Breeding Beef Management

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Heifer Selection

► Weaning
► Yearling
► Pregnancy check
► Calving
► Weaning of first calf
Heifer Selection

- Weight
- Frame size (Avoid Extremes)
- Soundness
- Over conditioned
- Retain up to 50% more heifers than needed
Heifer Selection

► Yearling weight records
  ▪ Growth potential
► Feet and legs
► Unthrifty
Structural Correctness Means Herd Longevity
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- Transmittable trait
- Bad disposition means difficult handling
- Nervous females mean lower conception rates
Frame Size

- Frame size is highly heritable (50%)
- Moderate frame size is 5 – 7
- Frame size dictates carcass size
- Avoid extremes
Bulls must be sound in order to cover ground and breed cows regularly.

Cows/heifers must be able to carry a calf.

Steers must be able to perform under feedlot conditions.
Walk freely and easily

Long strides

Flex and give in joints
Buck-kneed
Calf-kneed
Sickle-hocked
Cow-hocked
Muscle

- Muscle is the marketable product

- Avoid extremes
  - Narrow framed; narrow loined; flat quartered
  - Coarse; overly defined in quarter and shoulder; double muscle
Heavy Muscling

- More definition of muscle in forearm and shoulder
- More roundness and width to quarter
- Wide through stifle
- Deeper twist
- Wide stance
More angular shape to top with less width and fullness

Narrow topped (flat loin)

Flat-sided

Flat in forearm

Narrow stance
Shallow depth of body
Deep depth of body
Extremely muscled heifers may have fertility problems.

Course, bunchy muscled bulls may sire similar calves, increasing the risk of calving difficulty.
Overfeeding Results In

- Excessive feed cost
- Increased calving difficulty
- Depressed milk flow
- Decreased life span
- Breeding difficulties
- Fewer calves weaned
Underfeeding Results In

- Delayed sexual maturity
- Reduced calf crop
- Late, weak and small calves
- Poor milk production
- Reduced weaning weights
- Lower conception rates
- Calving difficulties