



# Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program

## 2009-2010 Rules and Regulations

The Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program can provide a potential solution to the challenge of raising replacement heifers from both an economical and management standpoint. This program allows producers to bring their replacement heifers to a central location to be developed. Producers will retain ownership in the heifers and pay a daily fee that covers the cost of feed, medicine, reproductive procedures and associated costs and labor. Consignors have the option to breed heifers using artificial insemination (AI) or natural service. All AI sires will have high EPD accuracies for calving ease and birth weight traits.

The objectives of the Upper Coastal Plain Heifer development program are to:

- Educate beef producers in Alabama on the proper management of replacement heifers.
- Increase the implementation of heifer development practices by Alabama producers resulting in optimum reproductive efficiency as mature cows and resulting profitability.
- Demonstrate management techniques for replacement heifers to reach target weights and breed successfully through a Total Quality Management approach.
- Demonstrate estrus synchronization and breeding protocols for heifers in the artificial insemination program.
- To demonstrate methods of evaluating heifers for disposition, performance, and reproductive traits.
- Increase marketing opportunities for and add value to Alabama raised heifers.

This program is being provided by Upper Coastal Plain Agricultural Research Center, Auburn University Animal Sciences Department, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

To consign replacement females or for more information, see below for a consignment form or call the UCP office at 205-487-2150. **All forms should be returned to: Upper Coastal Plain Heifer Development Program, 1700 Experimental Loop, Winfield, AL 35594. Nominations are due August 28, 2009**

## Contacts:

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

Illana Stover  
Regional Extension Agent  
1700 Experimental Loop  
Winfield, AL 35594  
205-487-0559  
205-442-1743  
[ims0002@auburn.edu](mailto:ims0002@auburn.edu)

Randall Rawls  
Superintendent Upper Coastal Plain Substation  
1700 Experimental Loop  
Winfield, AL 35594  
205-487-2150  
[rawlsrc@auburn.edu](mailto:rawlsrc@auburn.edu)

Josh Elmore  
Advisor III Natural Resources  
120 CR 756 Clanton, AL 35045  
205-646-3610  
[elmorjb@auburn.edu](mailto:elmorjb@auburn.edu)

## UCP Heifer Development Program Details:

**Enrollment:** Any person enrolling heifers in the UCP Heifer Development Program must be a member of the AL BCIA and officially enrolled in the program. Interested individuals must complete a heifer consignment form and return to the UCP office by August 28, 2009. Purebred and commercial heifers will be accepted. It is not necessary for animals to be registered to be in the program. Heifers born between August 15, 2008 and December 31, 2008 are eligible to be enrolled for fall calving. The UCPHDP committee reserves the right to offer an option for a spring calving group. If the UCPHDP committee offers a spring calving option, heifers born between December 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 will be eligible.



## Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program

**Drop-Off Date(s) and Deadlines:** Estimated time of arrival at the developmental center will be September 11 for fall calving heifers. If a spring development group is offered the estimated arrival date will be January 3 for spring calving heifers.

### **Physical requirements:**

**Animal Identification:** UCP heifers will be individually identified.

**Blemishes:** Heifers with active cases of Pinkeye are not UCP Heifer Development Program eligible.

**Growth:** Heifers must have a minimum weight per day of age upon arrival of 1.4lbs.

**Implants:** It is recommended heifers should be not implanted. If heifers are implanted, it is required that only FDA approved products for replacement heifers be used and administered according to label guidelines.

**Development Guidelines:** Beef Improvement Federation guidelines will be followed when possible throughout the developmental process.

**Health requirements:** The health requirements and procedures go beyond the regulatory requirements of the State of Alabama. These requirements have been established by the Heifer Development Committee and are mandatory for all delivered heifers.

The UCP Heifer Development Program will provide vaccination and treatment record forms for each heifer nominated. *All forms must be completed and delivered with the heifer(s). Forms are found on page 4 and 5.*

### **All shots must be given according to Beef Quality Assurance guidelines.**

Any heifer determined to be sick, unsound, and/or exhibiting physical abnormalities of any kind will be removed from the program. A veterinarian and representative of the Heifer Development Committee will make these decisions. All committee approved decisions are final.

Veterinary service for any heifer will be obtained when necessary and the consignor will be responsible for

veterinary service fees, drugs and medication on their heifer(s).

### **Regardless of state, heifers must be accompanied by:**

1. **Brucellosis- Negative Status**  
Heifers must meet one of the following Brucellosis requirements to participate in the Upper Coastal Plains Heifer Development Program:
  - a. Come from a Brucellosis Free State.
  - b. Come from a Certified Brucellosis Free Herd if in a non-Brucellosis free state.
  - c. If cattle do not meet the requirements in either a or b then heifers must be test negative within 30 days prior to arrival.
2. **Tuberculosis- Negative Status**  
Heifers must meet one of the following Tuberculosis requirements to participate in the Upper Coastal Plains Heifer Development Program:
  - a. Come from a Tuberculosis Free State.
  - b. Come from an Accredited Tuberculosis Free Herd in a non-Tuberculosis free state.
  - c. If cattle do not meet the requirements in either a or b then heifers must be test negative within 30 days prior to arrival.
3. A vaccination record, stating the heifer has been vaccinated for IBR, PI3; BVD; Leptospirosis (5 strain); BRSV vaccine;(Respiratory) Clostridium chauvoei, septicum, sordellii, novyi, perfringens types C & D, bacterin-toxoid, Mannheimia hemolytica, and Pasteurella multocida (**7-way Clostridial**) all according to manufacturer's recommendations. We recommend a modified live for IBR, PI3, BRSV, BVD.
4. Testing for PI- BVD (bovine viral diarrhea) is required prior to arrival.
5. Testing for Johnes disease is encouraged, but not mandatory.

**Reproductive evaluation:** A pre-breeding reproductive evaluation will be conducted on all heifers. Pre-breeding exams will be performed approximately 6 weeks prior to breeding. Pelvic area measurements will be taken as well as the evaluation of the reproductive tract. Heifers with reproductive tract scores measuring less than a 3 will not be bred.



## Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program

**Reproductive management:** Consignors have two breeding options for the UCP Heifer Development Program.

*Option 1-* Natural Service- Angus, Simmental

*Option 2-* Estrous synchronization and artificial insemination will be used. Heifers will be synchronized and bred through timed AI. Heifers will then be cleaned up with natural service sires.

Heifers will be bred to calve between 21 and 27 months of age. Heifers will have 3 possible attempts to conceive resulting in a 90 day calving season. Consignors will be contacted if the heifers do not conceive during this period.

If choosing option 2 breeding requirements for the sires must meet the approved **Sire requirements**.

**Sire requirements:** All heifers in AI (whether returning to the owner or offered for sale) will be bred to a bull in the top 25% of the breed for direct and/or maternal calving ease and/or birth weight EPD and with an accuracy of 0.70 or higher. Owner must have bulls approved by the UCPHD committee prior semen purchase.

**Heifer inspection:** The screening committee reserves the right to reject any heifer not meeting recommended criteria.

**Pregnancy:** A confirmatory pregnancy exam will be performed less than 120 days from the breeding date on all heifers prior to release to the owner

**Cost of Development:** Anticipated costs will range from \$1.50-\$2.00 per head per day depending on the volatility of the feedstuff market. Cost will be determined by the heifer development center and the UCPHDP committee. Costs will include labor, feed, yardage, estrus synchronization products, semen & health. Additional costs (due to sickness or other related event) will be charged to the owner of the heifer. **A consignment fee of \$100 per animal will be due at delivery.**

**Bred Heifer Sale:** At the conclusion of the developmental period, consignors will have the option to place heifers in an exclusive bred heifer sale managed

by the AL BCIA. Consignors are not required to sell their heifers. Heifers meeting requirements as outlined will receive an UCP Heifer Development Program ear tag. Misrepresentation or false advertisement of the UCP Heifer Development Program will result in exclusion from future program participation.

Careful management and care will be exercised at all times. Veterinary services will be used when necessary at the expense of the owner. However, neither the Upper Coastal Plain Heifer Development Program nor anyone associated with Auburn University or the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will assume liability for the cattle in case of loss. These parties have no obligation to procure casualty insurance on heifers enrolled in the program. However, consignors are encouraged to consider casualty insurance on their heifers prior to delivery to the station.



# Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program

## Upper Coastal Plains Beef Heifer Development Program Calf Health Record and Nomination Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ALBCIA Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_ AL Premises ID: \_\_\_\_\_

HEIFER INFORMATION

Purchased [ ]

Raised [ ]

Describe breed make-up of  
heifers:

\_\_\_\_\_

Treatment	Product	Company	Route	Date	Lot Number
1 <sup>st</sup> Clostridial Required					
2 <sup>nd</sup> Clostridial Required					
1 <sup>st</sup> IBR/PI3/BRSV/BVD Required					
2 <sup>nd</sup> IBR/PI3/BRSV/BVD Required					
Other (Worming, Implant, etc)					
BVD Test Required					
Johnes Test					

**Please complete this form COMPLETELY.**

