

Young County Agriculture News and Events

Fall/Winter 2018 edition



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Beef Cattle Fall Calving Management Calendar

NOVEMBER

Fall Calving

1. Continue feeding program begun in October. Lactating cows need to be in good condition for breeding.
2. Begin breeding heifers 20 to 30 days before the rest of the cow herd (late November or December).
3. Treat cattle for lice if needed.
4. If not previously done, complete herd sire selection and the culling of replacement heifers. Base decisions on performance records as outlined in the August, September, and October sections.

Spring Calving

General Recommendations:

1. Discontinue feeding tetracycline for anaplasmosis control after the end of the vector season (30 to 50 days after a hard freeze).
2. Check with your Extension office for information on educational meetings about livestock and forage production practices.
 3. Graze native hay meadows after frost.
 4. Use prescribed fire every other year in dry leaf litter to control hardwood sprouts (less than four inches).

1. Continue feeding program begun in late October or begin according to guidelines listed in October, if not previously started.
2. Check the weaned steer and heifer calves regularly for health problems and feed adequately to produce desired gains. Two to four pounds of protein supplement per head per day is needed to produce a half- to one-pound gain per day, depending on the quality of forage available and weather conditions.
3. Treat cattle for lice if needed.
4. If culling is not completed in September and October, it should be completed this month.

DECEMBER

Fall Calving

1. Continue winter feeding program. Vaccinate cows 30 days before breeding season with Leptospira/Campylobacter bacterins, IBR, BVD, PI₃, BRSV vaccine depending on the local veterinarian's recommendations.
2. Castrate, dehorn, implant, and vaccinate new calves with 7-way Clostridial bacterin and Intranasal IBR, PI₃ vaccine. Don't implant replacement heifers.
3. Treat cows for internal parasites and lice, if needed.
4. For wheat or other small grain pasture:
 - a) Limit-graze cows for protein needs.
 - b) Provide a special area for calves to creep graze.
5. Watch the herd continuously for health problems. Pay particular attention to cattle grazing fescue for signs of fescue foot.
6. Provide OSU Silver creep for calves.

Spring Calving

1. Continue feeding program which was begun in October and November.
2. Limit-graze dry cows on fescue three to four days per week.
3. Watch the herd continuously for health problems. Pay particular attention to those grazing fescue for signs of fescue foot.
4. Continue to monitor herd for lice infestation. Implement control program as needed.
5. Identify the purebred herds and test stations at which you want to look for herd sires. Check sale dates and review performance criteria to use.

General Recommendations:

1. Cattle afflicted with fescue foot should be removed from fescue pastures and fed a different roughage until recovered. If damage is severe, salvage immediately through slaughter because these severely affected animals do not gain weight normally.

January

Fall Calving

1. If a high percentage of cows return to heat after 40 days of breeding, have bulls rechecked for fertility and cows and bulls examined for reproductive diseases by a veterinarian. Change bulls if necessary, and re-evaluate the nutrition program.
2. Assign yearling bulls 15 to 20 cows, two- and three-year-olds 20 to 25, and aged bulls 25 to 40.
3. Continue supplemental feeding of bulls, cows, and calves. If small grain pasture is available, adjust supplemental feeding to requirements of cows.
4. If a creep feeding program is desired, limit-feed a high protein (30-40%) supplement, such as recommended in the Oklahoma Silver program. See your local Extension Agricultural Educator for further details.

Spring Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding of pregnant females, so that they will be in good condition at calving.
2. Check first calf heifers (due to calve) several times daily for possible calving difficulties.
3. Feed in evening to encourage daytime calving.
4. Weigh yearling heifers, adjust weights, and calculate ratios. Base selection on both weaning and yearling information. Also select for good disposition and temperament, sound feet and legs, and dam's udder structure.
5. Purebred breeders should send performance data to the national breed association office.
6. Review details listed under March for herd sire selection.
7. Check body condition score on heifers and cows.

General Recommendations:

1. Water is as important in the winter as it is in the summer. Keep tanks or other water supplies open by breaking ice at least daily or by using a heater or freeze-proof stock tanks.
2. Provide free choice mineral mix year around (a commercial mix or one part salt and one part dicalcium phosphate).
3. When grass tetany is a problem on fescue or small grain pastures, supplement with one and a half to two ounces of magnesium oxide per cow daily in mineral mix.
 4. Use small grain pasture efficiently. Limit-graze cows to meet protein needs or to stretch limited dry pasture or hay.
 5. Test the soil to determine phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and lime needs for spring-seeded legumes, such as lespedeza, sweet clover, red clover, and white clover.
 6. Plan the financial management program for the year, including cash flow and deadlines for payment of interest and taxes. Set both yearly and long-term ranch goals.
7. Use prescribed fire to improve forage quality, reduce ticks, and control weeds and brush.

Importance of Agricultural Trade on the Texas and U.S. Economies



As agricultural producers experience higher input costs and lower revenues, along with declining U.S. government support to agriculture, understanding the impacts of international trade and how markets and competition are affected will take on added importance for farmers, agribusinesses, policy makers, and agricultural leaders.

The United States is the largest exporter of farm products and those exports account for about 35% of farm income, up from 28% in 1996. The economic impact of U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico totaled \$107.8 billion and 509,332 jobs in 2016. The total economic impact of Texas agricultural export trade to Canada and Mexico totaled more than \$3.3 billion in 2016 and supported 18,674 jobs. In addition, agricultural exports help support rural communities across the United States, with each dollar of exports stimulating another \$1.27 in business activity.

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Table 1. US Agricultural Exports as a Share of Production for Selected Commodities, 2015.

Commodity	Percentage of Production Exported
Cotton	71.0
Sorghum	57.0
Rice	56.0
Soybeans	49.4
Wheat	37.8
Pork	20.2
Poultry	16.0
Corn	14.1
Beef	9.5

Source: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service, "Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD)" online database (<https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/>).

Agricultural imports are also important, as U.S. consumers are more dependent on them for certain commodities, as well as, for year-round supply. Not surprisingly, these include tropical products not produced, or only sparingly produced, in the United States such as limes, coffee and bananas. Orange juice and tomato imports have increased over the years as production, mainly in Florida, has decreased significantly. Other products such as beef and pork account for a smaller share of US imports.

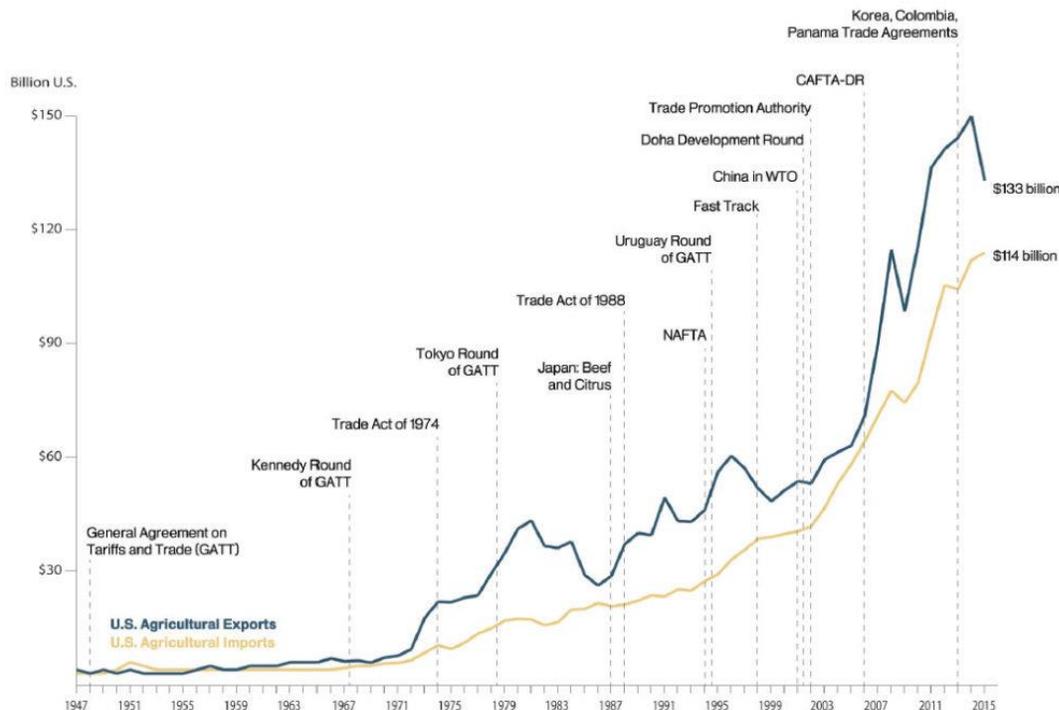
Table 2. US Agricultural Imports as a Share of Domestic Consumption for Selected Commodities, 2015.

Commodity	Percentage of Domestic Consumption
Coffee	100.0
Limes	100.0
Banana	99.8
Tomatoes	51.0
Orange Juice	44.8
Beef	13.6
Pork	5.4

Source: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service, "Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD)" online database (<https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/>).

Trade agreements impact exports and imports. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), negotiated between the United States, Canada and Mexico and initiated on January 1,

1994, has been extensively studied over the years. NAFTA was designed to expand the flow of goods, services, and investment throughout North America. NAFTA calls for the full phased elimination of import tariffs and the elimination or fullest possible reduction on non-tariff trade barriers, such as import quotas, licensing schemes, and technical barriers to trade.



US Trade Agreements, 1947-2015.

Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service (<https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/trade-agreements-create-opportunities.jpg>).

Trade is an important part of agricultural markets. As US agriculture has become more dependent on trade, world events carry more risk for prices. Growing export markets will continue to be important goal for US agriculture in coming years.

For more information about the importance of agricultural trade in the economy, please see the following publications:

- [Impacts of the Increased Dependence on Trade on the Farm Economy](#) (pdf)
- [Economic Impacts of U.S. and Texas Agricultural Exports to Canada and Mexico](#) (pdf)
- [Economic Impacts of Increased U.S. Imports of Fresh Produce from Mexico by 2025](#) (pdf)

For more information feel free to call Justin Rogers at the Young County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension office at (940)549-0737 or Justin.rogers@ag.tamu.edu

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