

# 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 heat within 72 hours; those not observed in heat will be time bred. 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 EPDs.

### 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.

### 2009/2010 TIMETABLE:

September 15	Early bird sign up \$30/heifer
September 22	Recommended last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
October 6	Last day to wean calves.
October 16	Mandatory last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
November 7	Deliver heifers to Erwindale Farm, Waterloo, NY
April 23, 2010	NY Bull & Empire Heifer Sale (upon passing quality criteria)
Oct. 24, 2010	Cornell Replacement Beef 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 2008 can be enrolled. (fall-calves will be considered, call first)

### Approximate Cost:

**\$2.00/day per heifer.** Other charges include treatment for illness, estrous synchronization, semen and AI breeding.

**Option A:** Heifers returning home after spring repro and ultrasound examinations. • Total cost should average under \$400/heifer.

**Option B:** Heifers participate in program and sell at the spring NYBPA Bull & Empire Heifer Sale. • Total cost should average under \$400/heifer. (does not include commission or sale expenses)

**Option C:** Heifers remain throughout the summer AI breeding and pregnancy examination, returning home in August 2010. • Total cost should average under \$540/heifer.

**Option D:** Heifers remain throughout the summer and are sold in the October, 2010 Cornell Beef Replacement Sale. • Total cost should average under \$600/heifer. (does not include commission or sale expenses)

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To consign cattle, or for more information, contact Mike Baker, Cornell Extension Specialist, [mjb28@cornell.edu](mailto:mjb28@cornell.edu), 607-255-5923.