



INTERMOUNTAIN BEEF COW/CALF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

2019

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EXTENSION 
UtahStateUniversity®



December 2018

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JANUARY

Producers must abide by the mandated withdrawal period when using antibiotics to ensure that the animal has fully metabolized the antibiotic prior to harvest.

February 2019

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MANAGEMENT

1. Prepare/clean calving facilities/area.
2. Schedule breeding soundness exams (BSE) for bulls.
3. Locate, clean and replace any calving tools needed for possible emergencies.
4. Body condition scoring (BCS) of entire herd.
 - a. Cows BCS 4-5
 - b. Heifers BCS 6
 - c. Bulls BCS 4-5
5. Treat for lice, if needed.

NUTRITION

1. Move cows to late gestation ration.
2. Feed bulls same ration as cows – free choice. If bulls are thin, some supplemental grain may be needed.
3. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix.
4. In extreme cold, shelter or additional energy supplementation may be needed.
5. Maintain adequate ice-free water for herd. Minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Inventory calving equipment/supplies. Restock any missing supplies and any defective equipment.
2. Vaccinate pregnant replacement heifers with 8-way booster and scour vaccine. Contact your veterinarian for recommended products.
3. Watch for lameness due to foot rot.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Prepare financial statements.
3. Identify credit needs and meet with lender to discuss upcoming year.
4. Develop cash-flow budget.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Meet with USDA-FS to discuss annual grazing plan on forest lands.
2. Rotate pastures according to BLM management plan.
3. Monitor water sources to ensure adequate water. Haul water if necessary.



January 2019

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FEBRUARY

Cattle facilities are designed to prevent animal and handler injuries.

March 2019

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Replace bulls culled during BSEs.
2. Utilize proper selection tools and apply multiple trait selection to identify bulls that are compatible with your production goals and resources.
3. Prepare to begin heifer calving by moving heifers close to calving facilities/area.
4. Once calving begins, observe heifers every 3-4 hours. Assist with deliveries as needed.
5. Ensure that there is an area where newborn calves can dry out and maintain a good body temperature.
6. Tag calves and record calf/cow IDs for future reference.
7. Dehorn/castrate calves soon after birth.
8. Separate heifers with calves from pregnant heifers.

NUTRITION

1. Place heifers on high-quality feed.
2. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix.
3. Help calves nurse as necessary.
4. Continue to feed cows/bulls late gestation ration.
5. Maintain adequate ice-free water for herd; minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Dip navel of newborn calves in iodine solution.
2. If viral scours is a problem, treat calves with an oral vaccine at birth.
3. Treat calves with scours by drenching them with an electrolyte solution to maintain hydration and nutrient flow.
4. Revaccinate any heifers that have not calved by mid-month with Clostridium perfringens C&D and scours vaccines.
5. Vaccinate cows with 8-way booster and scour vaccine to build up antibodies in colostrum.
6. Conduct breeding soundness exams on bull battery.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Benchmark financial ratios and identify areas to work on during year.
3. Update cash-flow budget.
4. Prepare current year marketing plan and income projections.
5. Meet with crop insurance agent to discuss risk management options.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Rotate pastures according to BLM management plan.
2. Monitor water sources to ensure adequate water. Haul water if necessary.



February 2019						
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MARCH

Unregulated grazing in the 1900s caused damage to many western rangelands. However, modern grazing practices have allowed rangelands to heal in the last few decades.

April 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Move early calving cows close to calving area approximately 10 days before the onset of calving.
2. Once calving begins, observe remaining heifers and cows every 3-4 hours. Assist with deliveries as needed.
3. Mark any cow that has difficulty delivering for possible early culling.
4. Follow similar calving management practices as with heifers during the previous month.
5. Separate cows with calves from pregnant cows.

NUTRITION

1. Upgrade heifers to a lactation ration at 10 days to 2 weeks post-calving.
2. Provide adequate clean water for herd. Minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Watch calves for any signs of scours or respiratory infections.
2. Isolate sick calves from their herdmates to prevent sickness from spreading.
4. Watch for retained placentas and prolapse in cows that are approaching calving and immediately post-delivery.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Update cash-flow budget.
3. Meet with accountant and lender.

NOTES



March 2019						
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APRIL

A 1.1 lb serving of beef from an implanted steer contains 7 ng of estrogen compared to 1.1 lb of tofu, which contains 113,500,000 ng of estrogen.

May 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

- Continue calving management as in previous month.
- Evaluate replacement heifer prospects and make final cut.
- Market culled heifers.
- If cattle are on rapidly growing lush pasture, watch for symptoms of grass tetany.

NUTRITION

- Upgrade cows to a lactation ration at 10 days to 2 weeks post-calving.
- Continue feeding until spring pasture growth reaches level for adequate nutrition of cow herd.
- Add magnesium oxide to mineral/salt mix if there is a history of grass tetany.
- Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 8 gallons/head/day to support lactation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

- Perform Breeding Soundness Evaluations (BSE) on bulls. Test for trichomoniasis (trich) in states that require annual testing.
- Vaccinate retained replacement heifers for vibrio, leptospirosis, IBR and BVD with a modified live vaccine, if not exposed, or killed vaccine anytime. Consult your veterinarian if there is any question.
- Vaccinate bulls during BSE for upper respiratory and clostridial disease.

FINANCE

- Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
- Determine if it will be profitable to implant calves and/or creep feed.
- Monitor market conditions to update marketing plan.
- Update cash-flow budget.

NOTES



April 2019

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MAY

In 2011, thanks to safe practices from producers and mandated control from agencies, USDA screened for 128 chemicals and 99% of tested carcasses were free from all tested chemicals.

June 2019

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Continue calving management as in previous month.
2. Continue to watch for symptoms of grass tetany.
3. Process calves.
 - a. Administer calfhood vaccines (8-way Clostridial, 4-way respiratory).
 - b. Castrate any intact bull calves.
 - c. Dehorn.
 - d. Implant steer calves.
 - e. Branding ID.
4. Breed replacement heifers 3 weeks before cows.

NUTRITION

1. Upgrade cows to a lactation ration at 10 days to 2 weeks post-calving.
2. Continue feeding until spring pasture growth reaches level for adequate nutrition of cow herd.
3. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water. Add magnesium oxide to mineral/salt mix if there is a history of grass tetany.
4. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 8 gallons/head/day to support lactation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Vaccinate open cows for vibrio, leptospirosis, IBR and BVD with a modified live vaccine if not vaccinated as a heifer.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Analyze key expenses for the year including feed costs and labor. Identify potential strategies to minimize costs.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Move cows to low elevation BLM spring pastures.

NOTES



May 2019						
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JUNE

When handling cattle, producers understand the importance of keeping animals quiet and calm.

July 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Begin breeding cow herd. Rotate fresh bulls into herd, if possible.
2. Remove bulls from heifers after 45-60 days.
3. Sell dry cows.
4. Begin planning for weaning calves.
5. Begin evaluating hay resources for winter months.

NUTRITION

1. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water.
2. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 8 gallons/head/day to support lactation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Begin planning for weaning program, feed, vaccines, implants and grazing if implementing a preconditioning program for weaned calves.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Analyze current year expenses and compare to cash-flow budget.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Ride allotment fences and repair as needed. Erect any drop fences between pastures.
2. Move cows onto FS allotment according to annual management plan.

NOTES



June 2019						
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JULY

Proper livestock grazing can be used to strategically reduce fuels and reduce wildfire risk.

August 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Evaluate active breeding bulls for health, BCS, and movement to ensure they are able to cover cows during the breeding season. Replace or remove if necessary.

NUTRITION

1. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water.
2. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 8 gallons/head/day to support lactation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Treat and evaluate injured bulls.
2. Begin gradually increasing body condition lost during breeding season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Meet with lender and crop insurance agent to update each on current operating conditions.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Move cows onto FS allotment according to annual management plan.
2. Move cows through FS allotment pastures according to annual management plan.

NOTES



July 2019						
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AUGUST

4-H livestock are raised on and have easy access to a high-quality diet, highly nutritious feeds and fresh drinking water.

September 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. If drought conditions exist, consider early weaning to help keep body condition on cows.
2. Remove bulls from cows.

NUTRITION

1. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water.
2. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 8 gallons/head/day to support lactation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Monitor Body Condition score of cows and heifers to ensure preparedness for maintenance of pregnancy and upcoming calving season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Move cows through FS allotment pastures according to annual management plan.

NOTES



August 2019

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SEPTEMBER

Grazing is an important economic driver
in rural communities.

October 2019

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Pregnancy check heifers. Sell open heifers.
2. As cows/calves return to fall pastures, revaccinate calves with booster dose of calfhood vaccines.
3. Begin the process of slowly reconditioning retained bulls for next breeding season

NUTRITION

1. Place cows on aftermath pastures or feed mid-gestation ration if aftermath is not available.
2. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water.
3. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Monitor Body Condition score to ensure preparedness for maintenance of pregnancy and upcoming calving season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Determine if calves will be sold as weanlings or retained and sold as coming yearlings.
3. Meet with crop insurance agent to analyze PRF program for the upcoming year.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Move cows through FS allotment pastures according to annual management plan.
2. Gather and remove cows from FS allotment according to annual management plan.

NOTES



September 2019

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OCTOBER

Through 4-H, children are taught respect for animals, responsibility for raising them, budgeting for livestock, and most importantly, how and where their food is produced.

November 2019

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MANAGEMENT

1. Pregnancy check cows. Determine marketing plan for open cows.
2. Body Condition Score all females during pregnancy check.
3. As cows/calves return to fall pastures, revaccinate calves with booster dose of calfhood vaccines.
4. Wean calves.
5. Begin evaluating cow BCS in preparation for next calving interval.

NUTRITION

1. Place cows on aftermath pastures or feed mid-gestation ration if aftermath is not available.
2. Place weaned calves on good pasture or feed high quality ration to provide gain toward projected market weight.
3. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix. Place mix away from water.
4. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. While pregnancy checking, look for other illness such as pinkeye, cancer eye or udder problems.
2. Treat for parasites.
3. Monitor Body Condition score to ensure preparedness for maintenance of pregnancy and upcoming calving season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes
2. Update cash-flow budget.
3. Update balance sheet and review key ratios

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Gather and remove cows from FS allotment according to annual management plan.

NOTES



October 2019						
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NOVEMBER

Multiple agencies are involved with the control of antibiotic residue and hold producers accountable by randomly testing carcasses for antibiotic residues in meat.

December 2019						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MANAGEMENT

1. Make the initial selection of replacement heifers prior to marketing calves. This should be about 40% of the heifers. Market balance of heifers with the steer calves.
2. Begin preparations for next calving season.

NUTRITION

1. Feed cows mid-gestation ration or move to winter range.
2. First- and second-calf heifers should be fed at a higher plane of nutrition to ensure continued growth and development while also providing for fetal nutrient requirements.
3. Continue feeding calves high-quality ration until they are marketed.
4. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix.
5. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Monitor Body Condition score to ensure preparedness for maintenance of pregnancy and upcoming calving season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes.
2. Finalize PRF crop insurance plan. Enroll date is November 15.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Move cows to winter BLM range, if permitted.

NOTES



November 2019

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DECEMBER

Targeted grazing can be used to control weeds
and help maintain open space.

January 2020

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MANAGEMENT

1. Continue to monitor cow BCS.
2. Remove any thin cows and place with first/second-calf heifers.
3. Ensure that facilities, feed stores and equipment are ready for next calving cycle.

NUTRITION

1. Provide free-choice salt/vitamin/mineral mix.
2. Provide adequate clean water for herd; minimum of 5 gallons/head/day.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Monitor Body Condition score of cows to ensure preparedness for maintenance of pregnancy and upcoming calving season.

FINANCE

1. Track income and expenses for both tax and management purposes
2. Prepare end-of-year financial statements. Review performance and cash-flow budget.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Rotate pastures according to BLM management plan.
2. Monitor water sources to ensure adequate water. Haul water if necessary.

NOTES



2020 CALENDAR

JANUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

FEBRUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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MARCH

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

APRIL

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

MAY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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JUNE

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	1	2	3	4

JULY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

AUGUST

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

SEPTEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

OCTOBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

There are other cow/calf management calendars available to cattle producers in the Intermountain West. However, they were developed for producers outside the region and included conditions or scenarios that would not likely apply to western producers. Additionally, the authors felt there were other important considerations relative to finance and public land grazing that should be included in the calendar to make it more applicable for western producers.

The following assumptions were made in the development of this calendar:

- This calendar was developed for a spring calving operation, as this would be applicable to a greater percentage of operations in the region.
- A 60-day calving season would begin on March 15 and end on May 15.
- Not all producers graze public lands, so some nutrition recommendations were for operations that drylot cows for a portion of the year.

This calendar does not cover all the scenarios that might be faced on a western beef operation and the authors recognize that it does not have all the answers. However, it is designed as a guide to help prevent cattle producers from overlooking significant considerations that occur throughout the production year.

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