



QUINCEY  
CATTLE CO.

# EARLY WEAN PROGRAM

A TOOL FOR SUCESSFUL REPLACEMENT FEMALES



## IMPROVED BODY CONDITION

Arguably early weaning's biggest advantage is reducing the lactation demands on a developing heifer or resource stressed female bovine. The redirection of nutrients to heifer growth and female animal maintenance can be used to manage body condition prebreeding.

## IMPROVED PREGNANCY RATES

The redirection of nutrition and removal of suckling have shown to increase estrual activity and lead to conception sooner in the breeding season when utilizing this tool. The removal of lactation stress allows for more adequate pre-partum energy.

## IMPROVED NUTRIENT AVAILABILITY

During periods of environmental stress; drought, low forage quality and/or quantity, it may be more economically efficient to feed early wean calves, than supplement a cow-calf unit to support lactation. Redirecting these nutrients to meet the growing replacement animals needs.



## MINIMIZE STRESS

With an understanding of how environmental changes can influence the physiological and behavioral responses of cattle, early weaning calves provides the opportunity to minimize stressors on both calves and cows. Removal of nutritional stressors allow the female to redirect nutrition and better utilize resources towards conception.



## HERD LONGEVITY

It is no secret, heifer development is a very challenging segment of our industry, especially when it comes to rebreeding for a second calf. The heifers are challenged with meeting their high nutritional needs to continue growth and development, while facilitating lactation to feed the calf at their side and have the high expectation for reproductive recovery and rebreeding within a short window of time to stay in the herd.

The hard reality is that only 10% of heifers remain in the mature herd by year five. In early weaning their calves, in response to crisis and as a strategic management tool to increase reproductive success of their replacement females. This has proven to be an effective management strategy for improving their reproductive performance, increasing replacement female longevity within the herd, and research has shown gestational benefits for the in utero calf

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# The Calves

We are sure you may be concerned about the calves themselves. While they still have a high nutrient requirement, they no longer need milk to acquire those nutrients after 40 days of age and can be transitioned to feed and forage. Our suggested early wean calf age is 90-120 days of age, their length of feeding depends on your marketing strategies. We can take these calves to five hundred pounds and market, retain them to 750 pounds and market as feeder cattle, or even the option to feed until harvest



## IN HOUSE DATA: On the calves

IN AVG WT	231
OUT AVG WT	500
DEATH LOSS	4.16%
AVG COST/HD	\$ 223.68
AVG DOF	128
AVG DM CONVERSION	4.63
AVG GAIN/HD/DAY	2.15
AVG COST/LB GAIN	\$ 0.95
FEED COST/LB GAIN	\$ 0.73
\$ VALUE IN	\$ 1.89
AVG \$ VALUE IN	\$431.73
\$ VALUE OUT	\$ 1.42
AVG \$ VALUE OUT	\$ 694.96
ANIMAL VALUE DIFFERENCE	\$ 263.24
PREMIUM OVER COST	\$ 39.56

\*\*\*\*Data represents 3,583 head fed at QCC  
\*\*\*CALF VALUE ESTIMATED USISNG 10/15/19 MARKET C

This tool has been successfully replicated on our operation and we would like to offer these services to you. We would love to offer face to face interaction and come visit you at your operation to talk about your production goals or please feel free to give us a call anytime



# Recommendations:

In order to take full advantage of an early wean program it is critical to wean calves at 70-90 days of age. This facilitates a post-partum interval that is beneficial to the female’s reproductive health and allows time for nutrient flow to go from lactation to further maturity and development prior to breeding season.

Herd health is an important aspect of all weaning programs. We recommend vaccinating calves prior to arrival at QCC. Although these calves have passive immunity from their dam, the vaccine will initiate the immune building processes in their naïve immune system. We also recommend castration and dehorning prior to arrival with preweaning vaccinations to allow time for the animals to cope with the stress while still nursing their dams, but these practices can be facilitated at QCC.

We recommend the following vaccines while calf is still on its dam and will follow up with revaccination and individual identification when your cattle arrive at our operation.

- Viral Respiratory Vaccine (IBR, BVD, PI3)
- Clostridial Vaccine
- Deworm for internal and external parasites.

We have consulting nutritionists and well managed feeding department with the ability to target feed your cattle to your desired marketing goal weight range.

We look forward to speaking with you further, please find also included research information and historical data from our experiences with early wean programs. These are limited availbility programs, give us a call to get your cattle staged.