

Beef calendar of operations: monthly summary

Hunter region

Assumes a July/August calving

Common coastal calving periods are June/July, July/Aug or Aug/Sept

Year:

	January	February #	March #	April #	May	June	July +	August * +	September +	October +	November	December
Bulls	Monitor Buffalo fly <i>treat if required</i>			Drench: fluke ⁴ Remove Buffalo fly tags		Prepare for bull purchase. Consider theileria risk if non coastal bull. Consider EBVs, phenotype and VBBSE ⁷		Pre-join physical examination for exsiting bull	Vaccinate: 7-in-1 3-day, Pestivirus ¹ including Vibrio ⁴	Bulls with cows and heifers for 9 week joining	Vaccinate: 3-day sickness	Remove bull from cows and heifers
Cows	Monitor Buffalo fly <i>treat if required</i> Target 2.5-3 fat score	Monitor for 3-day sickness through to May and manage affected cattle		Drench: fluke* ⁴ Remove Buffalo fly tags		Vaccinate: 7-in-1, Pestivirus ¹ booster Fat score breeders 2.5-3 Assess pasture quality and quantity, supplement feed if required	Ensure adequate quality and quantity of feed. Supplementary feed frequently required in winter and spring. Lactating breeders have a high energy demand. Coastal grasses deteriorate in quality and quality over winter and spring & pasture may not meet breeder nutritional needs.					Remove bull Monitor for Buffalo fly Worm test <i>drench if required</i>
Heifers (yearlings / 2yo)	Monitor for pink eye Dry years: assess breeder condition and wean calves if required		Drench: worms +/- fluke* ⁴ Remove Buffalo fly tags				Calving period (approx. 9 weeks)		Joining (approx. 9 weeks)			
Calves		Wean calves (at 7 months) ⁸ Weaning age by market choice/ production system. Sell as weaners/vealers or retain as replacement breeders/steers for feeder, yearling or bullock markets. <i>(For carry over stock go to heifer/steer weaners-vealers)</i>					Monitor for calving problems, dog attacks and ticks		After first calving go to cow, October			
Heifer weaners/vealers	Monitor Buffalo fly		Vaccinate: 5-in-1 or 7-in-1 booster Drench for worms ⁵ with a multi-active product for roundworms and fluke* ⁴ if required			Select replacements	Use pain relief for castration and disbudding Castration using rubber rings, ensure calves are < 2 weeks old Surgical castration ensure calves are < 6 weeks old Consider tick control at birth ⁶ Apply management and NLIS tags		Vaccinate: 5-in-1 or 7-in-1 (first dose) 6-8 weeks of age Monitor for ticks <i>Treat if required</i>	Vaccinate: 5-in-1 or 7-in-1 booster, 4-6 weeks later		Test for roundworms <i>drench if required</i>
Target growth weights	Ensure heifers reach mating target weights. As a guide heifers should reach minimum 60% of their mature weight, e.g. 330 kg at joining time and continue to grow to reach minimum 80% mature weight at calving e.g. 440 kg if mature cows weigh 550 kg. On coastal farms a 2yo old heifer joining age can be better for breeder and calf health.											
	Summer/Autumn: 0.7-0.8 kg/day			Winter: 0.2-0.3 kg/day			Spring: 0.2-0.3 kg/day			0.7-0.8 kg/day		
Steer weaners/vealers	Monitor Buffalo fly		Vaccinate: 5-in-1 booster Drench for worms ⁵ with a multi-active product for roundworms and fluke* ⁴ if required			Select replacements				Test for roundworms <i>drench if required</i>		Worm test <i>drench if required</i>
Steer yearlings	Weigh every 6 weeks to monitor performance and confirm target market weight specifications: target >0.7 kg/day											
			Sell as 18 month old target weight									
	Target growth rate >0.7 kg/day											
Bulls												
Cows												
Heifers (yearlings / 2yo)												
Calves												
Heifer weaners/vealers												
Steer weaners/vealers												
Steer yearlings												

⁴Drench all stock classes for liver fluke only if you have tested for liver fluke and you know your property supports liver fluke or cattle are introduced from a flukey area. Liver fluke distribution is patchy; +check all stock classes for paralysis tick and heavy burdens of bush tick particularly calves; ¹Pestivirus vaccination may be required, consult your local vet; ²Treat for roundworm burdens, an additional flukicide may be required for any stock over 6 months if fluke is known on your property and if fluke burden is deemed heavy; ³Drenching of adult cattle is not usually required if nutrition and condition is good due to acquired immunity; ⁴Use an effective drench against immature fluke; ⁵Drench carryover heifers and steers at weaning; ⁶Effective theileria control requires tick minimisation and tick control by day 2-3 of birth or introduction to the region; ⁷VBBSE Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness Exam; ⁸Yard, fenceline and nose weaning aids systems common, some producers wean calves as vealers straight to weaner sales.

Rainfall chart

Year:

Date	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
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31												
Total rain												
Total days												
YTD totals*												
Last year												

*Rainfall year to date totals