1989

Ec89-263 Nebraska Breeding and Calving Record Book

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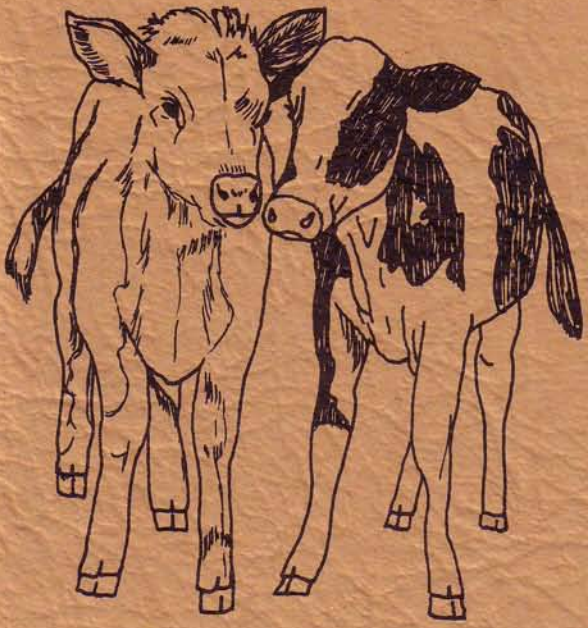
NEBRASKA BREEDING *and* CALVING RECORD BOOK



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914,
in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Leo E. Lucas, Director of Cooperative Extension Service,
University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dear Nebraska Cattleman:

This Breeding-Calving Record Book will serve as a useful aid in keeping complete and accurate beef performance records. Performance records have long been recognized as a valuable tool in the selection of genetically superior cattle; in addition, performance records are now being used to eliminate much of the "guesswork" from herd management decisions. We believe this two-fold approach to "performance selection" and "performance management" will lead to cattle that are more functionally efficient and more profitable.

If we can be of service to you, please call on us.

Extension Beef Specialists
University of Nebraska

- In commercial herds, identify calves with plastic or metal eartags.
- In registered herds, use plastic or metal eartags, but also tattoo the ear with the same number as is on the eartag.
- Give a replacement heifer the same identification number as her tattoo or calf eartag; errors in recordkeeping will be reduced if eartag, tattoo and herd numbers are the same.

BREEDING TIPS

- **Winter the replacement heifers properly.** After weaning, separate replacement heifers from the steers, and feed to gain from 1 to 1¼ pounds per head per day or to weigh between 650 and 700 pounds at breeding time. Heifers managed this way will be in more desirable condition to conceive early in the breeding season.
- **Breed heifers to calve 3 weeks ahead of the cow herd.** Turn the bulls in with yearling heifers 3 weeks before exposing the cow herd. These heifers will then calve early their first year and will tend to calve early throughout life. This also allows more attention to be given to the heifers at calving time.
- **Use judgment in selecting a bull.** Give consideration to breed and type of bull best suited to your particular herd. Do not use a large, thick-shouldered, heavy-muscled bull to breed yearling heifers. When available, use birthweight and calving difficulty records in bull selection.
- **Purchase the bull early.** Pick your bull early, when selection is the best, and isolate him on your farm 45 to 60 days prior to breeding. This provides ample time for him to adjust to his new environment and to overcome any fertility problems encountered from a sale or shipment.
- **Evaluate semen and reproductive soundness.** Two weeks before the breeding season, perform a semen required, do it at least 2 weeks before breeding.
- **Check the breeding pastures frequently.** Watch for and record cows in heat. See that the bull is finding and breeding those cows. Remove from the breeding area any wire, boards, etc. which may cause injury.
- **Pregnancy-test the cows.** The herd can be pregnancy-tested 4 to 5 months after start of the breeding season. An experienced person can detect pregnancy as early as 30-45 days. Many things can be done at this time: weaning, weighing, worming, grub control, vaccinations and identification.
- **Shorten the breeding season.**

and reproductive soundness evaluation on all bulls. This practice will detect sterile bulls and those with obviously low fertility and will allow time to replace them.

- **Provide adequate bull power.** Use one yearling bull for each 15 or 20 cows and one mature bull for each 25 or 30 cows. Bulls should enter the breeding season in good condition, but not fat. If foot trimming is

Gradually shorten the breeding season each year until all calves are being born in a 50 to 60-day period of time. This results in a more uniform calf crop which, along with the cow herd, is much easier to manage. The breeding season can be shortened by removing the bulls earlier, and by yearly culling open cows and those conceiving late in the breeding season.

CALVING TIPS

- Observe the herd closely during calving season, especially first-calf heifers, because they will require the most assistance.
- Have proper equipment and facilities available prior to calving.
- Give assistance during delivery or call the veterinarian when needed. Do not wait more than a few hours after the start of labor.
- Correct fetal malpresentation, if present. When pulling a calf, loop the chain or rope above the fetlock and half hitch it below the fetlock. Apply traction on one leg at a time to facilitate passage of the shoulders through the pelvis.
- As soon as possible after birth, remove mucus from the calf's nose and mouth. If the calf does not start to breathe normally, hold its hind legs and shake it vigorously, or apply artificial respiration by alternate pressure and release on the rib cage.
- Disinfect the navel cord with iodine to guard against infection.

Stages of Parturition

Stage/Time	Events
Preparatory (2 to 6 hours)	1. Calf rotates to upright position. 2. Uterine contractions begin. 3. Water sac expelled.
Delivery (1 hour or less)	1. Cow usually lying down. 2. Fetus enters birth canal. 3. Front feet and head protrude first. 4. Calf delivered.
Cleaning (½ to 8 hours)	1. Cotyledon-caruncle (button) attachments relax. 2. Uterine contractions expel membranes.

- Keep birthweight and ease-of-calving records to identify sires and dams responsible for calving difficulty problems. This information is especially important when recommending a sire for use in breeding yearling heifers. A simple scoring system is shown.

Calving-Ease Scoring System	
Score	Description
1	No difficulty, no assistance
2	Minor difficulty, hand assistance
3	Major difficulty, assistance with jack or puller
4	Cesarean birth

GESTATION AND WEIGHING TABLE

This table assumes a 283-day gestation period from conception until calving; however, a range of 275 to 290 days is common, depending on breed, size of cow and other factors.

Weaning weight in this table is scheduled 205 days after date of birth; however, calves may be weighed anytime between 160 and 250 days of age to arrive at the 205-day adjusted weight.

Date bred	Due to calve	205-day weaning weight	Date bred	Due to calve	205-day weaning weight
Jan. 1	Oct. 11	May 4	July 1	Apr. 10	Nov. 1
Jan. 15	Oct. 25	May 18	July 15	Apr. 24	Nov. 15
Feb. 1	Nov. 11	June 4	Aug. 1	May 11	Dec. 2
Feb. 15	Nov. 25	June 18	Aug. 15	May 25	Dec. 16
Mar. 1	Dec. 9	July 2	Sept. 1	June 11	Jan. 2
Mar. 15	Dec. 23	July 16	Sept. 14	June 25	Jan. 16
Apr. 1	Jan. 9	Aug. 2	Oct. 1	July 11	Feb. 1
Apr. 15	Jan. 23	Aug. 16	Oct. 15	July 25	Feb. 15
May 1	Feb. 8	Sept. 1	Nov. 1	Aug. 11	Mar. 4
May 15	Feb. 22	Sept. 15	Nov. 15	Aug. 25	Mar. 18
June 1	Mar. 11	Oct. 2	Dec. 1	Sept. 10	Apr. 3
June 15	Mar. 25	Oct. 16	Dec. 15	Sept. 24	Apr. 17

REPRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY SCORE CARD

Performance Items	Year 19___	19___	19___
Began breeding season (month and day)			
First calf expected (month and day)			
Ended breeding season (month and day)			
Last calf expected (month and day)			
Length of breeding season (number of days)			
Length of calving season (number of days)			
Conception % = No. females pregnant / No. exposed to bull x 100			
Calving % = No. females calving / No. exposed to bull x 100			
Weaning % = No. calves weaned / No. exposed to bull x 100			
Pounds calf weaned per cow exposed = No. calves weaned x Avg. weaning weight / No. exposed to bull x 100			

BREEDING-CALVING RECORD

Cow ID	Sire ID	Breeding Dates		Calving Record					Comments
		1st	2nd	Calf ID	Birth Date	Sex	Birth Wt.	Calv. Ease	

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NOTES