



Livestock Ledger

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KNOW ANIMAL VITAL SIGNS

When you telephone the vet about a sick animal, it helps if you also know the animal's vital signs, specifically body temperature and breathing rate. It is also helpful if you know what is normal in order to help you decide whether or not to call the vet.

Below are normal body temperature ranges and breathing rates per minute for various farm animals:

Animal	Temp. Range
Horse.....	99.5-101.3
Foal.....	99.5-102.2
Cattle.....	100.4-103.1
Sheep.....	102.0-104.0
Swine.....	100.4-104.0
Goats.....	103.0-105.0

Dogs.....	101.0-103.0
Cats.....	100.5-102.5

Animal	Breaths/minute
Horse.....	8-16
Beef Cattle.....	10-30
Dairy Cattle.....	18-28
Sheep and Goats.....	12-20
Swine.....	8-18

What Weight to Breed Heifers
How heavy should beef heifers be at breeding time? That depends upon a number of things, including how big they will be as mature cows.

Research has shown that a beef heifer should develop to 65 percent of her expected mature weight at breeding time. Then she should reach 80 percent of her mature weight at calving time,

Beef Heifer Data	Mature Cow Weights			
	1000	1100	1200	1300
Weaning Wt.	450	500	550	600
ADG to Breeding	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
Min. Breeding Wt.	650	715	780	845
ADG to Calving	.93	.98	1.04	1.09
Min. Wt. at Calving	900	980	1060	1140

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plus an additional 100 extra pounds for the weight she will lose at calving.

The following table gives ideal target weights and gains for heifers that will mature out to four different body weights.

Cattlemen need to keep in mind that these are not average weights. Better than 90 percent of heifers cycling should meet these ideals.

Marketing Cull Bulls

Muscling and body condition are the name of the game when you market cull bulls. Livestock market auctions want bulls in good shape, which will grade when sent to the slaughterhouse.

The base price that auction representatives set for bulls is based on muscling and condition. An overly flechy bull will be docked because of decreased yield potential, as will an underweight, light-muscled bull.

The ideal bull to market is a streamlines, structurally sound bull with plenty of width and dimension over the top and down through the rump. Wide, sound feet and plenty of width through the brisket area also are strong marketing points. In addition, clean and shiny bulls often bring more money simply because they are presented well.

To reach this ideal market con-

dition, you should feed bulls before selling to add condition they must have lost during the breeding season. By having the bulls in a feedlot, you also can watch for any signs of injury or disease.

In addition to body condition, the bull also should be mild-tempered. Flighty, nervous bulls often signal to buyers dark-cutters, which reduce yield quality.

Soil Testing Key To Pasture Management

many cattlemen describe their pasture as poor, only an exercise lot, or an unproductive piece of land. Land owners should realize that 90% of all pasture land can be productive and produce inexpensive quality feed for your herd.

The first step to a productive pasture is a soil test. In order to have a lush green pasture, providing lime and fertilizer is a must. And if you are going to lime and fertilize, you need to know the quantities that your soil needs.

Some land owners decide to guess, which leads to two problems: if they overestimate, they lose money by buying too much fertilizer, and if they guess too

low, they will not get the potential productivity from their land. The only way to be sure is to test your pasture's soil.

A soil test is a simple matter if you take the time to do it. Soil test kits are available from your county extension office and instructions are included with each kit.

Managing Baby Pigs

The first rule of baby pig management is to keep the pigs warm and dry. Newborn pigs are essentially cold-blooded animals and their body temperature will be very close to the temperature of the surroundings.

When born into an environment that's less than 90 to 95 degrees F, the pigs will have to burn extra energy to keep warm. So at best, the pigs will stop growing. At worst, their fat and glycogen stores will be quickly depleted, and they will be in a life-threatening situation.

The second rule of baby pig management is to be sure that every pig gets colostrum. Colostrum contains a high level of immune globulins that are absorbed directly by the pigs during their early hours of life.

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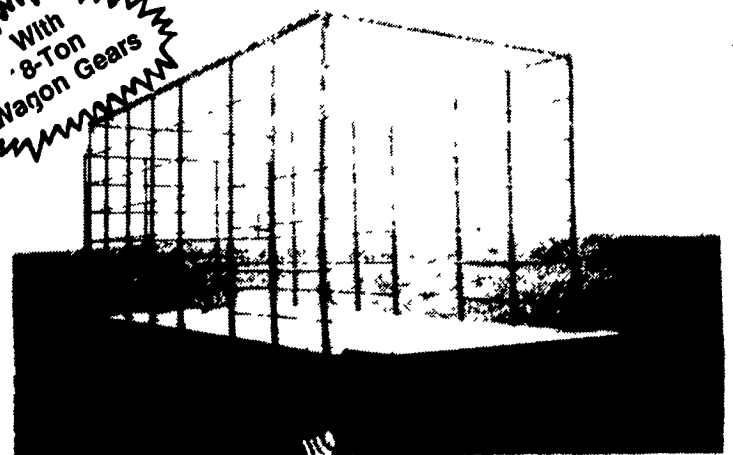
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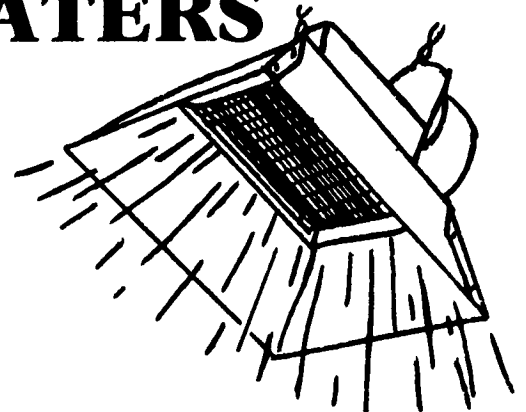
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