



# Cow-Calf Management Guide

## IV. Grazing Season—Irrigated Pasture

**Management Objective**—Manage cattle and feed resources to provide adequate nutrition for the cattle and assure yield of forage for future use.

**Agronomic management**—Refers to the management of plants in a grazing situation.

**Bloat**—A form of indigestion marked by an abnormal collection of gas in the rumen.

### Points to Remember

- Irrigated pastures need a management plan and as much care and consideration as any other crop produced on high-value land. **CL502, 590, 592, 594, 596**
- On irrigated pastures the yield potential in terms of saleable beef is directly related to *agronomic management* and cattle management. **CL590, 594**
- A grazing management system aimed at maximum beef yields per acre requires flexibility in forage harvesting. Stocking rates must be kept at a balance with forage production. **CL536, 592**
- Poloxalene is an antifoaming agent that prevents pasture *bloat* for 12 hours if fed in adequate amounts. **CL625**
- Drought and fertilizing conditions can affect nitrate levels in grazed forage. **CL594, 1130, 1135**
- If you graze a pasture before the grass is 8 to 14 inches high you will decrease the total forage produced for the season. **CL590, 596**
- Plan to fertilize 6 weeks before beginning grazing, using one-third of the fertilizer at each application. **CL590, 594, 596**

**Regrowth**—That growth that has taken place after grazing or cutting.

- With a pure stand of grass, a nitrogen fertilizer is all you will need. **CL590, 594, 596**
- Watch young calves closely for signs of illness, starvation, etc. **CL610**
- Watch for fly population buildup. Use a fly control measure, such as a dust bag, oiler, or spray cattle. **CL691**
- Don't overgraze pastures. Leave 4 to 6 inches of growth and rotate between pastures to allow 3 to 4 weeks *regrowth*. **CL590, 592, 596**
- Pastures that have been heavily fertilized with nitrogen and small grains used for hay, silage, and/or pasture should be checked for nitrates. **CL355, 594, 612**

## Good Management Practices

1. Depending on soil type, hold to rigid irrigation, grazing, and rotation schedules. Don't hesitate to adjust if pastures are getting short (less than 4 inches). Do this by adjusting numbers or supplementing with other roughage. **CL590, 592**
2. Watch closely for weed buildup and take appropriate action by clipping or spraying. **CL542, 590, 619, 635**
3. Keep salt and mineral supplement available at all times. **CL300, 315, 327, 627, 628, 629**
4. Establish the best program for external parasites for your area. **CL212, 691**
5. Apply nitrogen fertilizer at least two and perhaps three times during the growing year. **CL590, 594**

## Plan Ahead

- Prepare working facilities for weaning. **CL791, 792**
- Review health program. **CL605, 626, 748**
- Prepare to get weaning weights. **CL755, 793, 815, 835**
- Study market plans. **CL735, 800, 810, 820, 822, 823, 828, 830**
- Develop plan for culling and selection. **CL410, 734, 735, 745, 932**



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