

COW/CALF CORNER

The Newsletter

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The OQBN (Oklahoma Quality Beef Network) Vac-45 calf sales are now in full swing. Stocker cattle operators and feedlot buyers will want to attend one or more of the nine remaining OQBN sales scheduled for this fall. All of the calves enrolled for these sales will have been weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to sale date. Plus all calves will have been vaccinated with an approved vaccination protocol that meets the OQBN guidelines. If you are looking for quality calves that should have a minimum of health issues and are ready to go into a wheat pasture or feedlot environment, attend one of the following OQBN sales:

Sale Date: November 3, 2010

Wean Date: September 19, 2010

Location: OKC West, El Reno

Bill Barnhart: 800-778-9378

Sale Date: November 9, 2010

Wean Date: September 25, 2010

Location: McAlester Stockyards, McAlester

Lindsey Grant: 918-423-2834

Sale Date: November 11, 2010
Wean Date: September 27, 2010
Location: Durant Livestock, Durant
Ronald Jordan: 580-924-1850

Sale Date: November 20, 2010
Wean Date: October 6, 2010
Location: Blackwell Livestock
Gary or Grady Potter: 580-363-9941

Sale Date: December 1, 2010
Wean Date: October 17, 2010
Location: OKC West, OKC
Bill Barnhart: 800-778-9378

Sale Date: December 3, 2010
Wean Date: October 19, 2010
Location: Stillwell Livestock, Stillwell
Danny Isaacs: 918-696-2605

Sale Date: December 4, 2010
Wean Date: October 20, 2010
Location: Pawnee Livestock
Charlie Elliot: 918-645-7501
Jay DeBord: 580-336-1977

Sale Date: December 6, 2010
Wean Date: October 22, 2010
Location: Tulsa Stockyards
Joe Don Eaves: 918-760-1300

Sale Date: January 6, 2011
Wean Date: November 22, 2010
Location: Durant Livestock, Durant
Ronald Jordan: 580-924-1850

Cow calf producers in southern Oklahoma or north Texas that would still like to enroll fall-weaned calves in an OQBN sale have the opportunity to sell calves at the January 6 Durant sale. Note the upcoming weaning date of November 22 that must be met in order to qualify for that sale. Questions about the OQBN program or any of the sales could be directed to Doug McKinney at doug.mckinney@okstate.edu.

Why is 45 Day Weaning So Important to Feeder Calf Health??

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Animal Science Professor Emeritus

Most of the “Value-Added” calf sales require that the calves are weaned at least 45 days prior to sale date. Some cow calf producers may wonder why the post-weaning period needs to be so lengthy. Data from Iowa from over a nine year period in a couple of their feedout tests compared the health status of calves weaned less than 30 days to calves weaned longer than 30 days. Data from hundreds of calves were summarized. Calves that had been sent to a feedlot at a time less than 30 days had a higher incidence of bovine respiratory disease (28%) compared to calves weaned longer than 30 days (13%). The percentage of calves that required 3 or more treatments also was significantly different (6% versus 1%) in favor of calves that had been weaned more than 30 days. In fact the calves weaned less than 30 days were not different in health attributes than calves that were weaned on the way to the feedlot. A summary of this lengthy study can be found on line at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/ansci/beefreports/asl-1648.pdf>. Vac-45 calves apparently have a real advantage in terms of health compared to calves weaned on the way to the livestock market for sale date. Certainly part of the “value” in value-added calves can be attributed to properly applied vaccinations. However, there is little doubt that a portion of the improved health is due to the length of time between weaning and the movement of calves to the next owner.

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