

GEORGIA HERD PROGRAM

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The 2009-10 Georgia Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) Program is set to begin soon. The deadline for the Tifton HERD Program is September 4 with delivery taking place on October 5. The deadline for the Calhoun HERD Program is November 10 with delivery taking place on December 10.

The objectives of the program continue to be (1) to serve and educate the beef industry in Georgia; (2) to demonstrate feeding and health programs that result in replacement heifers reaching target weights required for successful breeding performance; (3) to provide a method of evaluating heifers including performance, reproductive traits, and disposition; (4) to develop heifers which are source identified and genetically verified; and (5) to demonstrate the benefits of cooperative efforts involving cattle producers, animal health professionals, the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, the UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department; the UGA Diagnostic Lab & College of Veterinary Medicine, and Georgia County Extension Agents.

The September – November heifers will be evaluated in Tifton, while the December – February heifers will be evaluated in Calhoun. Heifers will be heat-synchronized and bred AI (once at each location) followed by at least 45 days with a clean-up bull. Consignors have the option of having their heifers developed and returning to their respective operations as replacements or being offered for sale (if sale-eligible) next Spring.

If you have heifers you wish to consign, contact your local county Extension Agent, Ted Dyer at 706/624-1403 (tgdyer@uga.edu), Dr. Robert Stewart at 706/542-6259 (rstewart@uga.edu), or Patsie Cannon at 229/386-3683 (ptcannon@uga.edu). They can furnish you with the rules and the vaccination protocol to get your heifers ready. In addition, feel free to access the website at www.tifton.uga.edu/pc-web to view related information to the Georgia HERD Programs.