

The Range Review

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Upcoming Events:

- **Advance Pond Management Wksp**
Union County
May 12, 2009
- **Cow/Calf BMP Kick-off Polycom**
Bradford County Extension Office
May 14, 2009
- **Equine Mgmt Wksp**
Bradford County Fairgrounds
May 28, 2009
- For more information about these or any other program, please call 904-966-6224

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April/May/June 2009

Howdy from the Bradford County Extension Office.

The warm weather of spring and early summer has arrived. In many of the pastures I've seen around the County, the grass is greening up and the calves are growing well. Many producers have received adequate rainfall and they are hoping for a productive hay season.

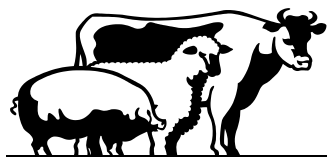
In this issue of the Range Review, I will discuss how to measure and use a frame score, beef cattle management tips and our beef management calendar. I've included an insert of our office's 2nd Quarter Calendar of Events. We plan to use this insert as a quick reference to let everyone know of the many programs our office provides to the public. Agents in our office cover a wide variety of topics that may surprise even our frequent clientele.

On a different note, the Range Review is going to move into the digital age. To save on paper (thinking GREEN) and postage, this newsletter will be emailed to all recipients that provide their email. However, for those who prefer a paper copy, we will continue to mail a hard copy. In order to stay on my mailing list, please fill-out the enclosed purge slip and send it back to my office or call (904 - 964 - 6224) at your convenience.

If you would like to attend any of these programs listed in this newsletter or, if you have any questions related to livestock and forages, please feel free to give me a call at any time.

Timothy W. Wilson

Timothy W. Wilson
County Extension Director
Livestock and Forages



How to Measure and Use a Frame Score for Cattle

Each year cattle producers evaluate their herds and make crucial decisions that have long lasting effects on future production. There are many tools that are used to help with these decisions. Some of these tools may include evaluation of birth weights, weaning weights, yearling weights and frame score. Developing a clear understanding of how these evaluations are performed, as well as others, will enable producers to make clear and precise decisions regarding the future of their herd.

The 2000 National Beef Quality Audit surveyed seed stock producers, cow-calf producers, stocker/backgrounders and feedlot operators. Of the 20 "Greatest Quality Challenges" the cattle industry faces, lack of uniformity in cattle was ranked 2nd only to inadequate tenderness of beef. Measurements such as frame score can be used to describe the overall body size of your herd. Knowing and understanding how this information can be applied in the decision process will benefit overall production.

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) has developed guidelines that explain how to determine frame score. A frame score is calculated from a mathematical formula that includes the age of the calf (in days) and hip height.

Hip height is determined by measuring the distance from the point directly over the hooks to the ground or floor of the chute. Hip heights should be adjusted to a weaning age of 205 days and yearling age of 365, 452, or 550 (BIF 2002).

Once this information has been gathered, it is entered into the frame score formula seen on Table 1 for bulls and steers or Table 2 for heifers. If your mathematic skills are a bit rusty or if you want a general idea, determine the age of the calf in months rather than days. After locating the month, follow across the table until you locate the hip height or its range. Follow the column to the top of the table to identify the appropriate frame score of your calf.

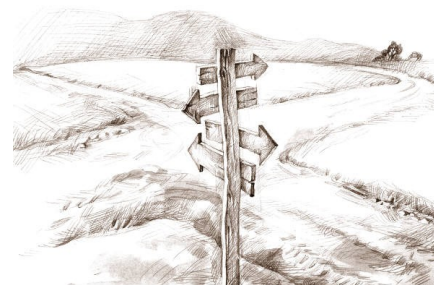
Quick hip heights can be taken when cattle are being processed. Simply taking a few measurements and using the BIF Tables can produce data that may help when trying to improve the uniformity of your calf crop.

Table 1. Hip Heights (in) and Frame Scores for Bulls							
Age (months)	Frame Score						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	37.5	39.5	41.6	43.6	45.6	47.7	49.7
6	38.8	40.8	42.9	44.9	46.9	48.9	51
7	40	42.1	44.1	46.1	48.1	50.1	52.2
8	41.2	43.2	45.2	47.2	49.3	51.3	53.3
9	42.3	44.3	46.3	48.3	50.3	52.3	54.3
10	43.3	45.3	47.3	49.3	51.3	53.3	55.3
11	44.2	56.2	48.2	50.2	52.2	54.2	56.2
12	45	47	49	51	53	55	57
13	45.8	47.8	49.8	51.8	53.8	55.8	57.7
14	46.5	48.5	50.4	52.4	54.4	56.4	58.4
15	47.1	49.1	51.1	53	55	57	59
16	47.6	49.6	51.6	53.6	55.6	57.5	59.5
$\{\text{Frame Score} = -11.548 + (0.4878 \times \text{Ht}) - (0.0289 \times \text{Age}) + (0.0001947 \times \text{Age}^2) + (0.0000334 \times \text{Ht} \times \text{Age})\}$							
Age = Days of Age}							
Adapted from BIF Guidelines 2002							

Table 2. Hip Heights (in) and Frame Scores for Heifers							
Age (months)	Frame Score						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	37.2	39.3	41.3	43.4	45.5	47.5	49.6
6	38.2	40.3	42.3	44.4	46.5	48.5	50.6
7	39.2	41.2	43.3	45.3	47.4	49.4	51.5
8	40.1	42.1	44.1	46.2	48.2	50.2	52.3
9	40.9	42.9	44.9	47	49	51	53
10	41.6	43.7	45.7	47.7	49.7	51.7	53.8
11	42.3	44.3	46.4	48.4	50.4	52.4	54.4
12	43	45	47	49	51	53	55
13	43.6	45.5	47.5	49.5	51.5	53.5	55.5
14	44.1	46.1	48	50	52	54	56
15	44.5	46.5	48.5	50.5	52.4	54.4	56.4
16	44.9	46.9	48.9	50.8	52.8	54.8	56.7
$\{\text{Frame Score} = -11.7086 + (0.4723 \times \text{Ht}) - (0.0239 \times \text{Age}) + (0.0000146 \times \text{Age}^2) + (0.0000759 \times \text{Ht} \times \text{Age})\}$ Age = Days of Age							
Adapted from BIF Guidelines 2002							

Beef Cattle Management Tips: Are you headed in the right direction?

1. Evaluate your beef herd management strategy, does it include basic management practices?
2. As new technology is developed don't be afraid to ask questions.
3. Proper replacement heifer development is crucial to the long term success of a cow/calf operation.
4. Replacement heifers must:
 1. Conceive early in the breeding season
 2. Calve early in the calving season
 3. Provide adequate milk (good mothers)
 4. Rebreed with mature cow herd
5. Evaluate your herd health program, visit with your veterinarian and find out if you are protected against unwanted diseases.
6. Sorry bulls cost the same to feed as Good bulls, don't compromise your herd's genetic potential.
7. Having all herd sires (including clean-up bulls) evaluated for a breeding soundness exam prior to the breeding season can help prevent reduced calf crops.
8. Artificial insemination is one of the quickest methods you can implement to improve your herd's genetics.
9. Artificial insemination may increase overall profits.
10. Cows determined open from a pregnancy exam can be culled thereby reducing feed costs.



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SOLUTIONS *for your* LIFE

Beef Management Calendar

May

- Control pasture weeds either by spraying or mowing.
- If you haven't taken a soil test do so now.
- Fertilize pastures according to soil test recommendations.
- Control flies
- Evaluate body condition
- Evaluate and repair hay equipment

June

- Cut Hay, if it is ready!
- Store hay in barn or on dry, well-drained areas and cover them to prevent nutrient loss.
- Fertilize according to soil test recommendations.
- Mow overgrown pastures.
- Control flies
- Check mineral feeders and water supply to make sure cattle have free-choice access

(Source: Silcox and McCann)