

Characteristics of Successful Breeding Programs... A Veterinarian's Perspective

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Beef producers may NOT always agree on management, genetics, politics or religion. However, beef producers CAN agree that open cows are missed opportunities for profit. Reproductive efficiency is the primary indicator of profitability in every cow calf operation. Open cows at the end of a breeding season are typically the first discounts discovered at the beginning of the food chain. Preparing the breeding age female to conceive early and stay in the herd is critically important. ***The producer is in control!***

- Genetics: Cow-calf producers have access to accurate information and selection tools to improve calving ease, fertility and temperament.
- Temperament: Docility is .37 heritability and affects genetic expression and decreases colostral immunity at birth.
- Nutrition: Cow herd nutrition is a mandatory consideration relative to any successful breeding program.
- Health: A health program is more than choosing a vaccine. Veterinary-client relationship considers client's management and marketing strategy as well as risk tolerance when designing a herd health program.

Preparing your calves to succeed begins with a heifer/cow ready to conceive.