

Beef Cattle Care Basics

AN INFOGRAPHIC FOR BEEF CATTLE OWNERS

Vital Signs

Temperature:
100.4-103.1° Fahrenheit

Resting
Heart Rate: 40-70 beats
per minute

Resting Respiration
Rate: 10-30 breaths per
minute

Beef cattle require at
least 1.5-2 acres of
pasture per animal

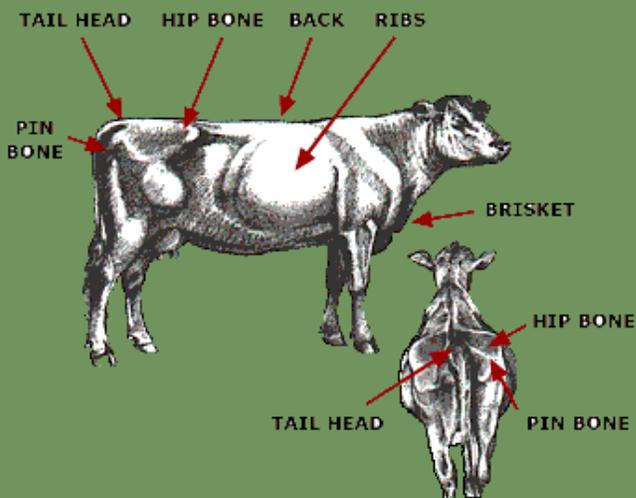


Caring for Beef Cattle

- You need a way to handle beef cattle safely.
- Most will have a working facility that includes a chute and holding area.
- Used for a routine medical care, sorting, loading, and emergencies.



Areas of Focus for Beef Cattle Body Condition Scoring



Nutritional Requirements

*vary with stage of production

Nutrient requirements of breeding beef cattle - mature cows 3rd trimester of gestation^{1,2}

Weight (lb)	Dry Matter Intake (lb/d)	Protein (%)	Protein (lb/day)	TDN (%)	TDN (lb/day)	Ca (%)	P (%)
800	16.8	8.2	1.4	54.5	9.2	0.26	0.21
900	18.2	8.0	1.5	54.0	9.8	0.26	0.21
1,000	19.2	7.9	1.6	53.6	10.5	0.26	0.21
1,100	21.0	7.8	1.6	53.2	11.2	0.26	0.21
1,200	22.3	7.8	1.7	52.9	11.8	0.26	0.21
1,300	23.6	7.7	1.8	52.7	12.5	0.26	0.21
1,400	24.9	7.6	1.9	52.5	13.1	0.26	0.21

These are minimum requirements. Many herds experience optimal production when nutrients are provided at greater quantities.

² Adapted from Bohnert et al. 2004. Beef Cattle Nutrition Workbook. Oregon State University EM 8883-E. Available at <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20383/em8883-e.pdf>

**NC COOPERATIVE
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Routine Health Care

Vaccinations

- **Respiratory diseases**
- **Reproductive diseases**
- **Clostridial diseases**

Pest Management

- **Deworming**
- **Fly control**

How Much Hay?

- Beef cattle will eat about 2-3% of their body weight each day in dry matter (not counting any weight from moisture)
- A 1200 lb cow will, therefore, eat about 24 pounds of hay on a dry matter basis or about 26 pounds of hay as fed daily.
- A forage test will determine the nutritive quality of the hay.

Pasture Management

- Avoid overgrazing! Leave 4 inches of residual for cool-season grasses and 2-3 inches for warm-season grasses.
- Rotating animals between pastures or sections of pastures gives the forage a recovery period and helps it stay healthier and more productive. This can be done by using temporary electric fencing to create sections to a pasture.
- Look out for toxic weeds and plants such as wilted cherry leaves, horsenettle, nightshade, yew, and oleander.
- Take a soil sample every 2-3 years to determine what fertilizers need to be applied. Creating a fertilizer plan can help increase the productivity of your pasture and help reduce hay costs.