



The University of Georgia

PO Box 748
Tifton, GA 31793
Shipping: 115 Coastal Way (31794)

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Phone: 229/386-3683
Fax: 229/391-2517
Email: rstewart@uga.edu or ptcannon@uga.edu
Website: www.tifton.uga.edu/pc-web

2009 - 10 Tifton HERD Program – Report 1

October 27, 2009

To: Tifton HERD Consignors and Other Interested Persons



From: Robert L. Stewart, Extension Animal Scientist – Beef Cattle

The eleventh annual HERD program at the Tifton Bull Evaluation Center in Irwinville is under way. On October 5, we received 149 heifers. Thanks to many members of the Heifer Team for the outstanding help. Health has been very good. Once again, we tested all heifers for the presence of Persistently Infected BVD. The results are in, and we're pleased to report that all heifers were negative. You will note that in addition to visual tags, heifers also have Electronic Identification Tags (EID). Unfortunately, one heifer died on October 9 from what the UGA Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory has determined to be similar to Tracheal Edema (Honkers Syndrome).

Since this is the first report you will receive, some explanation of the terms is in order. Actual Frame is the frame score based on the hip height at the October 27 weighday. Estimated Mature Weight is calculated from actual frame score. This is only an estimate, but it will give you an idea of what size these heifers will be. Target Weight is calculated from the estimated mature weight. For optimum breeding, heifers should weigh at least 65% of mature weight by the time they are 15 months of age.

In addition to the Heifer Team (a committee of County Extension Agents) and the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, there are agribusiness supporters who play an important role in the HERD program. These agribusinesses have contributed products either free or at a much reduced cost. We owe Henry Jones with Pfizer Animal Health a thanks for helping the HERD program.

Our synchronization program includes the use of CIDRs, GnRH, and Lutalyse. The Heifer Team selected MCC Daybreak as the primary AI sire for the 2009-10 HERD programs. The synchronization program will be as follows:

November 11 –	CIDRS are inserted.
November 25 –	CIDRS are removed.
December 4 –	GnRH is injected.
December 11 –	Lutalyse is injected; heat detection patches are applied.
December 14 –	Time breed all heifers not already AI'd; inject GnRH at breeding.
December 22 –	Cleanup bulls are placed with the heifers (52 days).

The Evaluation Center is open for visitors weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. You are welcome to visit the station during these hours. If you wish to visit on the weekends, please call Mike Keeler at 229/831-5416. Feel free to visit our website (www.tifton.uga.edu/pc-web) for early posting of reports and a complete schedule of activities planned for the program.

On behalf of the Heifer Team, congratulations for sending an outstanding set of heifers. Please contact us if you have any questions.