

YOUTH INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW YORK FEEDLOT AND CARCASS VALUE DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Cornell Beef Cattle Extension Program announces a new opportunity for youth to participate in the New York Feedlot and Carcass Value Discovery Program (VDP). Since 1989, the VDP has helped beef producers throughout the northeast US learn the true value of their cattle based on their performance in the feedlot and on the rail. Producers of these calves receive feedlot and carcass data such as average daily gain, feed conversion, hot carcass weight, marbling score and ribeye area. Past participants have used the data to improve the genetics of their herd and to bargain for higher feeder calf prices.

New this fall, is that 20 spaces will be reserved for calves owned by youth 21 years and younger. The \$30 data collection fee will be waived for youth owned cattle. Below are the requirements for participation.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. If multiple cattle are consigned it is recommended that the calves be from the same sire. Minimum (recommended) weight at delivery: 450 lbs
2. Castration and de-horning is to be completed, healed and dry prior to October 1.
3. Heifers are to be guaranteed open.
4. Cattle are to be weaned no later than October 1. It is highly recommended to begin the first series of vaccinations four to six weeks prior to weaning, so that entire health program is completed two weeks prior to weaning.
5. Vaccinations are to include BRSV, IBR, PI-3, BVD, 7-way Clostridial, Haemophilus somnus, and Mannheimia haemolytica (formerly Pasteurella haemolytica) and Pasteurella multocida. (leucotoxin). Booster is to be given according to label.
6. Calves are to receive a selenium injection, be de-wormed, treated for grubs, and free of ringworm and warts.
7. Calves should be fed a 12%-14% crude protein grain mix at 1-1.5 lbs. per 100 lbs. of body weight. For example a 550-lb. calf should receive 5 lbs-7.5 lbs. of grain/day.
8. Beef Quality Assurance guidelines of neck only and when possible subcutaneous injections are to be followed.
9. Beef Quality Assurance certification strongly recommended.

2009 TIMETABLE (tentative):

September 15	Consignments, along with \$30/head due.
September 15	Recommended last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
October 1	Last day to wean calves.
October 11	Mandatory last day to complete vaccinations (including boosters)
November 5-6	Deliver calves to Cornell Beef Cattle T& R Center, Harford, NY
November 19	Official start of program.

COST. Cattle will be charged for feed, yardage, medical, freight and a \$30 fee to cover costs of individual data collection. Total cost will vary with performance. The total average cost in the 2008/2009 feeding period was \$355. The \$30 data collection fee will be waived for youth owned cattle. All expenses will be deducted from the sales receipts.

Owners have the option of selecting the conventional feedlot program or the “natural” program which does not use implants or antibiotics. Calves raised under these conditions will be eligible for several natural markets that exist in the Northeast.

For more information, contact Mike Baker, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist, 607-255-5923, mjb28@cornell.edu or go to <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/beef/> and click on “Software and Reports”.