

Florida Heifer Development Program Rules and Regulations 2017-2018



General Policies and Procedures

- Consignors nominating heifers must be a member of the Florida Cattlemen's Association.
- Heifers must be born between August 15, 2016 and November 30, 2016.
- Heifers may be registered/purebred or commercial bred.
- Heifers must be weaned a minimum of 30 days prior to delivery.
- Heifers must be structurally sound and show evidence of good growth potential, to be determined at time of delivery by designated program representatives.
- At time of delivery, heifers are required to weigh a minimum of 1.75 lb per day of age, being a minimum of 535 lb at delivery.
- Heifers must be individually identified at arrival. A permanent identification is preferred (tattoo or brand). Heifers will receive a new Florida Heifer Development ear tag and electronic ID at time of delivery.
- There will be a limit of 100 heifers for the program. Each consignor may nominate up to 10 head per operation, heifers will be accepted based on the order in which nomination forms are received. Additional consignments, over 10 heifers, will be accepted on the basis of available space and according to the order in which the nomination forms are received.

Health Requirements:

- All heifers must be in good health and accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection, expired health papers will not be accepted. Florida has a state status of brucellosis-free and tuberculosis-free (T.B.). Non-resident consignors should still consult their local or state veterinarian for interstate permit and any additional health requirements. The health paper must show if the animal is from a Brucellosis free accredited or certified free state or herd with the herd number on the health certificate or have a negative current test for Brucellosis. Heifers originating from a state that is not T.B. free must also be accompanied by a health certificate showing they are a certified T.B. free herd or have a negative test for T.B. not more than 30 days before delivery.



- Consignors must provide health paper and completed health form at time of heifer delivery to the NFREC-Marianna Beef Unit. Any pedigree information available should be included at this time. Heifers will not be accepted into the program without valid health paper and completed health form at time of delivery.
- Heifers must have been vaccinated twice (minimum of 21 days between vaccination dates) for 5-way LEPTOSPIROSIS, Vibriosis, 7 or 8-way CLOSTRIDIUM with HAEMOPHILIUS SOMNUS, IBR/PI3/BVD/BRSV and with the last vaccination occurring at least 3 weeks or more prior to delivery. PASTEURELLA, is optional. Intranasal IBR/IP3 is recommended.
- Consignors are responsible for the cost of all health related treatments that heifers receive while in the program, including fees associated with examination by a veterinarian. In the event that a treatment is required that is not regarded as routine, the consignor will be consulted prior to administration of the treatment. In the event that the consignor cannot be contacted, the NFREC staff in collaboration with the veterinarian will provide treatment if that treatment is deemed to enhance animal health and wellbeing.

Heifer Management

Performance and Data Reports:

For the duration of the program, owners will be updated on the progress and status of their heifers. The Florida Heifer Development Program reserves the right to dismiss any heifer not maintaining adequate growth rate, structural soundness or that has temperament concerns.

Feeding:

Adequate nutritional availability will include use of incorporating pasture grazing, free choice hay, plus a supplement ration fed in self-feeders. The ration fed will be formulated (target gain between 1.50 and 2.25 pounds per day) to be adequate for allowing expression of growth potential and development without over conditioning the animals.

Breeding Protocol:

Heifers will be enrolled in a fixed-time artificial insemination and resynchronization protocol. The heifers will then be exposed for natural service for a minimum of 45 days following the resynchronization AI period. The AI sire and bulls chosen for clean-up service will be decided upon by the program chair and co-chair, and approved by the committee. The selection of purebred Angus bulls for both AI and natural service selection



will be based on phenotypic evaluation, calving ease direct (CED), birth weight (BW) and beef value (\$B), as defined by the American Angus Association.

If a consignor chooses to use a different AI sire they must supply two straws of semen per heifer at the time of heifer delivery. Suppling semen will not alter the fees associated with heifer breeding.

While not recommended, in the event that a consignor does not wish to expose their heifers to the program clean-up bulls, heifers may be removed from the program following resynchronization. Feed and yardage costs will be prorated based on days heifers are enrolled in the program.

Reproductive Soundness and Pregnancy Diagnosis:

All heifers will be evaluated for frame score, pelvic area, reproductive tract score, and pre-breeding cyclicity. Pregnancy diagnosis will be confirmed by ultrasonography within 120 days from the first AI of all heifers. Pregnancy is not guaranteed, with research supporting that between 7-10% of heifers fail to become pregnant during their first breeding season.

Cost:

Estimated cost of the program will vary between \$550.00 and \$650.00 per heifer. This projected cost variability is based upon potential variation of feed prices. A nonrefundable fee of \$50.00 must be received by September 1, 2017 and will be applied to the program cost at delivery of heifer. At delivery, consignors will be required to pay an initial installment of \$300.00, followed by a second payment at the time heifers are picked up (April). Heifers will not be released until the full payment of the program is received by the University of Florida NFREC.

Liability:

Station personnel will make every reasonable effort to safeguard the health of the animals and to obtain professional veterinary services when necessary, but will not be responsible for loss by fire, theft, injury, sickness, death or in any other way.

Removal of Heifer:

The heifer program has the discretion to remove any heifer due to health reasons or based upon the recommendation of the program veterinarian. Additionally, heifers are subject to removal at any time throughout the program at the discretion of the program chair and co-chair.

