

Beef Cattle 101 Jeannie Dudding Giles ANR Agent – Animal Science

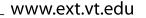




Things to consider...

- Type of Operation
- Marketing Goals
- Nutrition
- Health
- Pasture and Grazing
- Equipment







Types of Operations

- Cow/Calf producers
 - Commercial or seedstock
- Backgrounders/stockers
 - Poundage cattle
- Finishers/feedlots







Types of Operations

Cow/Calf producers

- Buying heifers of either weaning, breeding age, bred heifers
- Purchasing an entire cow herd
- Purchasing individual cows from established herds
- Backgrounders/stockers Markets/VQA
 - Poundage cattle ask other local producers/Extension agents
- Finishers Markets/VQA/Tel-o-auction





Marketing Goals

- What are your goals?
 - Breed
 - Calving seasons
 - Marketing programs
 - Equipment needed
 - Location of markets/processors
 - Niche marketing







Nutrition

- Spring herd
 - average quality hay Nov to Jan
 - Need higher quality hay Jan to March
 - Spring/summer pastures
- Fall herd
 - Coming off pasture just before calving
 - Require more inputs Nov to Spring
 - Requires better manager of the herd



Nutrition

- Stage of life
 - Calf
 - Young growing
 - Pre-breeding
 - Bulls
 - Mature cow BCS
 - Lactation





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Nutrition

- Water
- Energy
 - Corn, barley, oats, wheat, etc
- Protein

- Soybean meal, cottonseed meal, corn gluten, brewers grains
- Vitamins/minerals
 - Trace mineral (loose/blocks/tubs)



Health

- Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship
- Use of vaccinations
 - bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), parainfluenza 3 (PI3), bovine syncytial virus (BRSV), bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), Haemophilus somnus, leptospirosis, and clostridial diseases
- Deworming have a plan
- Flies and Lice control





Health - Prevention is cheaper!

- General practices
 - Stocking density
 - Record keeping
 - Identification
 - Grouping cattle
 - Low-stress cattle handling
 - Clean environments
 - Weaning strategies







Health

- Bio-security
 - Buy from reputable sources
 - Well managed vaccination programs
 - Isolate new cattle
 - Limit traffic
 - Clean trailers
 - Clean pastures/calving areas







Pasture

- Pastures must be taken care of
 - Adequate acreage fencing
 - Soil testing/amendments
 - Spraying
- Grazing so many strategies!
 - Stockpiling
 - Summer annuals
- Bottomline longer grazing season saves money!



Equipment

- Cattle Handling facilities
- Head-chute no question!
- Hay equipment
- Barn/Shop hay/grain storage
- Maternity/sick pen/weaning area/bull pen
- Feeding equipment bunks, hay rings, creep gates/feeders, electric fencing





Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Summary

Create a network of support and resources

 Extension, Service providers like local Veterinarian, FSA, Soil & Water, NRCS, local coops, County Farm Bureau Federation, Professional associations like Virginia and National Cattlemen's Association, Virginia Beef Council





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Thanks and stay safe!