lives!

Blood Drive

Awards and Report Forms Updated!!!

Annual Member Awards, Young Member, Rookie of the Year, Member of the Year and Heart of OHCE are due January the 15th to the Alfalfa County OSU Extension Center, 602 West 5th, Suite 2, Cherokee, OK 73728. It is extremely important that you use the current forms to complete your applications. If you need more forms contact the extension office.

These forms can also be found on the OHCE web site, http://ohce.okstate.edu

To recognize local group awards (Rookie, Member, Young and Heart of OHCE) at the Spring Association please submit the names of your winners to the extension office by January 19th.

Community Project Awards are due January 15th, 2021 to the Extension Office. Several projects from around this county deserve to be recognized by reporting their outstanding community service. For the Community Project Award sponsored by the ACB Bank. Call the Extension Office for details or questions. 580.596.3131

Reports are due January 15th.
Upcoming OHCE Events and Activities

- December 18 Leader Lesson
- January 9 OHCE Officer Training 10:00 A.M - 2:00 P.M.
- January 22 Leader Lesson
- February 26 Leader Lesson
- OHCE Week May 2-8, 2021

List of Lessons in 2021

Months listed are when groups will have the lessons at their meetings, leaders trainings will be the month prior.

Alfalfa - 4th Friday @ 2:00 p.m.
Blaine - 4th Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.
Major - 4th Friday @ 10:00 a.m.
Woods - 4th Thursday @ 1:30 p.m.

January - Budgeting Basics (Dana)

February – Don’t Just Sit There, Get Fit While You Sit (Susan)

March – Fostering Kindness (Dana)

April – Houseplants and Succulents (Susan)

May – Nurturing Your Emotional Health (Dana)

June – OPEN

July – District Lesson– Immunizations and Vaccines

August – Family Mealtime: 10 Minutes to the Tables (Susan)

September- State Lesson– Attracting Pollinators (David Hillock)

October– Spices from Around the World (Dana)

November– OPEN

December– Is Your Glovebox Prepared for an Emergency? (Susan)

January 2022– 5 Financial Behaviors to Increase Spending and Decrease Spending (Dana)
LUNCHTIME LEARNING WORKSHOP
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ 12:00 P.M.

$10 per person / snacks provided
Make an easy & fun holiday wall hanging. Short program on “Smart Finances for the New Year”

RSVP by Monday, December 14th if you’d like to attend. Invite a friend to join us too!
Whether they are being used for farm and ranch work, hunting and fishing or just for pleasure, all-terrain vehicles are valuable tools – but must be used safely.

More than 100,000 people across the country are injured each year in ATV accidents, and the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program is stepping up to the plate to help cut down that number. The Oklahoma 4-H ATV Riders Course, which can accommodate up to eight riders at a time, is now offered at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau/Oklahoma 4-H Training Facility in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Jim Rhodes, Oklahoma State University Extension educator - Oklahoma youth safety, said Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a sponsor of the program that is designed to provide 4-H members, FFA members, church groups, family units and others an opportunity to learn how to safely use ATVs in all aspects of their lives.

“The goal with this program is to promote safety awareness to Oklahomans, as well as teach them the importance of protective wear, the fit of an ATV and how to be a safe active rider,” Rhodes said. “While these vehicles often are used for pleasure, they aren’t a toy.”

Oklahoma averages between 18 and 24 ATV-related deaths each year and ranks between 15th and 20th in the nation for ATV deaths. In addition, Rhodes said Oklahoma has one of the highest rates in the nation for injury for those ages 16 and under.

“Part of this training course is focusing on the importance of fit for the rider and the ATV. This is important because close to 90% of ATV crashes in the state involved a rider under the age of 16 who is riding an adult-sized machine,” he said.

Participants must complete the online course first before participating in the hands-on training. The rider course alone, which takes about three and a half hours, is available to participants for $5 per person. Rhodes said he also offers the rider course coupled with team-building activities for $25 per person. This option takes about six hours to complete and includes lunch. For those who are interested and live more than two and a half hours from Guthrie, Rhodes can make arrangements to bring the ATVs to your location for the rider course.

The riding course involves 11 different lessons that build on throttle control, weight shift and braking.

“A lot of times the drivers are a little timid when they first get on the machines, but after learning more about the key components of throttle control, weight shift and braking, I can see their self-confidence build and they really love it,” Rhodes said.

All participants in the riders course must wear long pants, long sleeves and boots that cover the ankles. All other safety gear is provided, including helmets, gloves and protective eyewear.

All classes follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s COVID-19 recommendations for social distancing and masks are required.

For more information about the 4-H ATV safety program or to schedule a class, email Rhodes at jim.rhodes@okstate.edu. Reservations are being taken through August 2021.
The Clover Equine Challenge is intended to advance the knowledge base of youth in equine handling skills, particularly but not limited to groundwork with young horses. There were five colts awarded to 4-H members enrolled in 4-H that are eligible to show at the West Region, North District 4-H Horse/Ranch Horse Show. Mrs. Loretta Doak donated the five colts to the program. Mr. Cleon Parkin donated all vet fees and vaccinations. Thank you to all that participated and donated!

(Left) Jessica Corey pictured with Loretta Doak
(Right)

(Left) Porscha Binning Alfalfa County 4-H Officer pictured with Loretta Doak (Right)
SHOWMANSHP

Held in conjunction with

CLOVER EQUINE
Challenge
2020-2021

Youth and their equine partner will work together to understand the dynamics of Equine Showmanship.

Contacts
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4-H HORSE ENTHUSIASTS & THEIR EQUINE PARTNER

10:00-12:00 A.M. JANUARY 30, 2021

ALFALFA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
602 WEST 5TH STREET
CHEROKEE, OK 73728

-CLINICIANS-

Erin Metcalf, POAC Carded Judge
Tommy Puffinbarger, Alfalfa County Extension Educator
Sarah Donahue, Grant County Extension Educator

Oklahoma State University, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Government Co-operating. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or status as a veteran, and is an equal opportunity employer.
Impressive Dress & Fashion Revue Results

FASHION REVUE

Overall Grand Champion, Top Seamstress, & Jr. Top Model - **Kortney Campbell**
Reserve Champion Jr. Model & Champion Costume - **Lauren Thomason**
Champion Senior Model & Champion Pants - **Mylee Sims**
Champion Fun Item - **Rylee Sims**
Champion Knitted Item - **Garret Sims**

IMPRESSIVE DRESS

Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Senior - Mylee Sims
Overall Grand Champion Intermediate - Emma Schupbach
Overall Reserve Grand Champion Intermediate – Kaycee Matzke
Overall Grand Champion Junior - Hudson Schupbach
Overall Reserve Grand Champion Junior - Lauren Thomason
Champion Senior Casual Wear - Mylee Sims
Champion Intermediate Casual Wear - Emma Schupbach
Champion Junior Casual Wear - Kortney Campbell
Reserve Champion Casual Wear - Remington Farney
Blue Ribbon Award - Price Poe
Blue Ribbon Award - Savelina Ofiu
Blue Ribbon Award - Hudson Schupbach
Blue Ribbon Award - Ella Fesmire
Blue Ribbon Award - Rylee Sims
Blue Ribbon Award - Garrett Sims
Blue Ribbon Award - Lauren Thomason
Cloverbud Award - Perry Poe
Champion Intermediate Sportswear - Kaycee Matzke
Champion Junior Sportswear - Hudson Schupbach
Reserve Champion Junior Sportswear - Price Poe
Blue Ribbon Award - Lauren Thomason
Blue Ribbon Award - Morgan Matzke
Blue Ribbon Award - Owen Bellamy
Blue Ribbon Award - Rebecka Carlson
Cloverbud Award - Perry Poe
Cloverbud Award - Benny Bellamy
Turkey Benefit Dinner

Alfalfa County 4-H and its members would like to say, “Thank You” to everyone who supported the curbside “4-H Turkey Dinner”!! Individuals and businesses have truly been a blessing to our 4-H youth and the 4-H organization.

4-H State Record Books

Record Books will once again be turned in electronically like last year. You will receive more information about the turn in process a little closer to that time. Record Books will be due on April 26th, 2021 by NOON.

Pickens Scholarships are due by 5:00pm emailed to ok4h@okstate.edu on February 1, 2021.

Record Book judging will be on May 11th, 2021.

Our plan as of 11/17/2020 is to judge virtually like last year.

Record Book interviews for the finalists will be on June 8th, 2021. It is still undetermined how those interviews will be conducted.

These dates will not be published on the website in order for you to set your own Record Book deadlines. However no record books after NOON on April 26th, 2021.
**Oklahoma 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador**

Do you have an interest in healthy living and are a current freshman, sophomore, or junior in high school? If so this might be for you! 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors will serve one year. They are an asset to accomplishing the goals and outcome of the 4-H Healthy Living Mission Mandate. Oklahoma 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors will work closely with their team to plan and conduct an Oklahoma 4-H Living Summit and provide support and programming to local 4-H clubs and county programs. The applications are due January 15, 2021 in the State 4-H Office. If you are interested or have questions contact the Alfalfa County OSU Extension Office.

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**2021 Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest**

**Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program**

Who: 4-H members who are in 8th-12th grade and ACTIVE in 4-HOnline.

What: Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar Essay Contest

When: Essays are due to the State 4-H Awards Data Base on April 26th, 2021 by NOON. All entries become property of Oklahoma 4-H. This is when essays are due to the State 4-H Office, please feel free to set your own due date.

Application includes: Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar Essay Contest application (must have all appropriate signatures), essays of 850-1,000 words on the topic “How can Oklahoma 4-H Change a Community?” and a scanned headshot of the 4-H member.

All entry information is attached and can be found at: [https://4h.okstate.edu/members/record-book-and-scholarship-information/record-book-and-scholarship-info.html](https://4h.okstate.edu/members/record-book-and-scholarship-information/record-book-and-scholarship-info.html)