

IMPROVE

GROW

SUSTAIN

2018

ALABAMA

BEEF SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

CALENDAR

extension
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

2018 ALABAMA BEEF SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

CALENDAR

**Improve.
Grow.
Sustain.**

The Alabama Beef Systems Extension Program focuses on improving land and animal management practices in southeastern beef operations. This calendar provides forage management, nutrition, breeding, and health tips based on calving season distribution. Use this calendar to learn more about the additional resources our Extension program has to offer including websites, videos, online courses, iBooks, publications, and more.

Look for these icons throughout the calendar to learn more about beef cattle health, forages, and nutrition.



Tips and suggestions refer to these calving herd dates:

Winter—January to March

Spring—March to May

Fall—October to December

Donna Curtis
Former ACA President
Manager of Curtis Farms

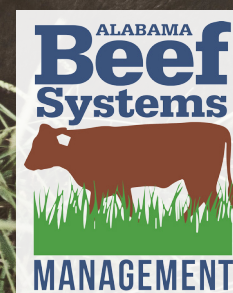
I am passionate about cattle and get attached to the cows, bulls, and calves—even to the soil and trees. I love the outdoors, sunrises, and sunsets with cattle in the background. I want the cows to have a good life.

As a third-generation cattle producer on our land, I want to use any new technique or management strategy that makes life for cattle and me easier.

I want the land to be in better shape after me than before me.



extension
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES



Malcomb Pegues

Director, Gulf Coast
Research and Extension Center

Active Participant in the Beef Cattle Improvement Association

My advice to a young cattle producer is to talk to others who have been in the business a long time and who have established programs. Learn what they did to establish that program.

I would recommend starting a herd with good genetics. Seek information from producers who sell quality animals and have a plan for their programs. Maintain the quality of animals you raise and do it small at first—set a baseline and take steps to grow and get better in your operation.

Extension has given me tools to know how to make improvements and also where to look for answers or new directions I may want to go. Extension has certainly given me the training to be a better steward of the cattle and the land I have.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Limit grazing on winter annuals. Two hours of grazing per day and free-choice hay stretch grazing.
- As adequate forage becomes available, manage cool-season pastures to maintain at least 4-inch stubble height.
- Fertilize cool-season grasses before the flush of spring growth in mid/late spring.



Health Tips

- Use high magnesium mineral supplements for cows on lush pasture to prevent grass tetany.
- Monitor water sources. In severely cold weather, check daily for ice on watering tanks that are not freeze protected.

2018 JAN

Winter Calving Herd

- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible, and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle and first-calf heifers approaching breeding.
- Make bull selection decisions for upcoming breeding season. Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls 60 days before the start of breeding season.

Spring Calving Herd

- Check weaned calves regularly for health problems.
- Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate nutrition.
- Organize calving supplies and move spring-calving females close to handling facilities.
- Evaluate herd sire options for the upcoming breeding season.

Fall Calving Herd

- Consider marketing late-calving cows that do not fit the calving season.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves by 4 months of age. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed cows. For calving in mid-October, bulls need to go into pastures in early January.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Alabama 4-H Beef It Up! Alabama 4-H is piloting this new program in 2017–2018. Emphasis is on raising beef animals for meat production and understanding issues related to the commercial beef industry. The program will culminate in an event April 7, 2018. Contact your county's 4-H Foundation Regional Extension Agent for the Beef It Up! rules.		



Resource: Look on **Facebook** for East Central Alabama Animal Science and Forages.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:

Sarah Dickinson, sed0029@aces.edu

Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Lee, Randolph, Shelby, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties





John English

**General Manager, Perdido River Farms
Poarch Band of Creek Indians**

**Participant in Beef Quality
Assurance Program**

At Perdido River Farms, the cattle operation for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, we are fortunate to manage a cattle operation on our tribal lands. For Native Americans, it's about taking care of the land Mother Earth gave us. We practice rotational grazing and other best management practices to sustain our natural resources. It's in the heritage of the Poarch Creek to have cattle.

The Beef Quality Assurance Program has taught us about proper handling, reducing stress, identifying injection sites, loading and transporting, and thinking down the road to marketability.

My advice to young producers is first to do your homework. Figure out what type of program you want to run—cow-calf, stocker—and the demands required. After that, you can come up with a plan. If you have a good plan, you will get better results.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores, and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Graze winter annual pastures, maintaining a 4-inch stubble height.
- Pull soil samples on summer pastures and hayfields to plan spring fertilization and liming program.
- Check with your Extension agent about controlling weeds in cool-season pastures and about preparing warm-season pastures.

Winter Calving Herd

- Provide shelter for newborn calves during severe weather.
- Watch calves for illness, and restock calving supplies.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle approaching breeding.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible, and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls before the breeding season.
- Begin breeding replacement heifers to calve about 1 month before cows. Heifers bred by early March should calve by mid-December.
- For artificial insemination programs, have ample semen and supplies on hand. Schedule for estrus synchronization programs, and reserve an artificial insemination technician.

Spring Calving Herd

- Make sure calving supplies are on hand.
- Move heifers into clean, dry pastures, and check frequently for calving difficulties.
- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture to minimize health risks.

Fall Calving Herd

- Continue using the best hay and feed for lactating cows.
- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with a clostridial vaccine (blackleg). Check with your veterinarian about other vaccines recommended for your area.
- Maintain breeding records.

FIELDNOTES



Health Tips

- Continue high-magnesium mineral supplement feeding for cows on lush winter pastures to prevent grass tetany.

2018
FEB

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Groundhog Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Valentine's Day	14	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



Resource: Alabama Beef Cattle Research Updates
at www.aces.edu/go/878

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Rickey Hudson, hudsorg@aces.edu

Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike Counties



Find more information on beef cattle management in the Southeast on the Alabama Beef Systems Extension website at www.aces.edu/beefsystems.

Brenda Glover

Regional Extension Agent,
Animal Science and Forages,
Stocker Producer

Extension provides research-based information to beef producers in many different ways, from traditional to high tech. We hold classroom meetings and hands-on activities to teach best management practices. We also provide digital resources including iBooks, recorded meetings, social media posts, printed materials, YouTube videos, webinars, and farm visits.

As an REA, one of my favorite programs is Women in Ag for women in agriculture and taught by women in agriculture.

Working with cattle producers is always a learning experience, but I have learned that what works on one farm doesn't always work on the next. Producers have to do what works best for their management style and practices to be economically viable.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Fertilize cool-season grasses according to soil tests, if not already done.
- Rotationally graze tall fescue and cool-season annual pastures. Adjust stocking density to prepare for flush of growth in late spring.
- Spray winter annual weeds while still vegetative for better control.

Winter Calving Herd

- Calculate winter calving percentage.
- If not already completed, conduct bull breeding soundness evaluations and make sure bulls are in good condition.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed heifers and cows. Heifers bred in early March should calve in mid-December. Cows bred in late March should calve in early January.

Spring Calving Herd

- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle and first-calf heifers approaching breeding.
- Make bull selection decisions for upcoming breeding season. Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls 60 days before the start of breeding season.

Fall Calving Herd

- Maintain good breeding records.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Remove bulls by mid-March to finish calving season by late December.



Health Tips

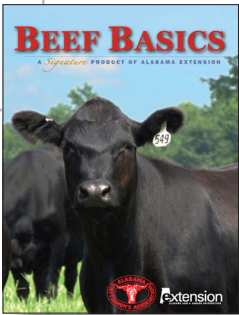
- Watch for grass tetany, particularly on lactating cows grazing lush pastures, such as tall fescue or annual ryegrass.
- Plan summer fly control, and review options for anaplasmosis control in the coming months.

2018 MAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Daylight Saving Time Begins						St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		First Day of Spring				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Resource: Interested in learning more about the beef industry at home? Enroll in the Beef Basics Online Course, an eight-week series with video lessons and more on forages, nutrition, health, breeding/genetics, and consumer perceptions of the beef industry. Enroll at <https://aces.catalog.auburn.edu/courses/acesbeefbasic01>.
Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member: Landon Marks, mlm0013@aces.edu Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, and Jackson Counties



Tommy Martin

Triple M Farm
Active Participant
in Alabama BCIA,
Retired from ALFA

I have a controlled calving period. Calves begin to be born around October 1 and are through by December 10.

We usually have around 85 calves a year. It varies from year to year, depending on how many bulls and heifers we have. We do sell our steers and most of the heifers if we don't save them for replacement females.

My cattle are Angus/Simmental crosses. I'm strictly a commercial producer. I do about 35 percent artificial insemination of my herd each year. I then turn the bulls out to do the rest of the breeding of the cattle.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Plant and fertilize warm-season pastures according to soil tests.
- Contact custom bermudagrass spriggers to get on their planting schedules early.



Health Tips

- Start watching for horn and face flies, and consider type of fly chemicals used last year. Rotate chemical classes.
- Consider options for anaplasmosis control as biting insects become abundant.

2018 APR

Winter Calving Herd

- Consider marketing late-calving cows that do not fit the calving season.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves by 4 months of age. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed cows. For calving in mid-January, bulls need to go into pastures in early April.

Spring Calving Herd

- Watch calves for illness, and restock calving supplies.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle approaching breeding.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls before the breeding season.
- Begin breeding replacement heifers to calve about 1 month before cows. Heifers bred by early May should calve by mid-February.
- For artificial insemination programs, have ample semen and supplies on hand. Schedule for estrus synchronization programs, and reserve an artificial insemination technician.

Fall Calving Herd

- Market bulls that will not be used again for breeding.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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					

Arbor Day



Resource: Follow the Alabama Beef Systems Extension Program on Twitter at @ACESBeef.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Alex Tigue, dat0002@aces.edu

Blount, Calhoun, Jefferson, Marshall, and St. Clair Counties



Check us out on Twitter!

Jimmy, Jim, and Jay Collins

Multiple Generation, Purebred and Commercial Cow-Calf Operators

Jimmy Collins: Extension has been a big part of our operation since we started in the 1940s. I've relied on AU and Extension for help making decisions on what we are doing tomorrow as well as three years down the road.

We use technology in everything we do, from analyzing costs to anticipating calving dates to keeping records.

We try to have this farm be as efficient as possible. We use a lot of permanent pasture, bahiagrass, bermudagrass, and fescue, and we do a lot of overseeding with rye grass trying to get that continuous forage program.

Jim Collins: Each generation has tried to bring a little more efficiency to our farm and add things we can do both for our profitability and for our customers. We use forages we can economically produce and supplement nutritionally. We've worked on that for decades and could not have done it without Extension nutritionists and agronomists.

Anyone getting into the cattle business should start with a defined goal and identified resources. They are remiss if they overlook resources from Extension and other producers.

Help from economists, nutritionists, and forage specialists is at our fingertips, particularly with today's technology. It is usually as simple as visiting a website or making a phone call. Producers like us need Extension to remain relevant and real-world oriented.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores, and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Fertilize warm-season pastures according to soil test recommendations.
- Sprig hybrid bermudagrass before moisture becomes limiting.
- Graze overseeded annual ryegrass to prevent shading warm-season forage.

Winter Calving Herd

- Continue using the best pasture available for lactating cows.
- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with a clostridial vaccine (blackleg). Check with your veterinarian about other vaccines recommended for your area.
- Maintain breeding records.

Spring Calving Herd

- Calculate spring calving percentage.
- If not already completed, conduct bull breeding soundness evaluations, and make sure bulls are in good condition.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed heifers and cows. Heifers bred in early May should calve in mid-February. Cows bred in late May should calve in early March.
- Use high-quality warm-season forage as it becomes available.

Fall Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Allow bulls to rest and regain condition.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.



Health Tips

- Make sure adequate shade is available for cattle as temperatures begin to rise.
- Implement fly and anaplasmosis control programs.

2018 MAY

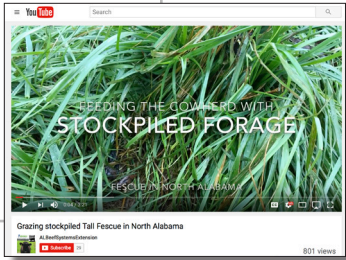
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
	Memorial Day					



Resource: Look for Alabama Extension beef videos on the [alcoopextension](#) YouTube Channel.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Paul Vining, tpv0001@aces.edu

Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion, Walker, and Winston Counties



Visit the **Alabama Extension YouTube Channel** ([alcoopextension](#)) to view a series of beef management videos on water quality, economics, climate, and forages in beef systems.

J. B. Turner

Active in BCIA, USDA NRSC Programs, AU College of Ag, and State Commodity Groups

On our land, we make sure that we have nutrition for grazing with plenty of lime and fertilizer—whatever is required from the soil tests. We try to plant wheat and rye in the pastures to extend the grazing season. For water, we have two wells, one of which we use for watering the cows.

To new cattle producers, I would say to go slow and keep good records. If you do a good job for your cows, they will do a good job for you. One day my daughter will likely take over this business. She has been around the farm for a long time and active in 4-H.

Regarding the use of technology, we try to do all artificial insemination and, as an added bonus, we buy good cows and do embryo transplants. Challenges include trying to schedule breeding dates and keeping forage in good shape. Alabama Extension has some really good agents who work with us. When I need new information, I go to Alabama Extension.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores, and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Fertilize pastures and hay fields using soil test information.
- Monitor commodity prices, and purchase supplemental winter feed as appropriate.
- Rotationally graze bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures for improved forage utilization.



Health Tips

- Work cattle early in the morning to reduce heat stress, limit time cattle spend in confined areas, and provide adequate shade.
- Provide fresh, cool water for cattle confined for extended periods.
- Remove insecticidal fly tags as they become ineffective.
- Watch for pinkeye problems.

2018 JUN

Winter Calving Herd

- Maintain good breeding records.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Remove bulls by mid-June to end calving season by late March.

Spring Calving Herd

- Consider marketing late-calving cows that do not fit the calving season.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves by 4 months of age. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed cows. For calving in mid-March, bulls need to go into pastures in early June.

Fall Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day				First Day of Summer		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

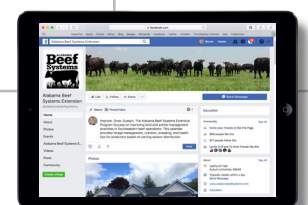


Resource: Learn more about upcoming events and current questions in the beef industry on Facebook at Alabama Beef Systems Extension.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:

Brenda Glover, glovebs@aces.edu

Dallas, Hale, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, and Wilcox Counties



**Follow us on
Facebook!**

Michelle Elmore

Coordinator, Alabama Beef Cattle
Improvement Association Program
Extension Specialist,
Animal Science and Forages

A systems approach in management encompasses all aspects in a beef operation and how they interconnect. Land management, environmental stewardship, business and economics, human resources, and herd production and efficiency are all equally vital and interdependent to be sustainable and successful.

Working with numerous beef producers in establishing, processing, and consulting in record keeping practices teaches a beef producer where a herd's production level is today and where inefficiencies exist. It also provides information to make improvements.

Record keeping becomes a vital tool. Records provide precise information allowing for more informed management decisions.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Rotationally graze bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures for improved forage utilization.
- Scout for armyworms and other pasture pests.
- Harvest bermudagrass hay at 4- to 5-week intervals for best quality.



Health Tips

- Be careful to prevent heat stress-related losses. Provide adequate shade for cattle.
- Keep a close eye on fly numbers and possibly implement additional fly control.
- Employ internal parasite, pinkeye, and anaplasmosis control measures.

2018 JUL

Winter Calving Herd

- Market bulls that will not be used again for breeding.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.

Spring Calving Herd

- Continue using the best pasture available for lactating cows.
- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with a clostridial vaccine (blackleg). Check with your veterinarian about other vaccines recommended for your area.
- Maintain breeding records.

Fall Calving Herd

- Finish weaning late calves.
- Cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Select and permanently identify replacement heifers.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

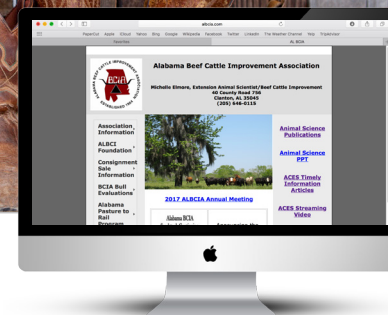


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Resource: Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association website at www.albcia.com

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Michelle Elmore, elmormf@aces.edu, Extension Specialist and
Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association Coordinator



Learn more about the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association at www.albcia.com.

FIELD NOTES



Charlie Madaris

CK Cattle

Active Participant in
the Alabama Cattlemen's
Association and the
Alabama Beef Cattle
Improvement Association

Environmental stewardship is a big part of what we do. You have to maintain what you are working with for future generations. Taking care of the animals is part of it, but taking care of the land is also important.

You really have to love the animals and the land. It's a seven-day-a-week job that never ends. We might be up in the middle of the night, caring for animals or fixing a fence, but it is rewarding as well as physically trying.

The BQA program has really helped us a lot, teaching us better practices for handling the animals and for their care. We try to work with what's best for the animals' welfare as well as for product value to us.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Plan winter grazing and feeding programs in advance. Locate seed!
- Watch dallisgrass pastures for ergot contamination.
- Avoid grazing heavily nitrogen-fertilized warm-season annual pastures during drought to avoid nitrate poisoning.



Health Tips

- Reduce cattle stress during hot weather; provide adequate shade and water.
- Watch for pinkeye and anaplasmosis problems as biting insects remain abundant.

2018 AUG

Winter Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Allow bulls to rest and regain condition.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Spring Calving Herd

- Maintain good breeding records.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Remove bulls by mid-August to end calving season by late May.

Fall Calving Herd

- Check weaned calves regularly for health problems.
- Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate nutrition.
- Organize calving supplies and move fall-calving females close to handling facilities.
- Evaluate herd sire options for the upcoming breeding season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			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	

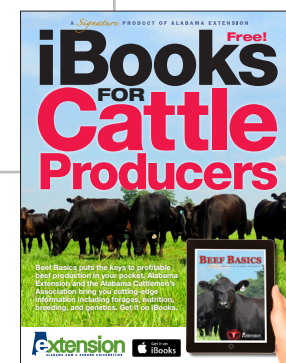


Resource: Check out *Beef Basics*, Extension's iBook on getting started in the beef industry. Free to download from the Apple iTunes store.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:

Johnny Gladney, gladnjb@aces.edu

Bibb, Choctaw, Greene, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties



Leo Hollinger

**Stocker Cattle Producer,
National Stocker
Producer of the Year 2009,
Former ACA/ALFA Officer**

Being a cattleman and landowner is a way of life that has provided a living for my family for several generations. My grandfather shipped cattle to Mobile on steamboats, and my son is a fifth-generation cattleman in my family. Profitability and a passion for the cattle business have provided our family's heritage as cattle producers.

Alabama Extension has been an integral part of our operation, providing useful information and assistance. Cattle paid for most of my education and helped educate my children at Auburn University. We will own cattle in retirement.

My approach to systems management has been to be reasonably conservative with risks and learn to embrace change while being flexible.



Forage & Nutrition Notes



- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Watch for fall armyworms in pastures and hayfields.
- Prepare to stockpile tall fescue and bermudagrass pastures for winter grazing.
- Watch dallisgrass pastures for ergot contamination.
- Plant and fertilize cool-season forages in prepared seedbeds.

Winter Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Spring Calving Herd

- Market bulls that will not be used again for breeding.
- Schedule pregnancy checks for 45 to 60 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Observe cows and heifers for return to heat.

Fall Calving Herd

- Make sure calving supplies are on hand.
- Move heifers into clean, dry pastures, and check frequently for calving difficulties.
- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture to minimize health risks.



Health Tips

- Reduce cattle stress during hot weather; provide adequate shade and water.
- Watch for pinkeye.

2018
SEP

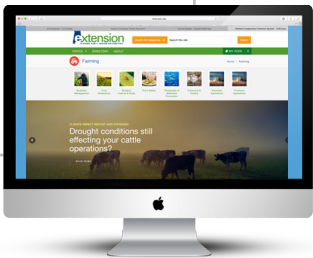
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Labor Day					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						First Day of Fall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Resource: Alabama Beef Systems website at www.aces.edu/beefsystems

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team
Member: Kelly Palmer, ridleka@aces.edu

Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Conecuh, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington Counties



Find more beef cattle management tips in the Southeast on the Alabama Beef Systems Extension website at www.aces.edu/beefsystems.

Win Parmer

Commercial Producer,
Active in Alabama

Beef Cattle Improvement Association

I run a 300-head herd of commercial cows. I live by the calendar. My bulls are put in pasture with cows December 20 for calving in October, November, and December—a 90-day calving season. October is my favorite month when I see all of that new life.

I take soil samples in January and fertilize accordingly. Grazing greatly enhances the nutritive value of bermudagrass. One important thing to remember is that if you had a big hay crop last year, you need to put fertilizer back in that soil. What you take out of the land, you need to put back in.

Record keeping tells me where I am with my herd and where I need to improve. BCIA helps me get this done. This organization has helped our cattle industry immensely.



Assessing hog damage to pasture



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Consider overseeding a warm-season perennial pasture with cool-season annual grasses and legumes.

Winter Calving Herd

- Finish weaning late calves.
- Cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Select and permanently identify replacement heifers.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Spring Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Allow bulls to rest and regain condition.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Fall Calving Herd

- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle and first-calf heifers approaching breeding.
- Make bull selection decisions for upcoming breeding season. Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls 60 days before the start of breeding season.

FIELDNOTES



Health Tips

- Heat stress conditions are still possible in some areas.
- Horn and face fly season is ending. Remove remaining insecticidal fly tags.

2018
OCT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Columbus Day					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
			Halloween			



Resource: Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association website at www.albcia.com

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Michelle Elmore, elmormf@aces.edu, Extension Specialist
– Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association Coordinator



Learn more about the
Alabama Beef Cattle
Improvement Association
at www.albcia.com.

Sean Lett

Alabama 4-H Foundation
Regional Agent,
Cattle Producer

Alabama Extension provides field days that show hands-on instruction on how to perform certain tasks. We also offer seasonal seminars on timely topics and issues that affect producers. Many look to Alabama Extension for new research developments to improve their bottom line from management to maintenance.

I'm a second generation farmer in Dallas County. I use systems management to make decisions about forages and pest management. It helps me gain profit for every dollar of sweat equity I put into my operation.

As a 4-H agent, I am working on a beef cattle program similar to Chick Chain. Dallas County was once known as a place for beef shows for kids. We are trying to get back to that. If you get the kids involved in programs, you get the adults interested as well.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores, and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Modify winter supplementation needs based on forage availability and quality.
- Implement management intensive grazing systems on stockpiled tall fescue and bermudagrass.
- Begin monitoring for cool-season annual weed pressure as cool-season forages begin to grow.

Winter Calving Herd

- Check weaned calves regularly for health problems.
- Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate nutrition.
- Organize calving supplies and move winter-calving females close to handling facilities.
- Evaluate herd sire options for the upcoming breeding season.

Spring Calving Herd

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Consider implementing a calf preconditioning program prior to marketing to include the proper vaccinations, deworming, weaning strategies, and bunk breaking.
- Make sure calves are weighed to collect weaning weights within age range accepted by breed associations and for performance record keeping.
- Select replacement heifers and permanently identify them.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Fall Calving Herd

- Watch calves for illness, and restock calving supplies.
- Provide good nutrition for lactating cattle approaching breeding.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Conduct breeding soundness evaluations on bulls before the breeding season.
- Begin breeding replacement heifers to calve about 1 month before cows. Heifers bred by early December should calve by mid-September.
- For artificial insemination programs, have ample semen and supplies on hand. Schedule for estrus synchronization programs, and reserve an artificial insemination technician.



Health Tips

- Watch for lice and treat as needed.
- Remove any remaining insecticidal ear tags. Old tags release low levels of insecticide that tend to promote development of resistance.
- Follow up on internal parasite control practices.

2018
NOV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving		
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Resource: Visit www.aces.edu/beefsystems, Systems Management for publications, videos, webinars, and more on sustainable land-animal management practices.

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Josh Elmore, elmorejb@aces.edu

Autauga, Bullock, Chilton, Elmore, Macon, Montgomery, and Russell Counties



Beef Systems Management Handbook

Focus is on environmental management considerations in beef operations in the Southeast. Available free to download at www.aces.edu/beefsystems.



Randy Moody

Little Mountain Farm

Active in Alabama

Cattlemen's Association,
Former Alabama BCIA Officer

We are a seed stock, purebred Simmental operation. We bought and established this farm in 1997, but I was born into the cattle business.

We keep about 50 momma cows. They are all registered Simmental or Sim-Angus cows with a mix of five or six purebred Angus. We are a 100 percent AI operation, and all the calves are either ET or AI calves.

We face different challenges every day. Among these are marketing and keeping our cattle in front of the people. What we breed today is what we anticipate the market will be in two years, so being able to stay sharp and ahead of what people want is a pretty big challenge.

Our resources for information include Alabama Cattlemen, Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Extension staff, and the herdbook database from the American Simmental Association. Data and research from them come into play for our operation. And we use computers a lot more now to do our planned matings. Being able to use data and produce cattle that will be productive and profitable in our part of the country is pretty tough.

I advise new producers to know who you are. It is wonderful to go off to sales in other parts of the country and see people being really successful, but you have to know who you are and what your market is. Extension is good at helping set a plan and goals and then helping make things happen. And that's pretty important stuff.



Forage & Nutrition Notes

- Monitor body condition scores, and adjust nutritional program as needed.
- Continue using stockpiled tall fescue and bermudagrass.
- Limiting grazing cool-season annuals for a few hours per day is a good way to use winter forages efficiently.



Health Tips

- Monitor cattle for lice.
- Supplement vitamin A, when necessary, if frosted grass or weathered hay is the primary forage source.

2018 DEC

Winter Calving Herd

- Make sure calving supplies are on hand.
- Move heifers into clean, dry pastures, and check frequently for calving difficulties.
- Maintain calving records (birth weight, tag numbers, cow IDs) and an effective animal ID system.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to a clean pasture to minimize health risks.

Spring Calving Herd

- Finish weaning late calves.
- Cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, health, and performance.
- Select and permanently identify replacement heifers.
- Plan a heifer development program to reach target breeding weights.

Fall Calving Herd

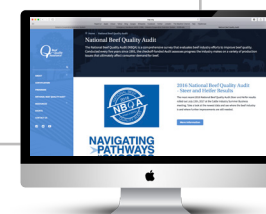
- Finish weaning late calves.
- If not already completed, conduct bull breeding soundness evaluations and make sure bulls are in good condition.
- Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as soon as practically possible and in accordance with FDA-approved implant labels. Do not implant replacement heifers.
- Breed heifers and cows. Heifers bred in early December should calve in mid-September. Cows bred in late December should calve in early October.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						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					
	New Year's Eve	Christmas Day				



Resource: Beef Quality Assurance Program at www.bqa.org

Extension Animal Science and Forages Team Member:
Soren Rodning, rodnisp@aces.edu, Extension Veterinarian
and Beef Quality Assurance Program Coordinator



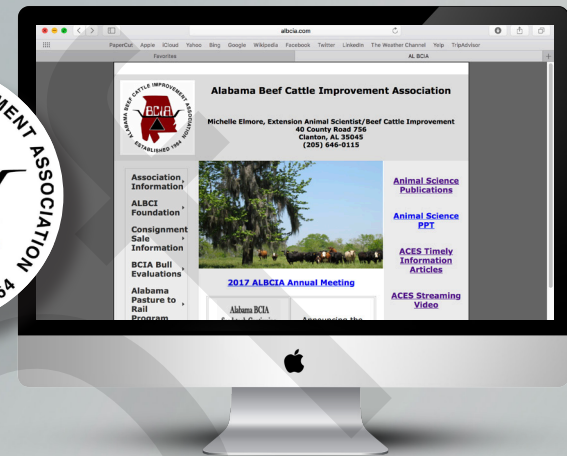
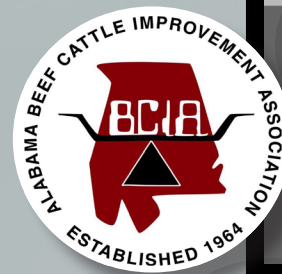
BQA provides information to beef cattle producers and consumers about common sense and scientific management practices and environmental conditions.



Extension Resources for Beef Cattle Producers

Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association

The mission of the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association is to promote, educate, and facilitate the use of performance data, record keeping, and marketing opportunities for BCIA members, while providing a leadership role to improve the Alabama cattle industry. Learn more at www.albcia.com.

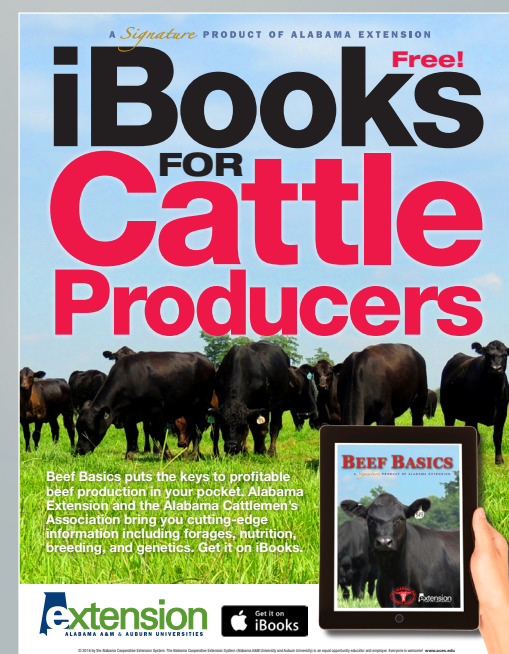


Beef Systems Management Handbook

This handbook focuses on environmental management considerations in beef operations in the Southeast. It is available free to download at www.aces.edu/beefsystems as individual publications or as the complete handbook.

Beef Basics Online Course and iBook

The Beef Basics online course is a free class for those interested in getting into the beef business or for those just beginning. Enroll using your email address for access to videos, publications, and lessons on beef cattle forage management, nutrition, health, genetics, and consumer relations. Following completion of the course, download your certificate of completion. A supporting text, *Beef Basics* iBook, is available free to download from the Apple iTunes Store.



Alabama Beef Systems Extension Website

Find more information on beef cattle management tips in the Southeast on the Alabama Beef Systems Extension website at www.aces.edu/beefsystems. Check the website for upcoming events, publications, webinars, and more!



Share our information via Twitter by following @ACESBeef.

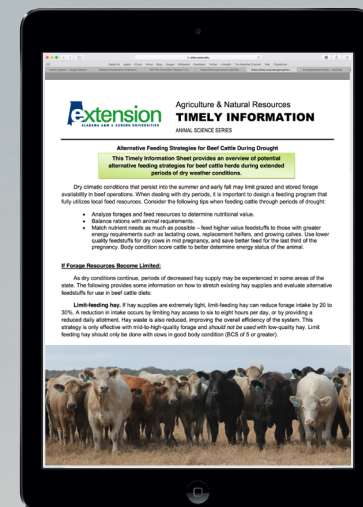
Visit our website at www.aces.edu/beefsystems to sign up for a monthly newsletter from the Alabama Beef Systems Extension Program. Get the latest on new videos, publications, and more by signing up in our MailChimp platform.



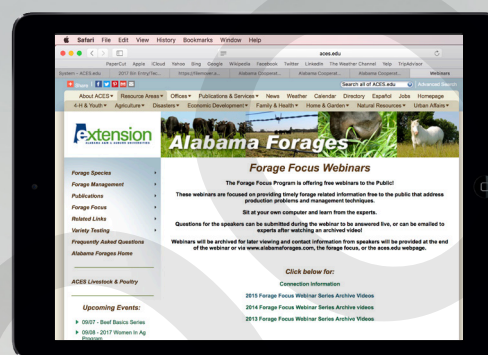
Visit the Alabama Extension YouTube Channel ([alcoopextension](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoXp0t3333333333333333)) to view a series of beef management videos on water quality, economics, climate, and forages in beef systems.



Frequently asked questions are addressed by Extension's Animal Science and Forages Team through Timely Information publications. On the Alabama Beef Systems website, visit Timely Information and Research Updates for the latest publications from our team. Download, print, and save them for future reference!



Visit our Alabama Beef Systems website to view our monthly Animal Science and Forages webinar! Webinars are broadcast live at 10:00 a.m. (CT) on the second Wednesday of the month. Missed the live version? The link to the archive allows viewers to check back at any time to learn more about the topic areas presented.



Alabama 4-H is piloting this new program in 2017–2018. Emphasis is on raising beef animals for meat production and understanding issues related to the commercial beef industry. The program will culminate in an event April 7, 2018. Contact your county's 4-H Foundation Regional Extension Agent for the Beef It Up! rules.



Kent Stanford

**Extension Specialist,
Animal Science and Forages,
Nutrient Management Specialist**

Fencing, a water system, and a handling facility are essential for a beef system to fully implement proper grazing management and for managing a herd health program.

The Alabama Forage Conference every two years introduces emerging technologies and strategies for forage management. Extension also offers grazing schools, grazing management clinics, and fencing schools. We assist with layout and design of working facilities and fencing, including the economical high-tensile electric fencing that can be the basis for rotational grazing.

Good fences, watering options, and working facilities also reduce stress. When cattle are moved frequently to new grass, they are easier to handle and to gather for working.

Additional Resources for Cattle Producers

Beef Quality Assurance Program: www.bqa.org

Alabama Farmers Federation: www.alfafarmers.org

Alabama Cattlemen's Association: www.bamabeef.org

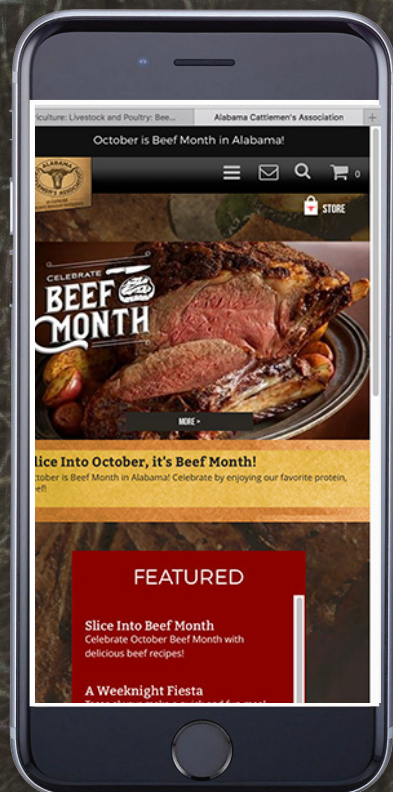
Alabama Livestock Market News:
www.agi.alabama.gov/divisions/livestock-market-news

Alabama Weekly Feedstuff/Production Cost Report:
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/mg_gr210.txt

Southeast Cattle Advisor: www.secattleadvisor.com

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service—Alabama:
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/al/home/

USDA Farm Service Agency—Alabama:
www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Alabama/index



2018 ALABAMA **BEEF SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

CALENDAR

Improve. Grow. Sustain..

The Alabama Beef Systems Extension Program focuses on improving land and animal management practices in Southeast beef operations. This calendar provides forage management, nutrition, breeding, and health tips for producers based on calving season distribution. Use this calendar to learn more about the additional resources that our Extension program has to offer including websites, videos, online courses, iBooks, publications, and more.



Acknowledgments

Authors: Kim Mullenix, *Extension Beef Specialist*; Michelle Elmore, *Extension Beef Specialist/Coordinator Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association*; and Soren Rodning, *Extension Veterinarian*, all with Auburn University

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Photo credit: Bruce Dupree, *Extension Creative Services Manager*, and the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

