

# Replacement Heifer & Bull Development

**Darrell Rankins, Jr.**  
**Auburn University**



1

## Replacement Heifers

- ☞ Weaning to Breeding
- ☞ 8 months to 13 months of age
- ☞ Moderate gains (1.5 lbs/day)
- ☞ Target breeding weight
  - 55% of mature = 50% cycling
  - 65% of mature = 90% cycling



2

## 65% of mature weight

☞  $1,100 = 715$

☞  $1,200 = 780$

☞  $1,300 = 845$

☞  $1,400 = 910$



3

## Example

☞ Average weaning weight (July 1)

■ 585 pounds

☞ Mature cows = 1,275 pounds

☞ Desired breeding weight (Dec 23)

■ 830 pounds



4

## Example

### ☞ Target ADG

- $(830 - 585)/(357-182)$
- $245/175$
- ADG = 1.4 pounds/day



5

## Feeding Program

☞ Medium quality hay (55% TDN, 11% CP) or perennial pasture grazing free-choice plus 3 to 5 pounds of an energy supplement per day.

- Soyhulls
- Corn gluten feed
- Corn
- DDGS



6

## Breeding to Market

- ☞ Steady continual gains
- ☞ Genetics will grossly overshadow nutrition on calving difficulty
- ☞ Graze on winter annuals
- ☞ Perennial pasture through calving
- ☞ REAL challenge is calving to rebreeding!



7

## Bulls

- ☞ WDA is quite important
- ☞ Fleshy bulls are the norm
- ☞ Marketing long yearlings vs 2 year-olds



8

## Nutrient Content

- ☞ 68 to 72% TDN
  - 68 for marketing 2 year-olds
  - 72 for marketing long yearlings
- ☞ 14 – 11% CP
  - 14 at weaning
  - 11 as 2 year-old



9

## Ingredients

- ☞ Sources of digestible fiber
  - Oats if price is right
- ☞ Low starch
  - Hoof integrity
- ☞ Cottonseed hulls \$\$\$



10

## Other Issues

- ☞ Bloat
  - Ionophore
- ☞ Ca:P balance
  - Urinary calculi
  - Many by-products contain more P than Ca
  - Ammonium chloride
- ☞ Good trace mineral package
- ☞ Long stem hay



11

## High Quality Grazing

- ☞ IDEAL (in a perfect world)
  - Weather
  - More risk



12