



# Cow-Calf Management Guide

## VII. Replacement Heifers

**Management Objective**—Select and grow heifers to produce cows that will have long, productive lives.

### Points to Remember

- To complete growth to maturity on schedule, heifers need extra care until their second calf. **CL300, 310, 315, 333**
- The number of heifers selected now will dictate the number of cows that can be culled a year from now. **CL734, 735, 745, 1024**
- Heifers too small when selected will never have a long and productive life. **CL410, 745, 775**
- Heifers large at weaning will retain their advantage throughout life with proper care. **CL326, 410, 745**
- Proper feeding the first winter is critical to heifer development. **CL300, 303, 325, 333, 745**
- Early cycling in heifers depends on age and weight. **CL300, 745**
- Heifers calving the first calving period will out-produce cows calving the fourth calving period. **CL410**
- Heifers require more time to start cycling after calving than mature cows. **CL300, 413**
- The more heifers that can be selected from, the greater the opportunity for improvement. **CL932, 1020, 1024, 1035**

- Begin a herd vaccination schedule and provide sufficient boosters. **CL212, 605, 607, 650, 654, 655, 659, 662, 663, 671, 672, 675, 681, 683**

## Good Management Practices

1. Keep heifers separate during winter, and provide extra feed from weaning until their second calf. **CL300, 303, 306, 326, 745**
2. Keep enough replacements so that any cow that needs culling can be culled. **CL735, 745, 932, 965**
3. Cows calving beyond 60 days in the calving season should be replaced with heifers calving the first 20 days. **CL410, 735, 745, 747**
4. Calve heifers 20 days ahead of the cow herd to allow them more time to begin cycling before the breeding season begins. **CL745**
5. Use bulls that produce fewer calving problems. **CL421, 425, 1020, 1024, 1037, 1038, 1041**



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