



Geaux Beef – Replacement Heifer Guidelines
LSU AgCenter
Hill Farm Research Station
Dean Lee Research and Extension Center
2026-2027

Program Objectives:

- Develop a management verification program focused on best management practices (BMPs).
- Educate producers on advantages and disadvantages of different marketing avenues.
- Collect and disseminate data on heifer and cow productivity and performance of offspring.
- Assess producer profitability through implementation of BMPs and chosen marketing avenues.

Benefits of the Program:

- Consultation with members of the LSU AgCenter on all aspects of production, such as reproductive management, health protocols, herd nutrition, record keeping, data analysis, and product marketing.
- Opportunity for beef producers to utilize a forage-based development program with the option of artificial insemination on first-calf heifers.
- Ability to collect growth and reproductive performance data on replacement heifers.

General Requirements:

- Producers must register cattle for the program no later than September 18, 2026.
 - \$100 registration fee per heifer is due with the registration form.
- An on-site verification will be performed by an LSU AgCenter member.
- The appropriate ear tags will be placed and samples for PI-BVDV testing will be taken immediately upon arrival at the LSU AgCenter.
- Producers must provide evidence of general farm insurance coverage, particularly liability coverage, applicable to heifers entered into the program and located on the LSU AgCenter Hill Farm Research Station or Dean Lee Research and Extension Center.
 - Please visit with an LSU AgCenter agent if you are unsure of your insurance coverage or currently do not have any and would like to participate in the Heifer Development Program.
- Participating producers must adhere to the management and health protocols required by the program. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program without a refund of the nomination fee or other fees associated with the program.
- Producers are strongly encouraged to share production information with the LSU AgCenter. Record sheets will be provided to use as a template for each aspect of the program. All data utilized and published by the LSU AgCenter will be anonymous. Therefore, producer names will not be associated with any reported data.

Replacement Heifer Management Requirements:

- Individual birth dates must be recorded. (At minimum within a week of their birth date.)
- Individual identification is required on all animals.
- Both birth weights and weaning weights are highly encouraged, if feasible.
- Heifers must be dehorned and completely healed from the dehorning process prior to being received by the LSU AgCenter.
- Heifers must be PI-BVDV negative for entry in the program and follow a recommended health protocol throughout the program.
 - Registration fee includes testing costs.
 - Producers will be required to pick up any heifer(s) testing positive from PI-BVDV.
- The use of growth implants is NOT ALLOWED under any circumstance in replacement heifers.
- All heifers being developed by the LSU AgCenter must weigh a minimum of 550 pounds and a maximum of 800 pounds when brought to the LSU AgCenter.
- Heifers must be open (not bred or exposed) upon arrival at the LSU AgCenter.
 - Producers will be required to pick up any heifer(s) testing positive from a blood pregnancy test.

Option of Artificial Insemination for Replacement Heifers:

- Producers will have the option of artificial insemination on heifers being developed.
- An additional fee of \$100 will be required for synchronization and artificial insemination costs.
- Producers may select from 4 bulls for each heifer. EPDs will be provided on each bull.
- Heifers will be exposed to a cleanup bull following artificial insemination. This will be either an Angus or Brangus bull owned and selected by the LSU AgCenter.

Annual Timeline for Program

September 18	Registration Form and Fee Due LSU AgCenter agent must have verified location and cattle	\$100.00
September 24-25 October 1-2	Heifers Arrive at Dean Lee Research and Extension Center Heifers Arrive at Hill Farm Research Station Tag PI-BVDV testing Blood collection for pregnancy determination Weights	
December/January	Turn onto Ryegrass	
January 31	Breeding Form and Fee Due	Optional \$100.00
March-April	Estrus Synchronization and Artificial Insemination	
May	Pregnancy Determination	
May	Last Payment Due – Feed and Miscellaneous Costs	TBD - Billed
May	Release Heifers from Program	

Estimated Dates for Weight Collection

October – arrival

December / January – placing on ryegrass

February / March – pre-breeding vaccinations

April – at breeding or during synchronization protocol

May – departure

Replacement Heifer Health Protocol

Below are the minimum vaccination and health requirements for replacement heifers entering the development program. All females must follow these guidelines. Additional vaccinations and health practices must be discussed with the LSU AgCenter or your local veterinarian prior to administration. A working relationship with a local veterinarian is highly recommended for all producers.

First Working of Heifers – Approximately 3 Months of Age

Management Practice	Additional Instruction(s)	Suggested Products
Blackleg Vaccination	Required	Calvary 9 [®] , UltraChoice [®] 7 or 8, Vision 7 or 8 [®] (Or a variation of these products may be approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Viral Respiratory Complex	Optional but recommended at this age. Cows of nursing calves must have received the same product within the past 12 months if administered to calves.	BoviShield Gold 5 [®] , Inforce 3 [®] along with OneShot [®] BVD, Pyramid 5 [®] , Vista 5 SQ [®] (Or a variation of these products may be approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Deworm	Required as needed. Speak with an LSU AgCenter member or your veterinarian to determine need for dewormers in your cattle.	Cydectin [®] , Dectomax [®] , Eprinex [®] , Ivomec [®] , LongRange [®] , Safe-guard [®] , Valbazen [®] (Or another name brand product approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Dehorn	Required	Work with an LSU AgCenter agent or local veterinarian for the best way to minimize stress.
Individual Number - Ear Tag	Required	Any tag that displays the individual animal identification
Fly Control	Recommended as needed	Any product appropriately labeled for cattle.

Second Working of Heifers – Approximately 6-8 Months of Age

Management Practice	Additional Instruction(s)	Suggested Products
Booster Blackleg Vaccination	Required	Calvary 9 [®] , UltraChoice [®] 7 or 8, Vision 7 or 8 [®] (Or a variation of these products may be approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Viral Respiratory Complex (BRSD, BVD type 1 and 2, IBR, and PI ₃)	Required. Must follow up with a booster if the first dose was not administered at 3 months of age. Calves must have received two rounds of the product prior to shipping.	BoviShield Gold 5 [®] , Inforce 3 [®] along with OneShot [®] BVD, Pyramid 5 [®] , Vista 5 SQ [®] (Or a variation of these products may be approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Shipping Fever Complex Vaccination	Required	Nuplura [®] PH, OneShot [®] , Once [®] PMH IN, Once [®] PMH SQ, Presponse [®] , Pulmo-Guard [®] PMH-1, Vista Once [®] SQ
Deworm	Required as needed. Speak with an LSU AgCenter member or your veterinarian to determine need for dewormers in your cattle.	Cydectin [®] , Dectomax [®] , Eprinex [®] , Ivomec [®] , LongRange [®] , Safe-guard [®] , Valbazen [®] (Or another name brand product approved by the LSU AgCenter)
Fly Control	Recommended as needed	Any product appropriately labeled for cattle.