

2019 Premier Beef/Range Indicators (Knowledge based questions)

“Producers level of understanding” based on the program

Beef/Range – Health

Importance of a vaccination program in a cow herd
Texas Bovine Trichomoniasis Control Program implemented by Texas Animal Health Commission
How Trichomoniasis negatively impacts beef cattle reproduction and profitability
Possible sources of bacterial contaminants in waterways
Management practices which minimize bacterial contamination of waterways from livestock waste
Potential benefits of adopting 'Low Stress Animal Handling' practices
How bio-security can have an effect on your cattle operation
Drought effect on cattle health and disease
The effect of hay quality on herd health
Relationship of nutrition to herd health
Proper selection of antibiotics in treating sick cattle
Utilizing proper injection sites
Knowing and understanding withdrawal times on antibiotics

Beef/Range – Brush and Weed Issues

Application methods for herbicides
Alternatives to herbicides and the cost
Brush and weed management practices
How to use prescribed fire as a tool
How to use the Brush Buster techniques to control weed and brush species
When and under what conditions to use herbicides
Which insecticides are effective and why
Effective timing and application of herbicides
Understanding pesticide labels
Law and Regulations affecting pesticide use
How to identify plants toxic to livestock
Balancing the range ecosystem to benefit cattle and wildlife
Weed and brush ID
How will the Prairie Chicken issue affect weed and brush management
Cost share for weed and brush control

Beef/Range – Economic Risk Management/Marketing

How beef cattle vaccination programs can be beneficial to your marketing
Importance of price protection and cattle marketing strategies
USDA National Organic Program standards for producing 'organic' beef
Market opportunities and challenges for organic and/or grass-finished beef
Marketing strategies or options for small herd operators
Recommended marketing strategies for beef cattle operations
NRCS cost share programs available
Understanding marketing alternatives available
Retained ownership advantages or disadvantages
Developing marketing relationships
Knowing cost of production in developing your price targets

How to calculate break evens
Farm assistance program and how it can be utilized
Cattle Lease Legalities – Natural Resource Law
Liability Insurance
Fence Laws

Beef/Range – Nutrition

Importance of supplementation of herds
How to utilize body condition scores to determine the nutritional needs of beef cattle
Nutritional requirements needed for a cow during gestation
Nutritional requirements needed for a lactating cow
Mineral supplementation and a cow's needs
Nutrient value of available feedstuff
Alternative sources of feedstuffs and a comparison of cost and need
Decision aids available to determine least cost rations that meet the animal's needs
Utilization of hay and small grain forages with cow herds
Factors affecting nutrient value of forages
Nutritional changes in forage plants based upon time of year or plant maturity stage.
How water quality and abundance affects nutrition

Beef/Range – Forage Considerations

Importance of estimating forage availability
Importance of determining stocking rates
How to use rangeland monitoring techniques to determine stocking rates
How to manipulate plant communities to improve quantity/quality of native forages for livestock
Balancing forage recovery with cattle inventory recovery
Fertility requirements of Old World Bluestems
Management of CRP grasses
Drought tolerance of native grasses compared to introduced grasses
Reduction in fertilizer requirements for native grasses compared to other introduced grasses
Forage species or varieties adapted to local growing conditions
How timing of hay cutting and grazing can affect the need to reseed native grasses
Native forbs that are utilized by livestock and wildlife
How to improve rangeland health
How to manipulate plant communities to improve quantity and quality of other forages
Management techniques to enhance livestock and wildlife compatibility
Fertility requirements for Bermuda grass under irrigation.
Management of annual forages (forage sorghum, sorghum sudan grass, millets, etc.)
How weed and brush control affects forage availability

Beef/Range – Management/Reproduction

Importance of a drought plan in cow herd management
The impact of nutrition and health on reproduction efficiency
Differences between beef cattle breeds and their adaptability to environmental conditions
Factors affecting bull fertility and the importance of fertility testing
Systematic approach to evaluating options for securing replacement heifers
Available capital for rebuilding cow herds
Evaluation of the worth of available replacement heifers
What can I Pay for Females?

Landowner and lessor relationships (Generational Turnover)

Negotiating process and the benefits of legal counsel with energy and wind leases

Selection of Herd Sires

Legal issues with the Lessor Prairie Chicken or other possible species

How a cow's body score affects reproduction/production

What are body condition scores?

Advantages of a controlled calving season

Understanding how watering facilities affect grazing patterns.

Early weaning effects on rebreeding

Understanding EPD's