

Yearling Bull Management

The first breeding season can do a number on yearling bulls. Yearling bulls can be expected to lose 100 to 300 pounds over a 60 to 90 day breeding season. After their first breeding season, yearlings not only need to regain the weight loss, but need to gain enough body mass to achieve 75 percent of their mature weight by their second birthday. If a bull's mature weight will be 2000 pounds, then he needs to weigh 1500 pounds by the time he is a 2 year old. To assist bulls in reaching this size goal, cattle producers may need to feed one and a half pounds of grain per hundred pounds of body weight plus a protein supplement with free choice forage. High quality forage can be used to reduce the amount of grain needed. Be cautious on bringing bulls back too fast with too much gain. This will greatly increase the chance of founder. If you have questions on cattle nutrition or management, contact the Tulsa County OSU Extension Center. 918/746-3725.

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Cow-Calf Management

Cow-calf operators can boost return by using cost effective management techniques that improve calf performance. Listed below are practices producers should consider this summer:

1. Make sure all male calves are castrated and dehorned. Steer calves without horns will bring 5 to 7 dollars per hundred weight more than horned bull calves.
2. Growth implants make cattle grow faster. Calves can be re-implanted every 120 days. For every dollar you invest in implants, you get at least \$10 in return due to increased gain.
3. Consider worming calves in July. Spring born calves are grazing at this time and have little resistance to internal parasites.
4. Control external parasites (ticks, flies, etc.) When horn fly counts are over 200 per side, control measures should be taken. Flies not only reduce gain, but can cause serious eye problems that greatly decrease a calf's sale value.
5. Due to high grain prices, traditional creep programs using high energy feeds will not be economical. However, high protein creep, cottonseed or soybean meal, limited with salt so intake is kept at a rate of one pound/calf/day will be cost effective. Research has shown this type of program started in July and continued until weaning have shown feed conversion of one pound of gain for every three pounds of high protein creep.

If you have questions on these practices, please call the Tulsa County Extension Center, 918/746-3725.