

# Empire Heifer Development Program

## “Value Added Management and Marketing Program for Northeast Beef Producers”

### Program

**Heifers:** will be weighed and evaluated for rate of gain and growth throughout the evaluation. Producers will receive: contemporary group comparisons, temperament scores, ultrasound data, reproductive data, and marketing opportunities.

**Prebreeding:** Heifers will undergo a reproductive soundness exam 35 to 45 days prior to breeding, including a reproductive tract score exam, body condition score, pelvic measurements, body weight and functional soundness evaluation

**Breeding:** Estrous cycles will be synchronized and heifers will be bred on observed standing heats. Detection will span 30 days. After AI breeding, natural service sires will be turned in with the heifers.

**AI sires:** will be selected by cattle owners and if requested with consultation from the program manager. Natural service sires will be selected based on calving ease and overall EPD's.

### Health Protocol

**\*Minimum program to include vaccination for:**

IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, 7-way Clostridium, Pasteurella (Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasteurella multocida), Haemophilus somnus and a dewormer product for both internal and external parasites. Selenium [If you need assistance, consult with your veterinarian] More information will be supplied upon enrollment.

### 2007/2008 TIMETABLE (tentative):

September 15	Early bird sign up \$25/heifer
October 16	Recommended last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
November 7	Last day to wean calves.
November 16	Mandatory last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
December 7-8	Deliver heifers to Stoep Farm, Lyons, NY
April 2008	“NY Bull & Empire Heifer Sale” (upon passing quality criteria)
Oct 2008	Cornell Bred Heifer Sale

### Eligibility:

All breeds, as well as crossbred cattle, can enroll, with an emphasis on commercial heifers.

Heifers MUST be pre-vaccinated\* according to protocol before arriving at feeding facility

Heifers must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds upon delivery. (no horns allowed)

Only heifers born in 2007 can be enrolled. (fall-calves will be considered, call first)

### Approximate Cost:

**\$1.35/day per heifer.** Other charges include vet evaluations, ultrasound scans, semen and AI breeding, reporting and administration.

**Option A:** Heifers returning home after spring repro and ultrasound examinations. • Total cost should average under \$280/heifer.

**Option B:** Heifers participate in program and sell at the spring NYBPA Bull & Empire Heifer Sale. • Total cost should average under \$290/heifer. (does not include commission or sale expenses)

**Option C:** Heifers remain throughout the summer AI breeding and pregnancy examination, returning home in August 2008. • Total cost should average under \$470/heifer.

**Option D:** Heifers remain throughout the summer and are sold in the October, 2008 Cornell Bred Heifer Sale. • Total cost should average under \$525/heifer. (does not include commission or sale expenses)