Know Your Heifer

Optimizing Replacement Beef Heifer Development in Florida

In Florida, developing the yearling heifer to generate a successful pregnancy is a major challenge in beef operations. Delayed attainment of puberty and failure to conceive leads to a short term financial burden estimated in $193.00/heifer. Late conception brings further challenges, such as weaning a calf up to 100 lb lighter and breeding late in the next season. The Know Your Heifer program is an extension service to beef producers that will enable you to make cost-effective management decisions, based on the evaluation of heifers. The objective is to establish a statewide system to generate information on the reproductive potential and performance of replacement beef heifers.

Florida producers can enroll starting October 2020 and will receive two technical visits to the ranch.

**First Visit: 30 days before breeding season; heifers evaluated for reproductive potential**

Assessment of Age · Breed Composition · Body Weight (if scale is available)

Body Condition Score (BCS) · Reproductive Tract Score (RTS)

RTS is a powerful and accurate indicator of individual heifer’s reproductive potential. Based on the RTS and other assessments, ranchers will be equipped to make informed management decisions based on the reproductive potential of heifers.

**Second Visit: 90 days after breeding season begins; heifers evaluated for reproductive performance**

Heifers will receive a Pregnancy Diagnostic Exam

Producers will know which heifers became pregnant in the first 60 days of the breeding season (Alternative dates for pregnancy diagnostic exam are possible)

**The cost-recovery fee for this program is based on our travel expenses and a per-animal fee:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel (total for two trips):</th>
<th>Heifer Work (for the two visits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;150 miles: US$100.00</td>
<td>up to 20 heifers: $15.00/heifer</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;150 miles: US$250.00</td>
<td>between 21 and 50 heifers: $12.00/heifer</td>
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<td>between 51 and 100 heifer: $10.00/heifer</td>
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<td>between 101 and 200 heifers: $8.00/heifer</td>
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<td>more than 200 heifers: $7.00/heifer</td>
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**WHAT YOU GET:**

- Analyses and report on individual and herd reproductive potential (RTS) and performance (preg checks)
- Recommendations on implementation of reproductive technologies
- Opportunity to connect with many ongoing livestock extension programs
- Benchmarking through an anonymous comparative analyses to other herds in Florida at the end of the breeding season

Contact Dr. Mario Binelli or talk to your Livestock County Agent at your local IFAS Extension Office to sign up!

Find more information at:

www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef

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