Announcing 2006-2007 Alabama Pasture to Rail Program

As calves are being weaned in late summer in Alabama, producers have basically three options in marketing their cattle: (1) sell calves either at the stockyard, directly to an order buyer or through a board sale, (2) retain ownership through a stockering phase and then sell or (3) retain ownership until the calf is ready to be harvested. Most Alabama beef cattle producers choose one of the first two options because Alabama and surrounding States are not conducive to feeding cattle (limited grain resources and heat) and the lack of a major packing plant.

However, what happens to a cattle producer when the order buyer says they don't want your cattle? Or perhaps buyers will purchase your cattle, but for significantly less than current market average. What do producers do with those calves which are knocked off a load because they are too big, too little, too spotted, or the wrong color?

One option is to consign calves to the Alabama Pasture to Rail Program, which is a retained ownership program designed to provide producers with individual post-weaning growth, carcass and health information.

Having post-weaning information on calves seems even more important for the not so distant future. More and more packing plants and corporations (like a McDonalds) are requiring source-verified and Beef Quality Assurance Certified calves. Obtaining some carcass information on those cut-back calves will only strengthen your position in marketing your calves each year. After collecting carcass data on your herd for more than one year, selection/culling decisions can also be made on the herd utilizing carcass information.

Calves can be Shipped Anytime

On the next page, the 2006-07 shipping dates are listed. This does not mean calves can not be shipped at other times. If there are 50,000 pounds of calves ready to go outside of the set ship dates, we can make arrangements to get them shipped.

Questions?

If at any time you have questions concerning this program, please contact me.

Joshua Elmore
Ag Program Associate
120 Co Rd 756
Clanton, AL 35045
Phone:205-646-3610
Fax:205-646-3607
email: elmorjb@auburn.edu
OBJECTIVES

Alabama Pasture to Rail is an educational program for cattle producers. The purpose is to give cattle producers the following opportunities without the investment required to finish an entire pen of cattle.

1. To obtain individual farm carcass data that can be used to assist producers with selection decisions pertaining to their existing breeding programs.

2. To educate cattle producers on recommended health practices and custom feeding programs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. A consignor may enter 3 or more home-raised steers born September 1, 2005 or after, provided they weigh a minimum of 600 pounds and a maximum of 775 pounds on day of shipment.

2. Consignments are due two weeks prior to shipment of cattle. A consignment fee of $50 per head is required at nomination for hauling, ear tags, etc. The consignment fee is refundable until 10 days prior to shipment.

3. Steers and heifers will be gathered at various locations around Alabama for shipping. Locations will be determined once all entries are received. At the shipping point, steers and heifers will be tagged, weighed and graded. Cattle will be shipped to Kansas as soon as possible after processing. Upon arrival at the feedlot, steers will be fed a starter ration and free choice hay.

4. Cattle will be fed to 0.4 in backfat as determined by the feedlot management and their computer models. Calves are harvested on an individual basis, not pen basis.

5. Steers and heifers will remain the property of the consignor and thus, they assume responsibility for loss by death or injury. A named peril insurance in which all cattle will be covered is automatically provided. Bloat and respiratory disease are not covered by the peril insurance.

COST TO THE CONSIGNOR

1. There is an initial $50.00/head consignment fee which will pay for trucking costs. This fee is non-refundable once the calves as shipped.

2. All other expenses (feed, yardage, insurance, etc) will be deducted from the final producer check after the calves are harvested.

3. If all calves from a consignor were to die during the feeding period due to illness, the consignor is responsible for all charges to the point of death.

Where Will the Calves Be Fed?

Calves will be sent to Decatur County Feedyard in Oberlin, Kansas. Oberlin is in the northwest corner of Kansas approximately 25 miles south of McCook, NE. They will use a combination of ultrasound, visual appraisal and electronic identification to manage the cattle.

Cattle will be sold when they reach approximately 0.4 inches of backfat. Calves are managed on an individual basis - not a pen basis. Depending on the variation in the calves, calves could be harvested over a 2 to 6 month period.

When Will the Calves be Shipped?

There will be 4 shipping dates for 2006-07. Calves will be shipped on:

- Tuesday, August 29, 2006
- Tuesday, September 26, 2006
- Tuesday, October 31, 2006
- Tuesday, November 28, 2006

If you have a need to ship at a later time than this, please let me know.

How Will the Calves be Sold?

Calves will be sold based on their carcass characteristics. Calves will be sold on a carcass grid based on yield grade and quality grade. Decatur County sells all calves to EXCEL on the Angus America grid. The base for
the grid are USDA Yield Grade 2 calves grading Choice-. Premiums and discounts are added to each calf when individual carcass data is taken.

**How You are Paid for Your Calves**

When enough calves have been harvested from a particular shipment I will have Alabama BCIA write you a check.

1. Your calf worth is determined by taking the hot carcass weight (HCW) of your calf and multiplying it by the carcass price rec’d.
2. From the bi-monthly feed bills, I determine approximately how many pounds of concentrate your calf has been fed and the cost. I am also able to determine yardage, insurance, processing and checkoff costs.
3. I then take the costs determined in step 2 and subtract them from your calf worth.
4. You will receive a check for your calf worth minus expenses.

**PRE-DELIVERY CALF MANAGEMENT**

1. All steers are required to be:
   a. Dehorned, castrated and healed.
   b. Dewormed, treated for lice and grubs.

   All heifers are required to be:
   a. Dehorned and healed.
   b. Dewormed, treated for lice and grubs.

2. Producers are strongly urged to carefully follow the pre-delivery health guidelines. The health form to complete and bring with you at delivery is attached to this packet. The guidelines and health form are as follows:

   **Recommended Health Program for Alabama Pasture to Rail Calves**

   C Calves should be weaned 45 days before shipment.

   Calves should be vaccinated and booster for IBR-BVD-PL3-BRSV before shipment.

   Decatur County Feedyard recommend using a modified live vaccine on calves before weaning for the first injection. Booster vaccinations are given before shipment (either just before weaning, at weaning, or a short time after). This is the program many herds are using to produce calves which are well immunized for shipment. There are currently three available modified live vaccines: BRSV Vac 4 (Bayer), Pyramid MLV 4 (Fort Dodge), Bovishield 4 (Pfizer).

   C Each calf needs a Blackleg (Clostridial 7-way) vaccination at 3-4 months of age. This could be given at the same time as the first IBR-BVD-PL3-BRSV. A Blackleg booster vaccination should be given before shipment (at same time as second IBR-BVD-PL3-BRSV).

   Do not give Blackleg in the muscle!!! Give SQ in the neck.

   C If Pasteurella vaccine is given, it should be given before weaning or 2 weeks before shipping.

   A solid recommendation is to give the Pasteurella vaccination to their calves at branding (about 3 months old) with good success to decrease “summer” pneumonia in calves before weaning. Pasteurella vaccines which fit this program include: Once PMH (Bayer), Presponse (Fort Dodge), One Shot (Pfizer), Bactoid 1 (Texas Vet Labs).

   C Haemophilus somnus vaccination is not recommended.

   Over the years custom feedyards, which feeds thousands of calves from the southeast, has experienced more disease problems in calves which have been vaccinated for Haemophilus somnus than in those which have not. They only recommend vaccination for Haemophilus if is necessary to prevent it in the cow herd of origin.

   Cattle will be dewormed (IVOMEC Plus) and implanted after arrival.

   If calves are to be grazed on the farm after weaning, a deworming during that period may increase their gain before shipment. Any implants given on the farm should be given long enough before shipment to “play out” before arrival at Decatur. For example, Ralgro “pays out” at about 3 months, Synovex-C at about 5 months, and Compudose at about 6½ months.
Synopsis of Health Program:

- Approximately 3 month old calf:
  - vaccinations for Blackleg, IBR-BVD-PI3-BRSV (Modified Live), and Pasteurella. Also castrate and implant.
- Around weaning:
  - booster vaccinations for Blackleg and IBR-BVD-PI3-BRSV (Modified Live), Deworm.
- Two weeks later:
  - booster vaccination for IBR-BVD-PI3-BRSV (Modified Live)
- DO NOT REIMPLANT CALVES PRIOR TO SHIPMENT

For More Information....

Direct inquires to:

Joshua Elmore  
Ag Program Associate  
120 Co Rd 756  
Clanton, AL 35045

email: elmorjb@auburn.edu  
phone: 205-646-3610  
fax:205-646-3607
Management at Birth or at 3-4 Months Old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castration (if not already done)</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implant (if not already done)</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dehorn</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxxx</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clostridial 7-way bacterin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SQ only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasteurella haemolytica bacterin-toxoid</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IBR/BVD/PI/BRSV vac</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Option 1: Next time calves are worked is before weaning
2-4 weeks before weaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBR/BVD/PI/BRSV vac</td>
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<td>SQ only</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasteurella haemolytica vaccine (if not given before)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deworm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treat external parasites (if a problem)</td>
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</table>
At Weaning: Date

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<thead>
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<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBR/BVD/Pi3/BRSV vac</td>
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Option 2: Next time calves are worked is at weaning
At weaning: Date

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<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBR/BVD/Pi3/BRSV vac</td>
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Clostridial 7-way bacterin

Deworm

Treat external parasites (if a problem)

10-14 days after weaning

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<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBR/BVD/Pi3/BRSV vac</td>
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Directions for filling out this Health Record & Processing Map: Fill out either Option 1 or Option 2 section of this form; according to how your calves were treated. Also remember:

C Read and follow labels carefully.
C Give injections forward of the shoulder in the neck area as shown above.
C Use clean syringes and needles. Do not use disinfectants to clean; soap and hot water are fine.
C Use 18 or 16 gauge needles 1½ to 1 inches for Intramuscular (IM) injections and ½ to ¾ inches for Sub-cutaneous (SQ) injections
C Keep vaccines out of the sun and in a cooler.
C Only mix up enough modified live vaccine that can be used within 45 minutes.
C Only inject into clean areas.
C Use good head restraint when implanting. Keep implant needles sharp.
C 4-way viral modified live vaccines are not cleared on their labels for calves nursing pregnant cows, however, Hitch Feeders II has a cow herd in which this is routinely done for their calves they ultimately will feed.

Remember to go over your specific plan and products with your herd veterinarian. He or she is your best source of advice on the health of animals in your herd.
ALABAMA TO RAIL RETAINED OWNERSHIP DATA FORM

NAME______________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS___________________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE_________________________________________ZIP____________________________
PHONE___________________________ COUNTY_________________________ PREMISES NUMBER______________________________

Check all which apply. This consignment is:

[ ] Commercial/Purebred
[ ] 4-H/FFA/Junior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>Dam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Tag</td>
<td>Consignment Tag&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Date&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Calf Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed</td>
<td>I.D.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>Assigned on day of shipment
<sup>b</sup>At least month & year
<sup>c</sup>Use the BCIA breed codes as shown on the last page.

Preferred shipping date: August ______ September______ October ______

November ______ December ______

If you have this information in a spreadsheet or computer program, please feel free to make a copy of the information instead of re-writing everything!

Include a deposit of $50.00 per head. Make check payable to: **Alabama Pasture to Rail**. Mail check to:

Joshua Elmore
120 Co Rd 756
Clanton, AL 35045
Breed Designations for Retained Ownership Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Breed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Red Brahman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Beefmaster</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Red Brangus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Beefalo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Salers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Braford</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Santa Gertrudis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Senepol</td>
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<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Brangus</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Shorthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Charolais</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Simbrah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chi-Angus</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Simmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chianina</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Texas Longhorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Continental</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Other Breeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gelbvieh</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Brown Swiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hereford</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Guernsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Limousin</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Holstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Maine-Anjou</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Polled Hereford</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Milking Shorthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Polled Shorthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Red Angus</td>
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</table>

Please note, Continental is a breed originating in North Dakota

**Breed Codes**

Breed codes are 4 digits or letters, and are determined in the following manner:

The first two letters of the calf represent the sire's breed(s), the second two letters of the calf represents the dam's breed(s). If the parents of the calf are composed of more than two breeds, use the first letter of each of the grandparents to represent the breeds in the calf.