

**Heifer Development Program
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Agriculture**



Stephen F. Austin State University Heifer Development Program is designed to assist producers in selecting and managing for replacement heifers. It offers producers relief from providing additional facilities, labor, and feed to retain young heifers. The program is designed for heifers ranging in weight from 400-700 lbs. Heifers are entered into the program in mid-October and fed through mid-June. Producers are issued a monthly report on the performance of each heifer in the program with information including body weight and average daily gain. Additionally, heifers can be entered into the breeding program and be artificially inseminated at the conclusion of the feeding period. Heifers should gain 1-3 lbs per day in the program.

Requirements

- 1. Heifers must be weaned and bunk broke for a minimum of 2 weeks.**
- 2. Ear tag identification is required indicating owner and calf number.**
- 3. Heifers must be dehorned or tipped (no longer than 2 inches).**
- 4. Vaccination for brucellosis is recommended.**
- 5. Heifers must be dewormed and deloused a minimum of 30 days prior to entry.**
- 6. Heifers must be free of active Pinkeye, ringworm and warts.**
- 7. Any bull exposure must be disclosed before entry.**
- 8. Vaccination for the following must be completed according to the manufacturer's specifications a minimum of 2 weeks prior to entry.**
 - IBR, PI3, BVD I / II, BRSV (MODIFIED LIVE WITH BOOSTER)**
 - 7-way Clostridium**
 - Haemophilus Somnus**
 - Pasteurella H&M**
 - Lepto and Vibrio**
 - Moraxella bovis (Pinkeye)**
- 9. Unsound heifers will be reported to the owners and will either be treated at the owner's expense or removed from the program.**

Program Timeline

The 2018-2019 program is accepting heifers **for fall 2018**. Heifer calves weighing between **400-700 lbs** are eligible for the program. Acceptance into the program will be first come first serve, based on availability of space. **Contact Dr. Erin Brown (936)468-4433 or Dustin Black (281)750-6270** for reservations.

1. Sign-up prior to October 1st
2. Drop off heifers on October 3rd, 11th, 12th or 13th between 8 am and 5 pm with prior notification.
3. Feeding trial starts November 1st
4. Weights recorded monthly November- April
5. Ultrasound for carcass data (if desired by producer)
6. End Feeding trial end of April
7. A.I. program begins end of April
8. Synchronize and breed eligible heifers by timed A.I.
9. Ultrasound for conception mid-June by veterinarian
10. Heifers return home by June 15th or begin daily feeding charge per weight on June 15th.
11. Heifers may only be picked up on monthly weigh day or pay \$100 handling fee for specific day pickup.

Program Cost

Heifers will be charged a total development fee on a per head basis for the feeding period beginning October 15th through June 15th (Table 1). Heifers on feed at SFA outside the program dates will be charged on a per weight basis during that time period (Table 2). A processing fee of \$25 will be charged at arrival per heifer which will include program ear tags, deworming, Multi-min injection, and treat for external parasites. At the March weigh day, heifers will be dewormed, vaccinated and given Multi-min to prepare for breeding season and cost will be charged to producers based on current prices.

Table 1. Program cost per heifer (October 15 – June 15)

Initial Weight (lb)	Program Cost per Heifer	Expected End Weight (lb) @ 1.75 lb/d gain*
400 - 499	\$700	800 - 900
500 - 599	\$750	900 - 1000
600 - 699	\$800	1000 - 1100
700 - 799	\$850	1100 - 1200

*Rations for the heifers in the program have been formulated for 1.5 to 2.5 lb/d average daily gain. Gains are dependent on diet, environment, health and genetics of the animals. The expected rates of gain are not guaranteed.

Artificial insemination cost is \$35 per head plus semen costs and ultrasound confirmation by veterinarian. Producers desiring to have heifers scanned for carcass traits may do so at the April weigh day. Cost is determined by number of head scanned.

Table 2. Cost per day outside of program dates*

Body Weight (lb)	Cost per day outside of program dates
400 – 499	\$2.70
500 – 599	\$2.85
600 – 699	\$3.00
700 – 799	\$3.20
800 – 899	\$3.45
900 – 999	\$3.70
1000 – 1099	\$3.95
1100 – 1199	\$4.20
1200 – 1299	\$4.45

* prior to Oct 3rd delivery date or after June 15th. Heifers will be weighed at the start of feeding period outside program dates and charged based on weight. Charges will be adjusted every 30 days.

Early Removal from Program without prior notice

- Charges for early removal from the program (without prior notice to program director or farm supervisor) prior to June 15th date results in charge per day based on weight (Table 2) plus additional \$100. Heifers will be charged at final weight per day from October 15th through early pick up date.

Early Removal from Program with prior notice

- To avoid additional fees producers may make prior arrangements **before entry into program** for early pick up with no additional fees or penalties. Program fees (Table 1) will be prorated.

Price is subject to fluctuation with market values of feed. Additional costs include medical treatment or veterinary care if deemed necessary by the SFASU staff. Unthrifty heifers will be brought to the attention of the owner before consideration for removal from the program. Billing is conducted on a monthly basis. All bills must be paid before cattle are allowed to leave the facility. For more information or to visit the facility contact:

Dr. Erin Brown
Program Director
(936)468-4433
browneg@sfasu.edu

Dustin Black
Beef Farm Supervisor
(281)750-6270 or (936)468-6948
blackda1@sfasu.edu

Stephen F. Austin State University
SFASU Beef Farm
442 CR 123
Nacogdoches, TX 75965

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
HEIFER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT
ATTACHMENT A**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Number of Heifers: _____

Individual Heifer Identification (ear tag #, REQUIRED):

Additional information is appreciated (color, tattoo, breed, birth date, etc...)

Heifer ID	Tattoo or Brand	Breed	Registration Number	Color	Birthdate	Bull Exposure (Yes or No)	Carcass Ultrasound (Yes or No)

*Producer will sign a program agreement upon delivery of cattle. Agreement may be requested prior to arrival.