



THE LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM

**LSU AgCenter
McNeese State University
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry**

2006-2007

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Project is entering into its 2006-2007 feed-out year. There were over 310 calves consigned to the 2005-2006 feed out; of this group, 53 head were heifers. The feed out and carcass information provided to producers through this program is very useful in making management decisions on breeding, genetics, nutrition, and herd health. In addition, valuable marketing information is obtained about a producer's product. The exposure to preconditioning and retaining ownership of one's calves, plus the educational tour in the spring, makes the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program an outstanding educational program for Louisiana's cow/calf producers. Since implementing preconditioning of all steers and heifers going to the feedlot, we have clearly seen its benefits with a reduction in death loss.

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program will accept nominations for heifers and steers. After nominations are in, we will determine if we have enough heifers nominated to make a pen. If we do not have enough heifers nominated to make a full pen, we will refund your nomination feed. When completing the attached Nomination Form, please indicate the number of steers and/or heifers as well as which preconditioning site you will be sending your cattle to.

Electronic identification of cattle leaving the premises is going to be mandatory so we will continue to use electronic identification tags on the cattle. It also helps us in collecting carcass data accurately.

The method of selling the cattle, cash sale or value based grid sale, will be determined this year when the cattle are sold. The decision will be made by Dave Foster, Tim Page and Hitch Feed Yard personnel. The historical data from the program and the marketing conditions at the time of the first sale will be used to obtain what is believed to be the best price for the cattle consigned to the program this year.

The following is a brief overview of the program. (More details can be found later in this paper)

- 1) **Nomination fee is \$35.00** per head and payment must be made at the time of nomination (We have to have this money to pay for the trucking.). This is NOT an increase from last year and we think it will cover high fuel and trucking costs.
- 2) **Nomination deadline** with fee: postmarked by **August 17, 2006.**
- 1) **A minimum of three (3)** steers or heifers per producer weighing **at least 500 lbs.**

- 2) You must have a Premise ID number. You may get one by contacting the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at: www.ldaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp.
- 3) You must provide either individual birthdates on your calves or provide the calving season (EX: first calf born – December 12, 2005; last calf born – March 5, 2006).
- 4) **Preconditioning** as outlined in the attached document is **required**. If you opt to precondition your cattle at home, you **must** follow the guidelines we have established for preconditioning. Your county agent and/or Tim Page will work with you on preconditioning at home. A form has been provided for you and your county agent to sign that ensures that the calves followed the established guidelines for preconditioning.
- 5) **Loading points** will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 6) Length of the **preconditioning period** will be approximately 30-32 days.
- 7) **Preconditioning fee** will be **due in full** at the end of the preconditioning period. We **must** have this money at that time in order to reimburse the preconditioning sites their costs as well as pay for the feed.
- 8) All calves must have **producer identification** (i.e.: ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival.
- 9) **Only non-pregnant heifers** will be accepted (i.e.: do not send pregnant heifers).
- 10) All cattle **MUST** be dehorned and healed before arrival at the preconditioning site.
- 11) Cattle will arrive at the preconditioning site on **Thursday, September 7, 2006**.

PRECONDITIONING PLAN FOR THE LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM

General:

The Preconditioning Plan associated with the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program basically follows the Southeast Pride Health Certification Program, and when completed the cattle will meet the requirements for the Blue Tag Level.

Producers who choose to precondition their calves at home need to adhere to the following preconditioning plan. The at home preconditioning must be validated/verified by the county extension agent. Calves preconditioned at home must arrive at the loading sites (the same as the preconditioning sites) before shipment to Oklahoma (the projected date of shipment is October 9). Home preconditioned cattle must arrive at University of Louisiana at Monroe and McNeese State University on October 6, 2006.

All calves **must have** producer identification (e.g., ear tag, legible brand, etc.) upon arrival at the designated preconditioning/loading sites.

Locations for the preconditioning/loading sites are:

- 1) University of Louisiana - Monroe in Quachita Parish, Monroe, LA
- 2) McNeese State University in Calcasieu Parish, Lake Charles, LA

Feeding Program:

The cattle will be fed a medicated mixed ration (including minerals) as well as free choice hay. The

ration will be balanced and fed so that potential average weight gains of approximately 1.5 lbs/head/day can be achieved.

Health Program:

Castrate bull calves as soon as possible. Castration is less traumatic for younger calves.

Dehorn: If present, horns must be removed. Horns on cattle cause increased bruising of pen mates. Your calves **MUST** be dehorned and healed before arriving at the preconditioning sites.

Heifers can not be pregnant. Only **non-pregnant heifers** will be accepted.

Working Vaccination: All calves should have received an 8-way clostridial (blackleg type) and possibly others based on herd history and local veterinary advice (such as Haemophilus, pasteurilla, leptospirosis, etc.) between 2 and 4 months of age. Calves should also be dewormed.

Pre-Weaning Vaccination: In addition, 4 to 6 weeks before weaning the calves should be vaccinated with an injectable BRD complex (IBR - PI3 - BVD - BRSV). **Note:** A modified live vaccine is highly recommended. Make sure the vaccine used is approved for use on calves nursing pregnant cows. Calves should also receive clostridial vaccination at this time.

Shortly after arrival at the preconditioning site the cattle will be worked as follows:

On Thursday, September 7, 2006 the cattle will be processed for internal and external parasite control, and vaccinated as follows:

Injectable BRD complex vaccination IBR - PI3 - BVD - BRSV plus pasteurilla (modified live vaccine).

8-Way Clostridial vaccination

Internal and external parasite control treatment with an endectocide and possible flucocide.

Metaphylactic antibiotic treatment

Attach Electronic and Visual Ear Tags

Week of September 21, 2006 the cattle will be given a respiratory booster vaccination:

Injectable BRD complex booster IBR - PI3 - BVD - BRSV plus pasteurilla.

8-Way Clostridial booster

Other vaccinations may be required as recommended by the LSU AgCenter veterinarian (Dr. Christine Navarre) working with us on the preconditioning portion of the Calf to Carcass Program.

Time Schedule:

Thursday, September 7, 2006 - All cattle will arrive at the preconditioning sites.

Thursday, September 7, 2006 - The cattle will be weighed, vaccinated, tagged, and treated for internal and external parasites.

Week of September 21, 2006 - The cattle will be given booster vaccinations.

Friday, October 6, 2006 - The cattle preconditioned at home need to arrive at McNeese State University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe by 10:00 a.m. All cattle will be weighed. Feeder cattle grades (frame size and muscle score) and a dollar value will be assigned to all calves.

Monday, October 9, 2006 - All cattle will be loaded and shipped to Henry C. Hitch Feedlot in Guymon, OK.

Note: Upon arrival at the preconditioning/shipping sites the calves preconditioned at home will be placed in pens separate from the calves preconditioned at these designated sites.

Cost of Preconditioning:

The cost for preconditioning the cattle has been estimated to be approximately \$60.00 per head. This includes initial vaccinations and boosters, internal and external parasite control, feed, antibiotic, tags, etc. (see below for details). The estimated cost of this program is very similar to costs associated with other preconditioning programs in the Southeastern and Southwestern United States. There may be an additional charge this year for testing for BVD. Chronic BVD is a major problem in the feedlot industry. If we do conduct this test, we will make every effort to keep costs to a minimum. **Please Note:** Efforts will be made to arrange for collaborative agreements with various companies (Feed Companies, Veterinary Supply Companies, etc.) in the form of donating antibiotics, vaccine and parasite control products in order to lower the cost of preconditioning the cattle. Over the past five years, these collaborative agreements have significantly reduced preconditioning costs. Only the cattle that are preconditioned at one of the designated sites will benefit from the collaborative arrangements. We have been getting the medicated feed at cost and nearly all of the pharmaceuticals have been donated. Because of these agreements, it will be extremely difficult for individual producers to precondition their cattle at home as economically as it can be done at the preconditioning sites.

Note: Additional cost to the producer may be incurred if an individual animal(s) becomes ill and veterinary care is required. Immediate efforts will be made to contact producers if one of their animals becomes ill and requires additional veterinary care.

Payout Procedure and Selling Process:

1. Hitch Feedyard sells a pen of cattle.

2. The buyer has a week to pick up the cattle.
3. Hitch Feedyard sends me the payment for the cattle.
4. Cattle are slaughtered.
5. Cattle are graded the day after slaughter (in some cases, longer than that).
6. Carcass data is sent to Hitch Feedyard in usually one week (some plants it may take two weeks for Hitch to get the data).
7. Hitch Feedyard sends me the carcass data.
8. I enter, process, and summarize the carcass, gain and profit data.
9. I request checks for individual producers in the amount owed them.
10. When the checks are ready, I pick them up and then mail them to the individual producers.

As you can see, this takes time. I will always try to my very best to be expedient as possible (the best case scenario is about 3-4 weeks). If there is snafu somewhere in that chain of events, it could possibly take 6 weeks. Again, I will strive to get you the payments and data as soon as possible.

Liability Statement:

Each animal is the property of the owner/consignor until sold. While every effort will be made by all concerned to safeguard the health and well being of the cattle, neither the preconditioning site operators (McNeese State University and University of Louisiana at Monroe), Louisiana State University AgCenter, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, the attending veterinarian, nor the feedlot may be held liable for loss of cattle due to theft, injury, sickness, death of any other cause.

Recap of Important Points:

The following applies (includes the preconditioning phase):

- 1) Nomination fee is \$35.00 per head (applied toward trucking to Oklahoma). The nomination fees must be included with the nomination form.
- 2) Nomination deadline with fee: postmarked by August 17, 2006.
- 3) A Minimum of three (3) steers or heifers per producer weighing at least 500 lbs is required (there is no maximum number of animals that can be consigned).
- 4) Preconditioning (as outline in this document) is required.
- 5) Loading points will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 6) Length of the preconditioning period will be approximately 30-32 days
- 7) Preconditioning fee will be due in full at the end of the preconditioning period.
- 8) Preconditioning can be conducted on the producer's farm. The producer should follow the attached preconditioning plan. Preconditioning conducted at home must be verified by the

county extension agent.

- 9) All calves must have producer identification (e.g., ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival at the designated preconditioning/loading sites.
- 10) Only heifer calves will be accepted (i.e., yearling heifers and older will not be accepted).
- 11) Heifers can not be pregnant. Only non-pregnant heifers will be accepted.

If you have any questions about the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program please contact your county agent or Tim Page at 225-578-7906 or tpage@agctr.lsu.edu. You may also contact Dave Foster at dave_f@ldaf.state.la.us.



LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROJECT - NOMINATION FORM
2006 - 2007 FEED-OUT YEAR

Name: _____ Premise ID No. _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Parish _____

E-Mail Address: _____ (important if you would like regular updates)

County Agent: _____

Number of Heifers _____ Number of Steers _____

*Birthdates of Cattle (this information is very important) _____

Total number of calves nominated _____ x fee (\$ 35.00 per head) =\$_____
Total Amount Enclosed

Make Checks Payable to: LA Calf to Carcass

Please return this form with payment to: Dr. Tim Page
Department of Animal Science
102 Francioni Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Preconditioning Site (check one):

_____ McNeese State University _____ ULM
_____ Home

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The signature below signifies that the owner has read and understands the rules of the Calf to Carcass Program - Preconditioning Plan and agrees to abide by the rules.

Signature _____ Date _____



STATEMENT OF PRECONDITIONING AT HOME

I attest that I followed the preconditioning program that the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program requires with my cattle that I preconditioned at home.

PRINTED PRODUCER NAME: _____

PARISH: _____

PRODUCER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

COUNTY AGENT SIGNATURE: _____