

Standard Operating Procedures

Texas A&M University-Kingsville Beef Unit

I. TAMUK Beef unit overview.

The TAMUK beef herd is a commercial cow/calf operation consisting of approximately 30 cows/heifers and one bull. The animals are located at the TAMUK farm. The breeding cowherd consists largely of Santa Gertrudis influenced cows with some Hereford, Red Brangus, Black Brangus, and commercial crossbred cow influence. Only a few of the heifers are kept as replacements and most of the steers and heifers are sold at one of the surrounding livestock auctions. There are six different pastures all located around the TAMUK farm that are used for grazing. Total acreage of these pastures is 350 acres and pastures consist of improved coastal Bermuda and other native grasses. The TAMUK farm has two animal handling facilities, one, which is located on the farm, and one at the livestock pavilion. Each facility has a working head chute and individual sorting pens.

II. Biosecurity.

1. Visitors entering the beef unit must report at the main office. There are no exceptions to this rule, even for brief visits. Individuals who have worked with farm animals at other locations during the past 24 hours must have taken a shower before entering the unit. These requirements are necessary in order to maintain biosecurity for animals housed at the facility.
2. Disease challenges of animals are prohibited in the normal operational units. These challenges will be conducted at a separate facility (such as the surgery barn).

III. Herd management.

A.-Breeding

- 1.-Spring breeding occurs from April to June
- 2.-Fall breeding occurs from November to January.

B.-Identification

1.-All animals are identified using ear tags, which must be applied to calves as soon as they are born. Individual numbers of tags are kept in the historic inventory in the Managers office.

C.-Vaccination

1.-Calves

- 1.-Clostridials (initial and then a booster at 3 to 4 weeks).
- 2.-BRD (initial and then a booster at 3 to 4 weeks)
- 3.-Tetanus anti toxin to bulls that are castrated.

2.-Cows

- 1.-8-way or 7-way once a year
- 2.-BRD w/lepto

D.-Internal/External Parasite Control

1. - Deworm w/ Ivermectin during Spring.
2. - Deworm w/ Cydectin; apply Dectomax injectable during Fall.
3. - Spray for flies as needed

E.-Weaning of calves

- 1.-Wean at approximately 205 days. Calves isolated from cows.

IV Sale of Animals policy.

- 1.-The Farm manager determines which animals are to be sold.
- 2.-The preferred way to sell cattle is to take animals to one of the surrounding livestock auctions.
- 3.-If any animal is going to be sold by private treaty the Farm Advisory Committee must be informed at least 3 days prior to the sale.
- 4.-According to the TAMUK business office policy animals sold by private treaty can be paid for with cash, personal check or money order made payable to "TAMUK".

V Purchase of cattle.

- 1.-The preferred way to buy cattle is at one of the surrounding livestock auctions.
2. – The Farm Advisory Committee must be notified 3 days prior to purchase of animal that will be purchased by private treaty. Additionally, the Farm Advisory Committee will be informed of the prices to be paid.

VI Animal disposal.

All animals are taken to the dead pit and buried according to TAMUK IACUC use protocols.

VII Quarantine procedures

1. - New additions to the herd are isolated for a minimum of 30 days in isolation pens located 50 yards away from main herd.
2. -Animals are treated for internal/external parasites within the first week of arrival.