

2023

# Beef Management Calendar



The tips suggested in this calendar are based on a cowherd calving in early March. Please adjust accordingly for earlier or later calving.  
[www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/](http://www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/)





## TIPS FOR January

- Make sure cows have adequate shelter and bedding, as January on average, is our coldest month. The effects of wind can be five times more dramatic than the actual temperature.
- Be sure to increase feed 10 to 15 per cent for every 10°C drop below -20°C.
- Start off the year right. Review the [Manitoba Agriculture Beef Cow Calf cost of production](#) as a starting point to your farm budgets.
- Be prepared for an emergency. If you haven't already done so, apply for your Premises Identification number online at [www.manitoba.ca/pid](http://www.manitoba.ca/pid) or by calling 1-204-945-7684.
- To simplify registration of RFID information, purchase all of your tags at once and in one sequence.
- Complete the paperwork required for annual certification of the [Verified Beef Production Plus Program](#).
- Treat bred heifers with their first scour vaccine dose according to drug label in consultation with your local veterinarian.
- Provide adequate salt, minerals and vitamins to meet the needs of your animals. If your cows are consuming mostly annual cereals such as straw, grain or greenfeed, provide a 2:1 mineral, plus extra limestone (calcium) may be required. If the cows are eating mostly an alfalfa-based ration then use a 1:1 mineral.
- A mineral mix with high levels of copper, manganese and zinc should be fed to cattle. Minimum levels on the tag should be 4,000 mg/kg for copper, 8,000 mg/kg for manganese and 10,000 mg/kg for zinc.

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>New Year's Day 1</b>  *Due: October 11	<b>2</b>  Due: October 12	<b>3</b>  Due: October 13	<b>4</b>  Due: October 14	<b>5</b>  Due: October 15	<b>6</b>  Due: October 16	<b>7</b>  Due: October 17
<b>8</b>  Due: October 18	<b>9</b>  Due: October 19	<b>10</b>  Due: October 20	<b>11</b>  Due: October 21	<b>12</b>  Due: October 22	<b>13</b>  <b>Stock Talk Webinar</b>  Due: October 23	<b>14</b>  Due: October 24
<b>15</b>  Due: October 25	<b>16</b>  Due: October 26	<b>17</b>  Due: October 27	<b>18</b>  Due: October 28	<b>19</b>  Due: October 29	<b>20</b>  Due: October 30	<b>21</b>  Due: October 31
<b>22</b>  Due: November 1	<b>23</b>  Due: November 2	<b>24</b>  Due: November 3	<b>25</b>  Due: November 4	<b>26</b>  Due: November 5	<b>27</b>  Due: November 6	<b>28</b>  Due: November 7
<b>29</b>  Due: November 8	<b>30</b>  Due: November 9	<b>31</b>  Due: November 10	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  * These dates indicate the calving date of the animal, if bred on this calendar day.



## TIPS FOR February

- Ensure cows are on a rising plan of nutrition as most fetal growth is occurring now. This is also critical for successful rebreeding results. It may be necessary to re-evaluate your feeding plans and inventories.
- If white muscle disease is a problem in your area, inject cows with Selenium. Inject also with vitamins A, D and E when processing, if you are not providing them in your feed. Injections need to take place every 60 to 90 days.
- Vaccinate cows for calf scours according to drug label in consultation with your local veterinarian.
- Prepare for calving. Ensure maternity pens are ready, all equipment is in good working order and that all calving supplies are on hand. Check the expiry dates on medications and supplements carried over from last year.
- Do some planning on how you will manage summer and fall grazing. Have you figured out your annual & perennial forage seed needs? Extended grazing options include second or third cut hay, swath grazing, chaff piles, stubble grazing, corn stover, standing corn or bale grazing. Are you going to do more cross-fencing or water development for the upcoming grazing season?
- Assess the body condition score of your bulls and adjust the ration accordingly.
- Complete the breeding soundness examination and semen test early to ensure you have sufficient bull power for this year's breeding season. This will allow time to purchase replacement bulls if necessary.
- A proper bull to cow ratio is important to achieve good conception rates.

Yearling Bull	15-20 Cows
Two year old Bull	20-30 Cows
Mature Bull	30-40 Cows

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Due: November 11	Manitoba Beef Producers AGM Due: November 12	Manitoba Beef Producers AGM Due: November 13	Due: November 14
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Due: November 15	Due: November 16	Due: November 17	Due: November 18	Stock Talk Webinar Due: November 19	Due: November 20	Due: November 21
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Due: November 22	Due: November 23	Due: November 24	Due: November 25	Due: November 26	Due: November 27	Due: November 28
19	Louis Riel Day 20	21	22	23	24	25
Due: November 29	Due: November 30	Due: December 1	Due: December 2	Due: December 3	Due: December 4	Due: December 5
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Due: December 6	Due: December 7	Due: December 8				



## TIPS FOR March

- At the onset of calving, spend time observing cows and particularly first calf heifers. Monitor them periodically to ensure the birth is progressing normally and be prepared to intervene if she is experiencing difficulties.
- Calves need to be up and sucking within the first six hours of life to make sure they receive adequate colostrum. Ideally, the calf should receive colostrum within the first two hours. This is the most essential thing you can do for the health of your calves.
- Watch calves for signs of sickness, especially scours and pneumonia. Early treatment is crucial for improved survival rates. Forty to fifty per cent of calf mortality is within 24 hours of birth. Be sure to keep in contact with your local veterinarian.

- Castrate, dehorn and tag calves as soon as possible. Record the CCIA tag numbers along with the calves' birth dates and treatments in calving book.
- Calve on clean, dry ground with ample bedding to reduce illness. Stockpiled pastures are an option. Avoid overcrowding and follow good biosecurity practices.
- Consult with your local veterinarian about protecting young calves against coccidiosis.
- If a cow has not expelled her placenta, monitor closely. Do not intervene if cow is not showing signs of illness. A high incidence of retained placentas is an indicator of a herd issue such as poor nutrition.
- Good quality post-partum nutrition is very important. The second month of lactation is the cow's peak nutritional requirement. A balanced ration is necessary not only for lactation but also for returning to estrous.

### Cow Ration Options for Post Calving\*

44 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay 5 lbs Barley Grain	20 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay 16 lbs Barley Greenfeed 5 lbs Barley Grain	20 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay 8 lbs Barley Straw 40 lbs Corn Silage
12 lbs Barley Straw 45 lbs Barley Silage 12 lbs Barley Grain	12 lbs Barley Straw 48 lbs Corn Silage 7 lbs Barley Grain 2.0 lbs 32% Feedlot Supplement	15 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay 11 lbs Barley Straw 15 lbs 20% Pro. Pellets

\*Based on 1400 lbs cow. Rations will also need to be balanced with salt, mineral and possibly limestone. For cost estimates and further details, visit [2023 Cost of Production Beef Cow-Calf](#).

# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
			Due: December 9	Due: December 10	Due: December 11	Due: December 12
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Due: December 13	Due: December 14	Due: December 15	Due: December 16	Stock Talk Webinar Due: December 17	Due: December 18	Due: December 19
Daylight Savings Time Begins 12	13	14	15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18
Due: December 20	Due: December 21	Due: December 22	Due: December 23	Due: December 24	Due: December 25	Due: December 26
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Due: December 27	Due: December 28	Due: December 29	Due: December 30	Due: December 31	Due: January 1	Due: January 2
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Due: January 3	Due: January 4	Due: January 5	Due: January 6	Due: January 7	Due: January 8	



## TIPS FOR April

- As weather conditions and temperature can change quickly this month, pay attention to calf health and watch closely for signs of sickness.
- Scours, coccidiosis, and pneumonia are prevalent at this time of year. Clean conditions with ample straw or fresh ground such as stockpiled pasture is the best prevention.
- Studies have proven that age segregation of calves is also effective at reducing calf-hood ailments. Segregating cow calf groups by age of calf every two weeks will prevent passage of pathogens from older to younger calves. Called the [Sandhills Calving System](#) (SCS), this method is effective with divided pastures or with confinement pens.
- Biosecurity at this time of year is a prime concern. Have rubber boots available for all visitors who also have cattle.
- Adopting calves from other herds is a prime vector of pathogens. Introducing an orphan calf into your herd is a large risk to your biosecurity.
- Colostrum collected and frozen from other herds is also a prime biosecurity risk. Generally the best colostrum comes from healthy, well fed, home raised cows. If you cannot collect colostrum from your farm, purchased, dried commercial colostrum is a much safer option than frozen local samples.
- Look into pre-breeding/calf-hood vaccination programs with your veterinarian now and order vaccine.
- Breed replacement heifers two to three weeks before the cows. The postpartum interval on first calf heifers is usually 10 to 15 days longer than cows and this will allow first calvers to stay ahead on calving throughout their lifetime.
- If you stockpiled any dead stock in the winter, now is the time to look into proper disposal options such as [composting](#).



# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Due: January 9
2 Due: January 10	3 Due: January 11	4 Due: January 12	5 Due: January 13	6 Due: January 14	Good Friday 7 Due: January 15	8 Due: January 16
9 Due: January 17	Easter Monday 10 Due: January 18	11 Due: January 19	12 Due: January 20	13 Stock Talk Webinar Due: January 21	14 Due: January 22	15 Due: January 23
16 Due: January 24	17 Due: January 25	18 Due: January 26	19 Due: January 27	20 Due: January 28	21 Due: January 29	22 Due: January 30
23 Due: January 31	24 Due: February 1	25 Due: February 2	26 Due: February 3	27 Due: February 4	28 Due: February 5	29 Due: February 6
30 Due: February 7	1	2	3	4	5	6



## TIPS FOR May

- When grass is turning green, there is always a temptation to graze pastures as early as possible. Grasses should be at the three collared leaf stage before the herd is put out on pasture. This is so that the leaves (solar collectors) have sufficient leaf area to intercept enough sunlight to grow quickly. Stockpiled pasture, with extra feed supplementation, can fill this gap before pastures are fully ready for grazing.
- Holding cattle in confinement longer in May is normally a very good economic decision. On native pastures and most tame pastures, holding off grazing one day in May will generally increase pasture days by three days in the fall.
- Rotational grazing systems increase pasture yield and season long quality, in addition, to making better utilization of the pastures. Systems such as the “twice over grazing system” are simple and increase grass production by 50-200% in Manitoba.
- All animals should be processed before turnout. Castrate, eartag and debud calves if they were not done at birth. After horn bud attachment (typically 2-3 months of age), pain control is recommended to reduce the pain associated with dehorning.
- Give calf-hood vaccines to calves, and pre-breeding vaccinations to cows. Blackleg vaccination for calves is inexpensive and very effective in preventing the loss of calves to blackleg. Yet every year many calves perish in Manitoba because of the omission of blackleg vaccine.
- Since flies are a significant problem on pasture, plan for a fly control program. Fly control mineral and/or ear tags can increase weight gains and improve conception rates.
- Annuals for greenfeed or silage are an excellent way to secure enough winter feed if adequate hay production could be an issue. Investing in proper fertilization, good seed, and seeding early are ways of reducing the risk of a feed shortage; as well as securing enough feed close to home or where the cattle are wintered. Consider growing some cool season and some warm season annuals to mitigate risk.

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Due: February 8	2 Due: February 9	3 Due: February 10	4 Due: February 11	5 Due: February 12	6 Due: February 13
7 Due: February 14	8 Due: February 15	9 Due: February 16	10 Due: February 17	11 Due: February 18	12 Due: February 19	13 Due: February 20
Mother's Day 14 Due: February 21	15 Due: February 22	16 Due: February 23	17 Due: February 24	18 Due: February 25	19 Due: February 26	20 Due: February 27
21 Due: February 28	Victoria Day 22 Due: March 1	23 Due: March 2	24 Due: March 3	25 Due: March 4	26 Due: March 5	27 Due: March 6
28 Due: March 7	29 Due: March 8	30 Due: March 9	31 Due: March 10	1	2	3



## TIPS FOR June

- Monitor your pastures closely. Grazing management now dictates the amount of grass you will have for subsequent rotations. Move cattle quickly through the first rotation.
- Watch for bloat conditions in pastures with alfalfa in the pre-bud or bud stage. Contact your veterinarian about products available to help you manage bloat, ex: ionophores or alfasure.
- If you are seeing return heats, check bulls daily and monitor breeding performance.

- Mineral consumption is critical at this time of year. An easy way to know you are getting one ounce of mineral a day to each cow is to remember that one, 25 kilogram (55 pound) bag has 880 ounces of mineral. As such the math is simple-one bag of mineral would provide one cow for 880 days; or 10 cows for 88 days; or 100 cows for eight days; or 1,000 cows for less than one day.
- Check water sources and quality regularly.
- When seeding down perennial forages for hay or pasture, remember that legumes take free nitrogen from the air and put it in the plants effectively producing free fertilizer for themselves. As well, when they are cut or grazed, some roots die and slough off nitrogen to the grasses around them. Legumes in the hay or pasture sward result in higher protein levels, and rarely result in nitrates in the stored feed.
- Spending time, effort and money to seed down high quality legume/ grass stands will pay dividends for multiple years. New varieties of non-bloat legumes are better adapted to western Canadian conditions and can improve soils as well as provide many years of high quality feed.
- Get equipment ready for haying.
- Harvest forage early for highest quality—target 10 per cent bloom in alfalfa to begin cutting:

Alfalfa Plant Stage	TDN%
Prebud	67
Bud to Mid-Bud	61
10% Bloom	56
Full Bloom	53

- Consider taking alfalfa first cut in late June as silage. This will produce good quality silage, and allow adequate time for second cut in late July or early August.

# June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Due: March 11	Due: March 12	Due: March 13
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Due: March 14	Due: March 15	Due: March 16	Due: March 17	Due: March 18	Due: March 19	Due: March 20
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Due: March 21	Due: March 22	Due: March 23	Due: March 24	Due: March 25	Due: March 26	Due: March 27
Father's Day 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Due: March 28	Due: March 29	Due: March 30	Due: March 31	Due: April 1	Due: April 2	Due: April 3
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Due: April 4	Due: April 5	Due: April 6	Due: April 7	Due: April 8	Due: April 9	



## TIPS FOR July

- Quality and availability of water is important in the hot weather. Check water sources on a regular basis.
- Consider mechanically harvesting surplus forage from pasture if a grazing pass is not possible by the end of the month.
- Plan to set aside paddocks of forage regrowth for stockpiled grazing in the fall, early winter and next spring.
- Subdivide pastures and allow at least 60 or more days of rest for grazed forages to re-grow.
- If native pastures have been continuously grazed for the summer, it is now time to remove livestock from these areas to allow adequate rest.
- Remove bulls to end a 65-day breeding season.
- Consult with veterinarian on internal parasite load and control methods.
- Monitor herd health frequently. Watch for early signs of footrot and pinkeye. Fly control is an excellent preventative measure for pinkeye.

- For the highest quality and quantity, harvesting annual forages at the late milk to early dough stage has been the recommendation. Recent research has shown harvesting cereals at the hard dough stage can increase whole-plant yield.

### Harvest Stage of Annual Crops for Greenfeed or Silage

Crop	Proper harvest stage
Oats	Late milk
Barley	Soft -late dough
Fall Rye	Early dough
Triticale	Soft dough
Spring or Winter Wheat	Early dough
Foxtail Millet	Early heading
Peas	First pods wrinkle
Pea/Cereal Mixture	At proper cereal stage

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	Canada Day 1  Due: April 10
2  Due: April 11	3  Due: April 12	4  Due: April 13	5  Due: April 14	6  Due: April 15	7  Due: April 16	8  Due: April 17
9  Due: April 18	10  Due: April 19	11  Due: April 20	12  Due: April 21	13  Due: April 22	14  Due: April 23	15  Due: April 24
16  Due: April 25	17  Due: April 26	18  Due: April 27	19  Due: April 28	20  Due: April 29	21  Due: April 30	22  Due: May 1
23  Due: May 2	24  Due: May 3	25  Due: May 4	26  Due: May 5	27  Due: May 6	28  Due: May 7	29  Due: May 8
30  Due: May 9	31  Due: May 10	2	3	4	5	6



## TIPS FOR **August**

- Proper feed storage is important to reduce spoilage. Store in a well drained area and leave adequate space between bales to allow air circulation. If possible, protect your winter forage supplies by using tarps or sheds.
- If harvesting alfalfa this month, respect the critical fall harvest period for alfalfa to ensure sufficient time for replenishing of adequate root reserves to reduce the potential of winterkill. Review the [Beginning of the Critical Fall Harvest Period for Alfalfa Map](#) for the dates pertaining to your location.
- Use a system to harvest chaff with cereal straw to improve feed value of straw.
- Seed winter annuals by the end of August for fall and/or early spring grazing.
- For best results, perennial forages seeded in the fall need to be sowed by mid-August.
- Consider using herbicides to renovate poor forage fields for spring seeding. Spraying out forage fields in late summer or early fall when the plants are still actively growing will give you the best kill and provide a mellow seed bed the following spring. This also allows time next spring to take care of any hard to control weeds if needed.
- Consider early weaning if pastures are poor or if calves are nursing first-calf heifers. Calves weaned at 300 to 400 lbs. will require a good commercial starter ration containing 14 to 16 per cent crude protein.
- Creep feeding calves in the fall can extend the pastures, improve calf weaning weights, make calves more uniform, decrease stress at weaning and allow for easier transition onto feed.
- Consider preconditioning calves. Start watching the markets and plan a marketing strategy.
- Revisit your heifer selection and make some notes on which heifers you may want to keep as replacements.



# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Due: May 11	Due: May 12	Due: May 13	Due: May 14	Due: May 15
6	Terry Fox Day 7	8	9	10	11	12
Due: May 16	Due: May 17	Due: May 18	Due: May 19	Due: May 20	Due: May 21	Due: May 22
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Due: May 23	Due: May 24	Due: May 25	Due: May 26	Due: May 27	Due: May 28	Due: May 29
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Due: May 30	Due: May 31	Due: June 1	Due: June 2	Due: June 3	Due: June 4	Due: June 5
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Due: June 6	Due: June 7	Due: June 8	Due: June 9	Due: June 10		

# TIPS FOR September

- Prepare for the following weaning-time activities:
  - Get facilities ready for working and weighing cattle.
  - Dehorn and castrate calves that were missed earlier.
  - If you have not already done so, enter birth dates of calves on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Age verification web site, <http://www.canadaid.ca/>.
- Take an inventory of your livestock numbers and feed supplies. On average, livestock will consume 2.5 to 3 per cent of their body weight in dry matter.
- Send forage/grain samples for feed analysis as feed quality can vary so much. Feed probes are available at any [Manitoba Agriculture Service Centre Offices](#). Feed test averages can help interpret your feed analysis.
- Using your feed analysis, refer to the Nutrition Requirement Guidelines for Beef Cows to determine if their needs will be met.
- Contact a [Manitoba Agriculture Forage and Livestock Extension Staff](#) or industry nutritionist to assist with ration formulation and your winter feeding plans.
- Begin harvesting corn silage when it is at 70 per cent moisture.
- Swath annuals to be used for swath grazing prior to a killing frost.
- Be aware of potential nitrate problems in some of your feedstuffs. Excess nitrates accumulate when plants are stressed, for example, drought, hail and frost. Annual forages have greater risk of accumulating nitrates.
- Grazing 2nd cut alfalfa fields in the fall can provide good quality forage resulting in good gains but avoid grazing in the critical fall period to reduce winter kill.
- If you are considering grazing alfalfa on hay land, be conscious of bloat risk. Consider using products available to help you manage bloat, ex: lonophores or alfasure.

## 2007-2015 Manitoba Feed Test Average Values

Feed Type	# of Samples	Average TDN %		Average Crude Protein%	
		2007	2015	2007	2015
Alf/Grass Hay	889	57		13.4	
Slough Hay	132	56.7		9	
Barley Greenfeed	886	62.8		11.1	
Oats Greenfeed	386	60.5		11	
Barley Silage	389	62.9		10.9	
Oat Silage	320	60		10.1	
Corn Silage	4230	65.8		8.7	
Oat Straw	297	52.6		6.5	
Pea Straw	32	48.2		7.8	

## Nutritional Requirements Guidelines for Beef Cow

Class	TDN%	CP%
Dry Cow, Early to Mid-Gestation	48-52	7
Dry Cow, Late Gestation	58	9-10
Lactating Cow	60-65	11-12

Adapted from NRC for 1200 lbs cows. Nutritional Requirements will vary with body weight, frame size, stage of production and temperature.

- A safer time to graze alfalfa is after a hard frost. Wait for the tips to dry and then begin grazing. You will still need to watch for bloat but the risk will be reduced and less chance of winterkill by not harvesting the alfalfa during its critical period.
- At month's end, collect soil samples from forage fields for fertilizer recommendations.
- Contact [Manitoba Agriculture](#) to list your excess hay, straw or alternative feeds for sale on the [Hay Listing Service](#).

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Due: June 11	Due: June 12
3	Labour Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
Due: June 13	Due: June 14	Due: June 15	Due: June 16	Due: June 17	Due: June 18	Due: June 19
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Due: June 20	Due: June 21	Due: June 22	Due: June 23	Due: June 24	Due: June 25	Due: June 26
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Due: June 27	Due: June 28	Due: June 29	Due: June 30	Due: July 1	Due: July 2	Due: July 3
24	25	26	27	28	29	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 30
Due: July 4	Due: July 5	Due: July 6	Due: July 7	Due: July 8	Due: July 9	Due: July 10



## TIPS FOR October

- Remember to be safe when you are handling cattle and make sure handling facilities are in good repair before starting into the job.
- Consult your local veterinarian about your fall vaccination program needs. Treat cattle for internal/external parasites. Monitor weaned calves closely for evidence of respiratory disease. Early detection is the key to treatment.
- By early winter, hay will have lost most of its Vitamin A. Midpregnant cows require 40,000 to 50,000 IU Vitamin A/day. After calving cows require 60,000 to 70,000 IU of Vitamin A/day. It can be injected every 60-90 days during the winter or a vitamin premix can be mixed into the grain or mineral.
- Weaned calves should be started on a growing ration containing a minimum of 13 per cent protein and energy levels at 67 per cent TDN.
- Be sure to provide high levels of minerals and vitamins to calves, especially when freshly weaned.
- Weigh calves after they are approximately 205 days old to help make culling decisions and select replacement heifers.
- When marketing calves, either sell directly off the cows or background for at least 70 days before selling.
- Before marketing your livestock explore the different marketing options available-auction mart (regular or presort), direct selling or satellite sales. It is important to know the market so what you are selling will be of interest from the buyers.
- For market information refer to [www.canfax.ca](http://www.canfax.ca) and for local auction mart reports see the [Manitoba Agriculture website](#).
- Pregnancy check cows and cull those that are open or late, have bad feet or udder, a poor temperament, cancer eye or poor joints.
- Dry, pregnant cows in good condition during the early part of gestation can be maintained on lower quality feed.
- Use a herd record-keeping program to assist in identifying superior cows and replacement females.

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  Due: July 11	<b>2</b>  Due: July 12	<b>3</b>  Due: July 13	<b>4</b>  Due: July 14	<b>5</b>  Due: July 15	<b>6</b>  Due: July 16	<b>7</b>  Due: July 17
<b>8</b>  Due: July 18	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>9</b>  Due: July 19	<b>10</b>  Due: July 20	<b>11</b>  Due: July 21	<b>12</b>  Due: July 22	<b>13</b>  Due: July 23	<b>14</b>  Due: July 24
<b>15</b>  Due: July 25	<b>16</b>  Due: July 26	<b>17</b>  Due: July 27	<b>18</b>  Due: July 28	<b>19</b>  Due: July 29	<b>20</b>  Due: July 30	<b>21</b>  Due: July 31
<b>22</b>  Due: August 1	<b>23</b>  Due: August 2	<b>24</b>  Due: August 3	<b>25</b>  Due: August 4	<b>26</b>  Due: August 5	<b>27</b>  Due: August 6	<b>28</b>  Due: August 7
<b>29</b>  Due: August 8	<b>30</b>  Due: August 9	<b>Halloween</b> <b>31</b>  Due: August 10	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



## TIPS FOR November

- Separate your herd into different feeding groups according to their nutritional needs and body condition scores (BCS) as follows: weaned calves, thin and young cows, mature cows, herd sires and young bulls.
- Cows should be in good flesh, BCS 2.5 to 3. If cows are in poor body condition, increase the energy to get them in better shape now before temperatures drop.
- Feed lowest quality forage/feed to mature, dry cows during early winter in mid-gestation; medium quality forage to dry cows in late gestation, prior to calving; and high quality forage to lactating cows and young growing calves.
- Winter feed costs are the single biggest expense in a cow/calf operation. Consider alternative feeds if supplies are low. It is important to feed a properly balanced ration.

### Cow Ration Options for Pre Calving\*

16 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay  
19 lbs Barley Greenfeed

17 lbs Barley Straw  
48 lbs Barley Silage  
0.5 lbs 32% Feedlot Supplement

23 lbs Barley Straw  
14 lbs 20% Pro. Pellets

35 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay

10 lbs Alfalfa Grass Hay  
15 lbs Barley Straw  
32 lbs Corn Silage

19 lbs Barley Straw  
47 lbs Corn Silage  
0.5 lbs 32% Feedlot Supplement

23 lbs Barley Straw  
11 lbs Barley Grain  
1.0 lbs 32% Feedlot Supplement

\*Based on 1400 lbs cow. Rations will also need to be balanced with salt, mineral and possibly limestone. For cost estimates and further details visit [2023 Cost of Production Beef Cow-Calf](#)

- If feeding grain and straw-based rations, pay particular attention to protein and energy. If they are not sufficient, cows can over-consume straw on a cold night and end up impacted.
- You want to keep feed costs low but still meet the animals' nutritional requirements. Poor nutrition will affect production and reproduction.
- When sourcing feedstuffs, compare prices based on per pound of desired nutrient such as protein or TDN. For help with these calculations, use the Manitoba Agriculture [FeedPlan](#) worksheet available on our website.

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Due: August 11	Due: August 12	Due: August 13	Due: August 14
Daylight Savings Time Ends 5	6	7	8	9	10	Remembrance Day 11
Due: August 15	Due: August 16	Due: August 17	Due: August 18	Due: August 19	Due: August 20	Due: August 21
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Due: August 22	Due: August 23	Due: August 24	Due: August 25	Due: August 26	Due: August 27	Due: August 28
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Due: August 29	Due: August 30	Due: August 31	Due: September 1	Due: September 2	Due: September 3	Due: September 4
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Due: September 5	Due: September 6	Due: September 7	Due: September 8	Due: September 9		



## TIPS FOR December

- Control internal and external parasites with a pour-on insecticide.
- Extending the grazing season can significantly lower winter feeding costs, yardage and manure disposal costs, as well as return nutrients back to the land.
- Feeding management needs to be flexible to allow for some supplementation or complete feeding in extreme conditions.
- For either swath, corn or bale grazing, moving cattle every three to four days using electric fencing minimizes waste and labour required, improves utilization and maintains healthier rumen function.
- Corn produces 200-350 grazing days per acre for a 1,300 lb cow assuming 20 per cent waste.
- Average yields are 4-7 ton of dry matter per acre.
- Average feed value ranges from 7-9 per cent crude protein and 65-75 per cent TDN
- Supplementing cattle with a good quality alfalfa/grass hay prior to moving cattle to a new patch of corn helps prevent grain overload and will improve utilization.
- An adequate supply of soft snow can be used as a water source for extended grazing of dry, early gestation cows but an alternative water source must be provided if conditions are icy or snow is lacking. Energy requirements are slightly higher if snow is the sole water source. It is recommended to provide fresh water to the young, older and lactating cows.



# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1 Due: September 10	2 Due: September 11
3 Due: September 12	4 Due: September 13	5 Due: September 14	6 Due: September 15	7 Due: September 16	8 Due: September 17	9 Due: September 18
10 Due: September 19	11 Due: September 20	12 Due: September 21	13 Due: September 22	14 Due: September 23	15 Due: September 24	16 Due: September 25
17 Due: September 26	18 Due: September 27	19 Due: September 28	20 Due: September 29	21 Due: September 30	22 Due: October 1	23 Due: October 2
Christmas Eve 24 Due: October 3	Christmas Day 25 Due: October 4	Boxing Day 26 Due: October 5	27 Due: October 6	28 Due: October 7	29 Due: October 8	30 Due: October 9
New Year's Eve 31 Due: October 10	1	2	3	4	5	6



# 2024

## January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

## March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## July

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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## Contact us

- For more information, contact the [Manitoba Agriculture Forage and Livestock Extension Staff](#) or your local [Manitoba Agriculture Service Centre](#). For up-to-date information, follow us on Twitter [@MBGovAg](#)