

# 2016

## BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



The tips suggested in this calendar are based on a cowherd calving in early March. Please adjust accordingly for earlier or later calving.



# TIPS FOR JANUARY



- On average, January is our coldest month, so make sure your cows have adequate shelter and bedding. The effects of wind can be five times more dramatic than the actual temperature.
- Start off the year right. Review the MAFRD [cost of production](#) estimates as a starting point to your farm budgets.
- Complete the paperwork required for annual certification of the [Verified Beef Production Program](#).
- Treat bred heifers with their first scour vaccine dose. Use according to drug label and in consultation with your local veterinarian.
- If you're feeding a grain and straw based ration, pay particular attention to protein and energy. If protein and energy amounts are not sufficient, your cows can over-consume straw on a cold night and end up impacted.
- When you are sourcing feedstuffs, compare prices based on the amount of the desired nutrient (ex: protein or TDN) you are getting per pound of feed. For help with these calculations, use the MAFRD [FeedPlan](#) worksheet.
- Keeping the values from the tables below in mind, blend the different feeds to match your animals' requirements.

## Manitoba Average Feed Analysis 2000-2005

|             | Alfalfa<br>Grass hay | Native<br>hay | Oats<br>Greenfeed | Wheat<br>Straw | Barley<br>Silage | Corn<br>Silage |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| TDN (%)     | 57                   | 56            | 60                | 43             | 66               | 67             |
| Protein (%) | 16                   | 10            | 10                | 4              | 11               | 9              |

## Nutrient Requirements NRC 2000 (1400 lb. cow/1000 lb. heifer)

|             | First/Second Trimester |        | Third Trimester |        | Lactation |        |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------|--------|
|             | Cow                    | Heifer | Cow             | Heifer | Cow       | Heifer |
| TDN (%)     | 45.8                   | 51.3   | 56.6            | 56.8   | 59.1      | 61.3   |
| Protein (%) | 6.20                   | 7.32   | 8.88            | 8.74   | 10.31     | 10.02  |

\* note requirements will be higher with cold winter temperatures

# January 2016

| Sun                                    | Mon          | Tue          | Wed          | Thu          | Fri                           | Sat          |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|  |              |              |              |              | 1<br>Oct 10<br>New Year's Day | 2<br>Oct 11  |
| 3<br>Oct 12                            | 4<br>Oct 13  | 5<br>Oct 14  | 6<br>Oct 15  | 7<br>Oct 16  | 8<br>Oct 17                   | 9<br>Oct 18  |
| <b>Manitoba Beef &amp; Forage Week</b> |              |              |              |              |                               |              |
| 10<br>Oct 19                           | 11<br>Oct 20 | 12<br>Oct 21 | 13<br>Oct 22 | 14<br>Oct 23 | 15<br>Oct 24                  | 16<br>Oct 25 |
| 17<br>Oct 26                           | 18<br>Oct 27 | 19<br>Oct 28 | 20<br>Oct 29 | 21<br>Oct 30 | 22<br>Oct 31                  | 23<br>Nov 1  |
| <b>Manitoba Ag Days-Brandon, MB</b>    |              |              |              |              |                               |              |
| 24<br>Nov 2                            | 25<br>Nov 3  | 26<br>Nov 4  | 27<br>Nov 5  | 28<br>Nov 6  | 29<br>Nov 7                   | 30<br>Nov 8  |
| Nov 9<br>31                            |              |              |              |              |                               |              |

# TIPS FOR FEBRUARY



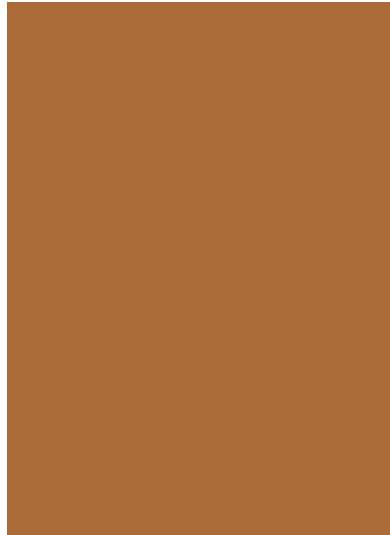
- Ensure your cows are on a rising nutrition plan, as most fetal growth is occurring now. This is also critical for successful rebreeding results. It may be necessary to re-evaluate your feeding plans and inventories.
- If white muscle disease is a problem in your area, inject cows with Selenium. Also, if you are not providing vitamins in your feed, inject your cows with vitamins A, D and E when processing. Injections need to take place every 60 to 90 days.
- Vaccinate your cows for calf scours according to the drug label and in consultation with your local veterinarian.
- Feed your cattle a mineral mix with high levels of copper, manganese and zinc. Minimum levels on the tag should be 4,000 mg/kg for copper, 8,000 mg/kg for manganese and 10,000 mg/kg for zinc.
- Prepare for calving. Ensure the maternity pens are ready, all equipment is in good working order and that all calving supplies are on hand. Check the expiry dates on medications and supplements carried over from last year.
- To simplify registration of RFID information, purchase all of your tags at once and in one sequence.
- Do some planning on how you will manage summer and fall grazing. Have you figured out your annual and perennial forage seed needs? Extended grazing options include second or third cut hay, swath grazing, chaff piles, stubble grazing, corn stover, standing corn or bale grazing. Are you going to do more cross-fencing or water development for the upcoming grazing season?
- Assess the body condition score of your bulls and adjust the ration accordingly.
- Complete the breeding soundness examination and semen test early to ensure you have sufficient bull power for this year's breeding season. This will allow time to purchase replacement bulls if necessary.
- A proper bull to cow ratio is important to achieve good conception rates.

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Yearling Bull     | 15-20 Cows |
| Two year old Bull | 20-30 Cows |
| Mature Bull       | 30-40 Cows |

# February 2016

| Sun              | Mon                                | Tue              | Wed              | Thu  | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
|                  | <b>1</b> Nov 10                    | <b>2</b> Nov 11  | <b>3</b> Nov 12  | <b>4</b> Nov 13                                | <b>5</b> Nov 14  | <b>6</b> Nov 15  |
|                  |                                    |                  |                  | <b>Manitoba Beef Producers AGM-Brandon, MB</b> |                  |                  |
| <b>7</b> Nov 16  | <b>8</b> Nov 17                    | <b>9</b> Nov 18  | <b>10</b> Nov 19 | <b>11</b> Nov 20                               | <b>12</b> Nov 21 | <b>13</b> Nov 22 |
| <b>14</b> Nov 23 | <b>15</b> Nov 24<br>Louis Riel Day | <b>16</b> Nov 25 | <b>17</b> Nov 26 | <b>18</b> Nov 27                               | <b>19</b> Nov 28 | <b>20</b> Nov 29 |
| <b>21</b> Nov 30 | <b>22</b> Dec 1                    | <b>23</b> Dec 2  | <b>24</b> Dec 3  | <b>25</b> Dec 4                                | <b>26</b> Dec 5  | <b>27</b> Dec 6  |
| <b>28</b> Dec 7  | <b>29</b> Dec 8                    |                  |                  |  |                  |                  |

# TIPS FOR MARCH



- At the onset of calving spend time observing your cows and particularly your first calf heifers. Monitor them periodically to ensure the birth is progressing normally and be prepared to intervene if they are experiencing difficulties.
- Calves need to be up and sucking within the first six hours of life to make sure they receive adequate colostrum. Ideally, the calves should receive colostrum within the first two hours. This is the most essential thing you can do for the health of your calves.
- Watch calves for signs of sickness, especially scours and pneumonia. Early treatment is crucial for improved survival rates. Forty to fifty per cent of calf mortality is within 24 hours of birth. Be sure to keep in contact with your local veterinarian.
- Calve on dean, dry ground with ample bedding to reduce illness. Avoid overcrowding and follow good biosecurity practices.
- Consult with your local veterinarian about protecting young calves against coccidiosis.
- If a cow has not expelled her placenta, monitor her closely. Do not intervene if the cow is not showing signs of illness. A high incidence of retained placentas is an indicator of a herd issue such as nutrition.
- Good quality post-partum nutrition is very important. The second month of lactation is the cow's peak nutritional requirement. A balanced ration is necessary for lactation and for returning to estrous.
- Castrate, dehorn and tag your calves as soon as possible. Record the CCIA tag numbers, along with the calves' birth dates and treatments, in your calving book.



Photo by: Garibaldi Farms, Gladstone



# March 2016

| Sun                          | Mon              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu               | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                              |                  | <b>1</b> Dec 9   | <b>2</b> Dec 10  | <b>3</b> Dec 11   | <b>4</b> Dec 12  | <b>5</b> Dec 13  |
| <b>6</b> Dec 14              | <b>7</b> Dec 15  | <b>8</b> Dec 16  | <b>9</b> Dec 17  | <b>10</b> Dec 18  | <b>11</b> Dec 19 | <b>12</b> Dec 20 |
| <b>13</b> Dec 21             | <b>14</b> Dec 22 | <b>15</b> Dec 23 | <b>16</b> Dec 24 | <b>17</b> Dec 25  | <b>18</b> Dec 26 | <b>19</b> Dec 27 |
| Daylight Savings Time Begins |                  |                  |                  | St. Patrick's Day |                  |                  |
| <b>20</b> Dec 28             | <b>21</b> Dec 29 | <b>22</b> Dec 30 | <b>23</b> Dec 31 | <b>24</b> Jan 1   | <b>25</b> Jan 2  | <b>26</b> Jan 3  |
|                              |                  |                  |                  |                   | Good Friday      |                  |
| <b>27</b> Jan 4              | <b>28</b> Jan 5  | <b>29</b> Jan 6  | <b>30</b> Jan 7  | <b>31</b> Jan 8   |                  |                  |
| Easter Sunday                | Easter Monday    |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |

# TIPS FOR APRIL



- As weather conditions and the temperature can change quickly this month, pay attention to calf health and watch closely for signs of sickness.
- Scours, coccidiosis and pneumonia are prevalent at this time of year. Clean conditions with ample straw or fresh ground is the best prevention.
- Studies have proven that age segregation of calves is also effective at reducing calf-hood ailments. Segregating your cow calf groups by age of calf every two weeks will prevent the passage of pathogens from older to younger calves. This method is called the [Sandhills Calving System](#) (SCS). It is effective with divided pastures or with confinement pens.
- At this time of year, biosecurity is a prime concern. Have rubber boots available for any visitors who also have cattle.
- Adopting calves from other herds is a prime vector of pathogens. Introducing an orphan calf into your herd is a large risk to your biosecurity.
- Colostrum collected and frozen from other herds is also a prime biosecurity risk. Generally the best colostrum comes from healthy, well fed, home raised cows. If you cannot collect colostrum from your farm, purchasing dried commercial colostrum is a much safer option than frozen local samples.
- Look into pre-breeding/calf-hood vaccination programs in consultation with your veterinarian and order vaccine.
- Breed replacement heifers two to three weeks before the cows. The postpartum interval on first calf heifers is usually 10 to 15 days longer than cows and this will allow first calvers to stay ahead on calving throughout their lifetime.
- If you stockpiled any dead stock in the winter, now is the best time to look into proper disposal options, such as [composting](#).



# April 2016

| Sun              | Mon              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Jan 9   | <b>2</b> Jan 10  |
| <b>3</b> Jan 11  | <b>4</b> Jan 12  | <b>5</b> Jan 13  | <b>6</b> Jan 14  | <b>7</b> Jan 15  | <b>8</b> Jan 16  | <b>9</b> Jan 17  |
| <b>10</b> Jan 18 | <b>11</b> Jan 19 | <b>12</b> Jan 20 | <b>13</b> Jan 21 | <b>14</b> Jan 22 | <b>15</b> Jan 23 | <b>16</b> Jan 24 |
| <b>17</b> Jan 25 | <b>18</b> Jan 26 | <b>19</b> Jan 27 | <b>20</b> Jan 28 | <b>21</b> Jan 29 | <b>22</b> Jan 30 | <b>23</b> Jan 31 |
| <b>24</b> Feb 1  | <b>25</b> Feb 2  | <b>26</b> Feb 3  | <b>27</b> Feb 4  | <b>28</b> Feb 5  | <b>29</b> Feb 6  | <b>30</b> Feb 7  |

# TIPS FOR MAY



- When the grass is turning green, there is always a temptation to graze pastures as early as possible. There should be a minimum of six to eight inches of new growth before the herd is put out on pasture. Stockpiled pasture, with extra feed supplementation, can fill this gap before pastures are fully ready for grazing.
- Holding cattle in confinement longer in May is normally a very good economic decision. On native pastures and most tame pastures, holding off grazing for one day in May will increase pasture days by three days in the fall.
- Rotational grazing systems increase pasture yield and season long quality in excess of the cost and effort required to operate a rotational grazing system. Systems such as the “twice over grazing system” are simple and work well in Manitoba.
- You may want to look at using footrot vaccine on your bulls before turnout.
- All animals should be processed before turnout. Castrate and debud your calves if they were not done at birth. After horn bud attachment (typically two to three months of age) pain control is recommended to reduce the pain associated with dehorning.
- Give calf-hood vaccines and provide pre-breeding vaccinations to cows. Blackleg vaccination for calves is inexpensive and very effective in preventing the loss of calves to blackleg. Every year, many calves perish in Manitoba because they do not receive blackleg vaccine.
- If flies are a significant problem on your pasture, plan for a fly control program.
- [www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca) offers helpful information on forage and beef production.

# May 2016

| Sun                             | Mon                             | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>1</b> Feb 8                  | <b>2</b> Feb 9                  | <b>3</b> Feb 10  | <b>4</b> Feb 11  | <b>5</b> Feb 12  | <b>6</b> Feb 13  | <b>7</b> Feb 14  |
| <b>8</b> Feb 15<br>Mother's Day | <b>9</b> Feb 16                 | <b>10</b> Feb 17 | <b>11</b> Feb 18 | <b>12</b> Feb 19 | <b>13</b> Feb 20 | <b>14</b> Feb 21 |
| <b>15</b> Feb 22                | <b>16</b> Feb 23                | <b>17</b> Feb 24 | <b>18</b> Feb 25 | <b>19</b> Feb 26 | <b>20</b> Feb 27 | <b>21</b> Feb 28 |
| <b>22</b> Mar 1                 | <b>23</b> Mar 2<br>Victoria Day | <b>24</b> Mar 3  | <b>25</b> Mar 4  | <b>26</b> Mar 5  | <b>27</b> Mar 6  | <b>28</b> Mar 7  |
| <b>29</b> Mar 8                 | <b>30</b> Mar 9                 | <b>31</b> Mar 10 |                  |                  |                  |                  |

# TIPS FOR JUNE



- Monitor your pastures closely. Grazing management now dictates the amount of grass you will have for subsequent rotations. Move your cattle quickly through the first rotation.
- Watch for bloat conditions in pastures with alfalfa in the pre-bud or bud stage. Contact your veterinarian about products available to help you manage bloat (ex: ionophores or alfasure).
- If you are seeing return heats, check your bulls daily and monitor breeding performance.
- Mineral consumption is critical at this time of year. An easy way to know you are getting one ounce of mineral a day to each cow is to remember that one, 25 kilogram (55 pound) bag has 880 ounces of mineral. As such, the math is simple. One bag of mineral would provide one cow for 880 days, 10 cows for 88 days, 100 cows for eight days or 1,000 cows for less than one day.
- Check your water sources and quality regularly.
- Get your equipment ready for haying.
- Harvest forage early for highest quality—target 10 per cent bloom in alfalfa to begin cutting:

| Alfalfa Plant Stage | TDN % |
|---------------------|-------|
| Prebud              | 67    |
| Bud To Mid-Bud      | 61    |
| 10% Bloom           | 56    |
| Full Bloom          | 53    |

- Consider taking alfalfa first cut in late June as silage. This will produce good quality silage, and allow adequate time for the second cut in late July or early August.



# June 2016

| Sun              | Mon              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Mar 11  | <b>2</b> Mar 12  | <b>3</b> Mar 13  | <b>4</b> Mar 14  |
| <b>5</b> Mar 15  | <b>6</b> Mar 16  | <b>7</b> Mar 17  | <b>8</b> Mar 18  | <b>9</b> Mar 19  | <b>10</b> Mar 20 | <b>11</b> Mar 21 |
| <b>12</b> Mar 22 | <b>13</b> Mar 23 | <b>14</b> Mar 24 | <b>15</b> Mar 25 | <b>16</b> Mar 26 | <b>17</b> Mar 27 | <b>18</b> Mar 28 |
| <b>19</b> Mar 29 | <b>20</b> Mar 30 | <b>21</b> Mar 31 | <b>22</b> Apr 1  | <b>23</b> Apr 2  | <b>24</b> Apr 3  | <b>25</b> Apr 4  |
| Father's Day     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>26</b> Apr 4  | <b>27</b> Apr 6  | <b>28</b> Apr 7  | <b>29</b> Apr 8  | <b>30</b> Apr 9  |                  |                  |

# TIPS FOR JULY



- Quality and availability of water is important in hot weather. Check your water sources on a regular basis.
- Consider mechanically harvesting surplus forage from pasture if a grazing pass is not possible by the end of the month.
- Plan to set aside paddocks of forage regrowth for stockpiled grazing in the fall, early winter and next spring.
- Subdivide your pastures and allow at least 30 to 60 or more days of rest for grazed forages to re-grow.
- If native pastures have been continuously grazed for the summer, it is now time to remove livestock from these areas to allow adequate rest.
- Remove bulls to end a 65-day breeding season.
- Consult with your veterinarian on internal parasite load and control methods.
- Monitor herd health frequently. Watch for early signs of footrot and pinkeye.
- Harvest annual forages at the late milk to early dough stage for highest quality and quantity.

## Harvest Stage of Annual Crops for Greenfeed or Silage

| Crop                   | Proper harvest stage   |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Oats                   | Late milk              |
| Barley                 | Soft dough             |
| Fall Rye               | Early dough            |
| Triticale              | Soft dough             |
| Spring or Winter Wheat | Early dough            |
| Foxtail Millet         | Early heading          |
| Peas                   | First pods wrinkle     |
| Pea/Cereal Mixture     | At proper cereal stage |



Photo by: Garibaldi Farms, Gladstone

# July 2016

| Sun                 | Mon              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri                           | Sat              |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                     |                  |                  |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Apr 10<br>Canada Day | <b>2</b> Apr 11  |
| <b>3</b> Apr 12     | <b>4</b> Apr 13  | <b>5</b> Apr 14  | <b>6</b> Apr 15  | <b>7</b> Apr 16  | <b>8</b> Apr 17               | <b>9</b> Apr 18  |
| <b>10</b> Apr 19    | <b>11</b> Apr 20 | <b>12</b> Apr 21 | <b>13</b> Apr 22 | <b>14</b> Apr 23 | <b>15</b> Apr 24              | <b>16</b> Apr 25 |
| <b>17</b> Apr 26    | <b>18</b> Apr 27 | <b>19</b> Apr 28 | <b>20</b> Apr 29 | <b>21</b> Apr 30 | <b>22</b> May 1               | <b>23</b> May 2  |
| <b>24</b> May 3     | <b>25</b> May 4  | <b>26</b> May 5  | <b>27</b> May 6  | <b>28</b> May 7  | <b>29</b> May 8               | <b>30</b> May 9  |
| May 10<br><b>31</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                               |                  |

# TIPS FOR AUGUST



Photo by: Garibaldi Farms, Gladstone



- Proper feed storage is important to reduce spoilage. Store the feed in a well drained area and leave adequate space between bales to allow air circulation. If possible, protect your winter forage supplies by using tarps or sheds.
- Use a system to harvest chaff with cereal straw to improve the feed value of the straw.
- Seed winter annuals by the end of August for fall or early spring grazing.
- For best results, perennial forages seeded in the fall need to be sowed by mid-August.
- Consider using herbicides to renovate poor forage fields for spring seeding. Spraying out forage fields in late summer or early fall, when the plants are still actively growing, will give you the best kill and provide a mellow seed bed the following spring. This also allows time next spring to take care of any hard to control weeds if needed.
- Consider early weaning if your pastures are poor or if your calves are nursing first-calf heifers. Calves weaned at 300 to 400 lb. will require a good commercial starter ration containing 14 to 16 per cent crude protein.
- Creep feeding your calves in the fall can extend the pastures, improve calf weaning weights, make calves more uniform, decrease stress at weaning and allow for easier transition on to feed.
- Consider preconditioning your calves.
- Start watching the markets and plan a marketing strategy.
- Revisit your heifer selection and make some notes on which heifers you may want to keep as replacements.



# August 2016

| Sun              | Mon                              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | <b>1</b> May 11<br>Terry Fox Day | <b>2</b> May 12  | <b>3</b> May 13  | <b>4</b> May 14  | <b>5</b> May 15  | <b>6</b> May 16  |
| <b>7</b> May 17  | <b>8</b> May 18                  | <b>9</b> May 19  | <b>10</b> May 20 | <b>11</b> May 21 | <b>12</b> May 22 | <b>13</b> May 23 |
| <b>14</b> May 24 | <b>15</b> May 25                 | <b>16</b> May 26 | <b>17</b> May 27 | <b>18</b> May 28 | <b>19</b> May 29 | <b>20</b> May 30 |
| <b>21</b> May 31 | <b>22</b> Jun 1                  | <b>23</b> Jun 2  | <b>24</b> Jun 3  | <b>25</b> Jun 4  | <b>26</b> Jun 5  | <b>27</b> Jun 6  |
| <b>28</b> Jun 7  | <b>29</b> Jun 8                  | <b>30</b> Jun 9  | <b>31</b> Jun 10 |                  |                  |                  |

# TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER



- Prepare for the following weaning-time activities:
  - ♦ Get facilities ready for working and weighing cattle.
  - ♦ Dehorn and castrate calves that were missed earlier.
  - ♦ If you have not already done so, enter birth dates of calves on the age verification section of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) website, [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca).
- Take an inventory of your livestock numbers and feed supplies. On average, livestock will consume 2.5 to 3 per cent of their body weight in dry matter.
- Send forage/grain samples for feed analysis. Feed probes are available at any [MAFRD GO Office](#).
- Contact a MAFRD livestock advisor or industry nutritionist to formulate rations and plan your winter feeding program.
- Begin harvesting corn silage when it is at 70 per cent moisture.
- Prior to a killing frost, swath annuals to be used for swath grazing.
- Be aware of potential nitrate problems in some of your feedstuffs. Excess nitrates accumulate when plants are stressed (ex: drought, hail and frost). Annual forages have a greater risk of accumulating nitrates.
- Grazing second cut alfalfa fields in the fall can provide good quality forage, resulting in good gains. But avoid grazing in the critical fall period to reduce winter kill.
- If you are considering grazing alfalfa on hay land, be conscious of bloat risk. Consider using available products to help you manage bloat (ex: Ionophores or alfasure).
- A safer time to graze alfalfa is after a hard frost. Wait for the tips to dry and then begin grazing. You will still need to watch for bloat, but the risk will be reduced and there will be less chance of winter kill by not harvesting the alfalfa during its critical period.
- At month's end, collect soil samples from forage fields for fertilizer recommendations.
- Contact your local [MAFRD GO Office](#) to list your excess hay for sale on the [Hay Listing Service](#).

# September 2016

| Sun              | Mon                           | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  |                               |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Jun 11  | <b>2</b> Jun 12  | <b>3</b> Jun 13  |
| <b>4</b> Jun 14  | <b>5</b> Jun 15<br>Labour Day | <b>6</b> Jun 16  | <b>7</b> Jun 17  | <b>8</b> Jun 18  | <b>9</b> Jun 19  | <b>10</b> Jun 20 |
| <b>11</b> Jun 21 | <b>12</b> Jun 22              | <b>13</b> Jun 23 | <b>14</b> Jun 24 | <b>15</b> Jun 25 | <b>16</b> Jun 26 | <b>17</b> Jun 27 |
| <b>18</b> Jun 28 | <b>19</b> Jun 29              | <b>20</b> Jun 30 | <b>21</b> Jul 1  | <b>22</b> Jul 2  | <b>23</b> Jul 3  | <b>24</b> Jul 4  |
| <b>25</b> Jul 5  | <b>26</b> Jul 6               | <b>27</b> Jul 7  | <b>28</b> Jul 8  | <b>29</b> Jul 9  | <b>30</b> Jul 10 |                  |

# TIPS FOR OCTOBER



- Remember to be safe when you are handling cattle and make sure [handling facilities](#) are in good repair.
- Consult your local veterinarian about your fall vaccination program needs. Treat your cattle for internal and external parasites. Monitor weaned calves closely for evidence of respiratory disease. Early detection is the key to treatment.
- Weaned calves should be started on a growing ration containing a minimum of 13 per cent protein and energy levels at 67 per cent TDN.
- Be sure to give your calves high levels of minerals and vitamins, especially when they are freshly weaned.
- Weigh your calves after they are approximately 205 days old to help make culling decisions and select replacement heifers.
- When marketing your calves, either sell directly off the cows, or background for at least 70 days before selling.
- Before marketing your livestock explore the different marketing options available, including auction mart (regular or presort), direct selling or satellite sales. It is important to know the market so what you are selling will be of interest to buyers.
- For market information, visit [www.canfax.ca](http://www.canfax.ca). For local auction mart reports, visit the [MAFRD website](#).
- Pregnancy check cows and cull those that are open or late, have bad feet or udder, a poor temperament, cancer eye or poor joints.
- Dry, pregnant cows in good condition during the early part of gestation can be maintained on lower quality feed.
- Use a herd record-keeping program to assist in identifying superior cows and replacement females. MAFRD has a free [CowBoss](#) program available.

# October 2016

| Sun                | Mon                                  | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                    |                                      |                  |                  |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Jul 11   |
| <b>2</b> Jul 12    | <b>3</b> Jul 13                      | <b>4</b> Jul 14  | <b>5</b> Jul 15  | <b>6</b> Jul 16  | <b>7</b> Jul 17  | <b>8</b> Jul 18   |
| <b>9</b> Jul 19    | <b>10</b> Jul 20<br>Thanksgiving Day | <b>11</b> Jul 21 | <b>12</b> Jul 22 | <b>13</b> Jul 23 | <b>14</b> Jul 24 | <b>15</b> July 25 |
| <b>16</b> Jul 26   | <b>17</b> Jul 27                     | <b>18</b> Jul 28 | <b>19</b> Jul 29 | <b>20</b> Jul 30 | <b>21</b> Jul 31 | <b>22</b> Aug 1   |
| <b>23</b> Aug 2    | <b>24</b> Aug 3                      | <b>25</b> Aug 4  | <b>26</b> Aug 5  | <b>27</b> Aug 6  | <b>28</b> Aug 7  | <b>29</b> Aug 8   |
| Aug 9<br><b>30</b> | Halloween<br>Aug 10<br><b>31</b>     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |

# TIPS FOR NOVEMBER



- Winter feed costs are the single biggest expense in a cow/calf operation. Consider alternative feeds if supplies are low.
- You want to keep feed costs low, but still meet the animals' nutritional requirements. Poor nutrition will affect production and reproduction.
- Separate your herd into different feeding groups, according to their nutritional needs and body condition scores (BCS), as follows: weaned calves, thin and young cows, mature cows, herd sires and young bulls.
- Cows should be in good flesh, BCS 3. If cows are in poor body condition, increase the energy to get them in better shape now before temperatures drop.
- Feed lowest quality forage/feed to mature, dry cows during early winter in mid-gestation; medium quality forage to dry cows in late gestation, prior to calving; and high quality forage to lactating cows and young growing calves.
- Provide adequate salt, minerals and vitamins to meet the needs of your animals. If your cows are consuming mostly annual cereals such as straw, grain or greenfeed, provide a 2:1 mineral. Extra limestone (calcium) may be required. If the cows are eating mostly an alfalfa-based hay, then use a 1:1 mineral.
- By early winter, hay will have lost most of its vitamin A. Mid-pregnant cows require 40,000 to 50,000 IU vitamin A/day. After calving cows require 60,000 to 70,000 IU of vitamin A/day. It can be injected every 60-90 days during the winter or a vitamin premix can be mixed into the grain or mineral.
- Use ionophores in the ration to improve feed efficiency and average daily gain, lower the risk of bloat and help prevent coccidiosis.

• **Body Condition scoring**

• **What condition are your cows in?**



# November 2016

| Sun   | Mon              | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri                                 | Sat              |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|   |                  | <b>1</b> Aug 11  | <b>2</b> Aug 12  | <b>3</b> Aug 13  | <b>4</b> Aug 14                     | <b>5</b> Aug 15  |
| <b>6</b> Aug 16<br>Daylight Savings Time Ends | <b>7</b> Aug 17  | <b>8</b> Aug 18  | <b>9</b> Aug 19  | <b>10</b> Aug 20 | <b>11</b> Aug 21<br>Remembrance Day | <b>12</b> Aug 22 |
| <b>13</b> Aug 23                              | <b>14</b> Aug 24 | <b>15</b> Aug 25 | <b>16</b> Aug 26 | <b>17</b> Aug 27 | <b>18</b> Aug 28                    | <b>19</b> Aug 29 |
| <b>20</b> Aug 30                              | <b>21</b> Aug 31 | <b>22</b> Sep 1  | <b>23</b> Sep 2  | <b>24</b> Sep 3  | <b>25</b> Sep 4                     | <b>26</b> Sep 5  |
| <b>27</b> Sep 6                               | <b>28</b> Sep 7  | <b>29</b> Sep 8  | <b>30</b> Sep 9  |                  |                                     |                  |

# TIPS FOR DECEMBER



- Control internal and external parasites with a pour-on insecticide.
- [Extending the grazing](#) season can significantly lower winter feeding and manure disposal costs, as well as return nutrients back to the land.
- Feeding management needs to be flexible to allow for some supplementation or complete feeding in extreme conditions.
- For either corn or bale grazing, moving your cattle every three to four days using electric fencing minimizes waste and labour required and maintains healthy rumen function.
- In 2013, standing corn produced on average 336 (185-430) grazing days per acre for a 1,300 lb. cow, assuming 20 per cent waste.
  - ♦ The average yield was 6.6 ton of dry matter per acre.
  - ♦ The average feed value was 9.4 per cent crude protein, 67 per cent TDN and 170 RFV.
- An adequate supply of soft snow can be used as a water source for extended grazing of dry, early gestation cows, but an alternative water source must be provided if conditions are icy or snow is lacking. Energy requirements are slightly higher if snow is the sole water source. It is recommended to provide fresh water to the young, older and lactating cows.
- When the temperature dips below  $-20$  C, be sure to increase feed 10-15 per cent for every 10 degree drop below  $-20$  C.



# December 2016

| Sun                                  | Mon                               | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat                                    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
|                                      |                                   |                  |                  | <b>1</b> Sep 10  | <b>2</b> Sep 11  | <b>3</b> Sep 12                        |
| <b>4</b> Sep 13                      | <b>5</b> Sep 14                   | <b>6</b> Sep 15  | <b>7</b> Sep 16  | <b>8</b> Sep 17  | <b>9</b> Sep 18  | <b>10</b> Sep 19                       |
| <b>11</b> Sep 20                     | <b>12</b> Sep 21                  | <b>13</b> Sep 22 | <b>14</b> Sep 23 | <b>15</b> Sep 24 | <b>16</b> Sep 25 | <b>17</b> Sep 26                       |
| <b>18</b> Sep 27                     | <b>19</b> Sep 28                  | <b>20</b> Sep 29 | <b>21</b> Sep 30 | <b>22</b> Oct 1  | <b>23</b> Oct 2  | <b>24</b> Oct 3<br><br>Christmas Eve   |
| <b>25</b> Oct 4<br><br>Christmas Day | <b>26</b> Oct 5<br><br>Boxing Day | <b>27</b> Oct 6  | <b>28</b> Oct 7  | <b>29</b> Oct 8  | <b>30</b> Oct 9  | <b>31</b> Oct 10<br><br>New Year's Eve |



For more information, contact the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Livestock Industry Branch or your local MAFRD GO Office.  
[www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock](http://www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock)

