

Preconditioning Schedule *planning tool*

This form is intended to be used with records (i.e., 'Redbooks') that track calf birthdates, sire and dam, birth weight, etc. to guide the conversation with your veterinarian and nutritionist for developing the preconditioning program that works on your farm and meets expectations of your calf buyer.

Farm name _____ Owner/Manager's name _____ Phone number _____ Email _____
Veterinarian name _____ Phone number _____ Email _____
Nutritionist name _____ Phone number _____ Email _____

This schedule applies to the following groups of calves:

Calving season (*circle one*) Spring/Summer Fall/Winter Year

Review individual calf birthdates and determine the birthdate that will represent the entire calf crop:

Ave. Date of Calf Crop _____ # Calves Total _____ # Male _____ # Female _____

Weaning Date _____ *calculated from the calf crop's birthdate or from the shipping date*

Sale/shipping Date _____ *calculated to reflect business goals, or from calf crop's birthdate*

Mark all the tasks that are completed:

1. Neonatal Tasks completed: calves at birth to < 5 days of age

- Ear tags applied: list IDs:
- Sanitized navels, product used:
- Intranasal vaccine administered; product used: _____ booster date: _____
- Castrated, circle method used: banded knife-cut
- Other tasks (list, include product names):

2. Pre-weaning: tasks completed on (date) _____ *Calculate date based on weaning date above, account for booster dates*

- Verify ear tags: list IDs processed:

Missing ID #	Why? Record: <i>dead or re-tag</i>	Re-tag ID

- Dehorned Polled
- Castrated, circle method used: banded knife cut

Castration, dehorning, each animal health product, and restraint are all stressors. Never stack more than three stressors on top of restraint on one day. Dehorning is perhaps the most stressful event due its associated pain and release of stress hormone, cortisol, which suppresses immune function. Dehorning should be performed with calves less than three months of age (Beef Quality Assurance, BQA, guidelines) and in combination with at most only one other stressor.

