

THE LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM

LSU AgCenter
Dean Lee Research Station
McNeese State University
Lafourche Parish Cattlemen
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

2011-2012

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Project is entering into its 2011–2012 feed-out year. There were over 500 calves consigned to the 2010–2011 program. The feed out and carcass information provided to producers through this program is very useful in making management decisions on breeding, genetics, nutrition, and herd health. In addition, valuable marketing information is obtained about a producer's product. The exposure to preconditioning and retaining ownership of one's calves, plus the educational tour in the spring, makes the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program an outstanding educational program for Louisiana's cow/calf producers. Since implementing preconditioning of all cattle going to the feedlot, we have clearly seen its benefits with a reduction in death loss.

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program will accept nominations for steers. There are some major changes this year. When completing the attached Nomination Form, please indicate the number of steers as well as which preconditioning site you will be sending your cattle to.

All cattle must be Source and Age verified. There are many companies that Source and Age verify cattle (Examples: Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, Angus Association, ABS, IMI Global). If you do not want to use one of the verifying companies available, please contact Mr. Robert Joyner or Mr. Tom Ardoin with the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association. The LCA phone number is (225)343-3491.

The method of selling the cattle, cash sale or value based grid sale, will be determined this year when the cattle are sold. The decision will be made by Dr. Tim Page, Mr. Darrin Goodwin and Hitch Feedyard personnel. The historical data from the program and the marketing conditions at the time of the first sale will be used to obtain what is believed to be the best price for the cattle consigned to the program this year.

The following is a brief overview of the program. (More details can be found later in this paper.)

- 1) **Nomination fee is \$85.00** per head and payment must be made at the time of nomination. (We have to have this money to pay for the trucking and preconditioning feed.). \$35 of the \$85 will be used to pay for trucking the cattle to the feedyard. The remaining will be used to pay for the feed during the preconditioning period. The feed companies want their money in a timely manner, therefore, we are asking for part of the preconditioning money up front. Any amount above the \$50 for the preconditioning costs will be billed to the producer at a later time.

- 2) **Nomination deadline** with fee: postmarked by **August 25, 2011** for calves going to McNeese State University. **Nomination deadline** with fee: postmarked by **September 20, 2011** for calves going to Dean Lee Research Station.
- 3) **A minimum of three (3) steers.** If you have enough for an entire truckload (60-75 head), we will work with you to help you precondition the calves, ship the calves, and retain ownership of your calves through the feedyard. If you have heifers you want to put in the project, you may call Dr. Tim Page at (225)578-7906 or Darrin Goodwin at (337)475-8004 or (337)302-5759. We will try to accommodate you and place your heifers with other producers that want to nominate heifers. **DO NOT** send nominations in for heifers unless you have cleared that with Dr. Page or Mr. Goodwin.
- 4) It is recommended that you have a Premise ID number. You may get one by contacting the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at: www.ladaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp. The preconditioning site will assist you in getting a Premise ID number.
- 5) **Source and Age Verification.** This will be required this year. The last few years, cattle that were Source and Age verified received \$35-\$42 per head premium at slaughter time. We are not guaranteeing a premium, but we strongly feel that it will still be available this year. All calves must be Source and Age Verified. To Source and Age Verify your calves, you may use LCA's program through the Southeast Livestock Network or any other USDA approved program.
 - A. The enrollment form for the LCA/SLN program may be found at <http://slnllc.com/SourceandAgeVerification.aspx> or by linking the Source and Age Verification tab on the index (lower left) of the Louisiana Cattlemen's web site home page.
 - B. This form must be completed and returned to SLN for approval – see details on the web site – you should allow at least 4 weeks for this process.
 - C. After approval, you will receive ear tags – these tags certify your calves for the Source and Age portion of the program and provide tracking for carcass data – they are “combo” tags (they contain an RFID and a visual number) and will cost \$3.50 each.
 - D. For other verifying programs, you must contact the appropriate representative to complete the Source and Age Verification process and then submit your ‘approved status’ information to the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program or the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association (Dr. Tim Page or Mr. Robert Joyner).
 - E. For more information or to enroll in LCA's Source and Age Verification Program, contact:
 - LCA office at (225)343-3491 or www.labeef.org
 - Dr. Tim Page at (225)578-7906 [office], (225)405-4225 [cell] or tpage@agctr.lsu.edu
 - Mr. Tom Ardoin at (337)831-0671 or tntardoin@centurytel.net
- 6) **Preconditioning** as outlined in the attached document is **required**. If you opt to precondition your cattle at home, you **must** follow the guidelines we have established for preconditioning. Your county agent and/or Dr. Tim Page will work with you on preconditioning at home. A form has been provided for you and your county agent to sign that ensures that the calves followed the established guidelines for preconditioning.
- 7) **Loading points** will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 8) Length of the **preconditioning period** will be approximately 45 days.

- 9) **Preconditioning fee** will be **due in full** at the end of the preconditioning period. We **must** have this money at that time in order to reimburse the preconditioning sites their costs. You will have paid \$50 up front already toward these costs. In some cases, a minimal processing fee may be added to your preconditioning charges to pay for postage.
- 10) All calves must have **producer identification** (i.e.: ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival. All cattle **MUST** be dehorned and castrated and healed before arrival at the preconditioning site.

SITES:

11) McNeese State University Site:

- A.** Receiving dates are 9/7/11 through 9/10/11 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. MSU requests producers to call ahead of time if they have a definite time they would like to come.
- B.** Ship out dates: Week of 10/20/11. **C.** MSU Farm will accept steers weighing 575 lbs. or heavier. They CAN NOT accept steers that weigh less than 575 lbs. **D.** The preconditioning period will be approximately 45 days. **E.** All cattle will be weighed upon delivery. Any steer that does not make the minimum weight will not be accepted. **F.** MSU Farm will take all necessary steps to fill truckload lots. **G.** Producers who prefer to precondition their steers at home, but would like to ship them from MSU, must have their steers weighing as much as the average weight of the steers at MSU. **H.** Cost hay: \$40/bale. MSU Farm estimates 50 bales for 75 head of 650 lb. steers. Hay charges will be billed on a per bale basis at the conclusion of the preconditioning phase. **I.** MSU Farm will accept the heifers only if a pre-arranged group can be put together to equal a truckload prior to the heifers arriving at the MSU Farm. Please contact Darrin Goodwin (337)302-5759 or Dr. Tim Page (225)578-7906 to place heifers. **J.** If you are sending your steers to McNeese State University, you need to send your nomination form and nomination fees to McNeese State University, 2907 McNeese Farm Road, Lake Charles, LA 70607. Make the check payable to MSU Calf to Carcass. McNeese will handle the trucking, feeding and settlement payments for those producers placing their cattle with them.

12) Lafourche Parish Cattlemen:

- A.** The first 68 head nominated will be selected **B.** At least 3 steers per producer. **C.** Must weigh at least 600 lbs. **D.** Steers will be preconditioned at the producers' farms. Producer is responsible for his/her own feed. **E.** Program will start October 3, 2011. Steers will be shipped on November 17, 2011. Steers must be brought to a central location in the parish (to be determined later) on November 16, 2011. **F.** Steers must be dehorned and castrated and healed. **G.** Please contact County Agent Mike Hebert if you wish to put calves in the Lafourche Parish program. Send your nomination and fees to Dr. Tim Page, Louisiana State University, 102 Francioni, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Please make checks payable to: Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program, LCA.

13) Dean Lee Research Station:

A. Cattle must be delivered on October 4, 2011 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. **B.** Cattle must weigh at least 600 lbs. **C.** Cattle must be weaned at least 5 days prior to delivery. **D.** Cattle must be dehorned and castrated. **E.** Cattle will be preconditioned for approximately 45 days. They will be shipped the week of November 17, 2011. **F.** Calves at this location will be tested for BVD. **G.** Send your nomination and fees to Dr. Tim Page, Louisiana State University, 102 Francioni, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Please make checks payable to: Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program, LCA.

14) LSU AgCenter:

A. For those producers that are interested in preconditioning their calves at home, please contact Dr. Tim Page at (225)578-7906, (225)405-4225, or tpage@agctr.lsu.edu. We may put together a load from LSU and ship those cattle in November.

PRECONDITIONING PLAN FOR THE LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM

General:

Producers who choose to precondition their calves at home need to adhere to the following preconditioning plan. The at home preconditioning must be validated/verified by the county extension agent. Calves preconditioned at home must arrive at the loading sites (the same as the preconditioning sites) before shipment to Oklahoma.

All calves *must have* producer identification (e.g., ear tag, legible brand, etc.) upon arrival at the designated preconditioning/loading sites.

Locations for the preconditioning loading sites are:

- 1) McNeese State University - Lake Charles, LA (1 or 2 truckloads)
- 2) Lafourche Parish Cattlemen - Thibodaux, LA (1 or 2 truckloads) (Producer farms)
- 3) Dean Lee Research Station – Alexandria, LA (1 truckload)
- 4) LSU AgCenter – Baton Rouge, LA This is for home preconditioned cattle only. Must contact Dr. Tim Page.

Feeding Program:

The cattle will be fed a medicated mixed ration (including minerals) as well as free choice hay. The ration will be balanced and fed so that potential average weight gains of approximately 1.5 lbs. head/day can be achieved.

Health Program:

Castrate bull calves as soon as possible. Castration is less traumatic for younger calves. Castrate according to NCBA BQA Guidelines.

Dehorn: If present, horns must be removed. Horns on cattle cause increased bruising of pen mates. Your calves **MUST** be dehorned and healed before arriving at the preconditioning sites. Dehorn according to NCBA BQA Guidelines.

Working Vaccination: All calves should have received an 8-way clostridial (blackleg type) and 3 possibly others based on herd history and local veterinary advice (such as Haemophilus, pasteurella leptospirosis, etc.) between 2 and 4 months of age. Calves should also be dewormed at pre-weaning.

Pre-Weaning Vaccination: In addition, 4 to 6 weeks before weaning the calves should be vaccinated with an injectable BRD complex (IBR -PI3 -BVD -BRSV). *Note:* A modified live vaccine is highly recommended. Make sure the vaccine used is approved for use on calves nursing pregnant cows. Calves should also receive an 8-way clostridial vaccination at this time.

Shortly after arrival at the preconditioning site the cattle will be worked as follows:

Cattle will be processed for internal and external parasite control, and vaccinated as follows:

Injectable BRD complex vaccination IBR -PI3 -BVD -BRSV plus pasteurella (modified live vaccine)

8-Way Clostridial vaccination

Internal and external parasite control treatment with an endectocide and flucocide
Cattle will be treated for horn flies.

Metaphylactic antibiotic treatment

Attach Electronic and Visual Ear Tags

Cattle will be given a respiratory booster vaccination two weeks later:

Injectable BRD complex booster IBR -PI3 -BVD -BRSV plus pasteurella

8-Way Clostridial booster

Other vaccinations may be required as recommended by the LSU AgCenter veterinarian (Dr. Christine Navarre) working with us on the preconditioning portion of the Calf to Carcass Program.

Cost of Preconditioning:

The cost for preconditioning the cattle will be different for each site. Costs will be kept to a minimum without sacrificing performance and health of the cattle. This includes initial vaccinations and boosters, internal and external parasite control, feed, antibiotic, tags, etc. *Please Note:* Efforts will be made to arrange for collaborative agreements with various companies (Feed Companies, Veterinary Supply Companies, etc.) in the form of donating antibiotics, vaccine and parasite control products in order to lower the cost of preconditioning the cattle. Over the past five years, these collaborative agreements have significantly reduced preconditioning costs. Only the cattle that are preconditioned at one of the designated sites will benefit from the collaborative arrangements. We have been getting the medicated feed at cost and nearly all of the pharmaceuticals have been donated. Because of these agreements, it will be extremely difficult for individual producers to precondition their cattle at home as economically as it can be done at the preconditioning sites.

Note: Additional cost to the producer may be incurred if an individual animal(s) becomes ill and veterinary care is required. Immediate efforts will be made to contact producers if one of their animals becomes ill and requires additional veterinary care.

Payout Procedure and Selling Process:

- 1) Hitch Feedyard sells a pen of cattle.
- 2) The buyer has a week to pick up the cattle.
- 3) Hitch Feedyard sends payment for the cattle and we usually receive it within a week after they are weighed.
- 4) Cattle are slaughtered.
- 5) Cattle are graded the day after slaughter (in some cases, longer than that).
- 6) Carcass data is sent to Hitch Feedyard in usually two weeks (Carcass data may be missing for some calves due to collection errors).
- 7) Hitch Feedyard sends the carcass data.
- 8) Data is entered, processed, and summarized.
- 9) Checks are requested for individual producers in the amount owed them.
- 10) When the checks are ready, we pick them up and then mail them to the individual producers.

As you can see, this takes time. We will always try to my very best to be expedient as possible (the best case scenario is about 3-4 weeks). If there is snafu somewhere in that chain of events, it could possibly take 6 weeks. Again, we will strive to get you the payments and data as soon as possible.

Liability Statement:

Each animal is the property of the owner/consignor until sold. While every effort will be made by all concerned to safeguard the health and well being of the cattle, neither the preconditioning site operators (McNeese State University, Dean Lee Research Station, Lafourche Parish Cattlemen), Louisiana State University AgCenter, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, the attending veterinarian, possible load out sites nor the feedlot may be held liable for loss of cattle due to theft, injury, sickness, death of any

other cause.

Recap of Important Points:

The following applies (includes the preconditioning phase):

- 1) Nomination fee is \$85.00 per head (applied toward trucking to Oklahoma). The nomination fees must be included with the nomination form. This also covers \$50 of the preconditioning charges that we bill you for anyway.
- 2) Nomination deadline with fee: postmarked by August 25, 2011 for calves going to McNeese State University. Nomination deadline with fee: postmarked by September 20, 2011 for calves going to McNeese State University.
- 3) A Minimum of three (3) steers per producer (there is no maximum number of animals that can be consigned).
- 4) Preconditioning (as outline in this document) is required.
- 5) Loading points will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 6) Length of the preconditioning period will be approximately 45 days.
- 7) Preconditioning fee will be due in full at the end of the preconditioning period.
- 8) Preconditioning can be conducted on the producer's farm. The producer should follow the attached preconditioning plan. Preconditioning conducted at home must be verified by the county extension agent.
- 9) All calves must have producer identification (e.g., ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival at the designated preconditioning/loading sites.
- 10) All calves must be Source and Age Verified.

If you have any questions about the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program, please contact your county agent or Tim Page at 225-578-7906, 225-405-4225 or tpage@agcenter.lsu.edu.

LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROJECT - NOMINATION FORM 2011 – 2012 FEED-OUT YEAR

Name: _____ Premise ID No.: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: *(important to receive regular updates)* _____

County Agent: _____

*Birthdates of Cattle: *(very important information)* _____

Total number of calves nominated	Per Head Fee	Total Amount Enclosed
_____	X \$85.00 =	\$ _____

If cattle are nominated for:

Lafourche Parish Cattlemen or Dean Lee Research Station

McNeese State University
Include W-9 Form if sending cattle to McNeese State. They must have this to pay you for your calves.

Make Checks Payable to:

LA Calf to Carcass. LCA

MSU Calf to Carcass

Please return this form with payment to:

Dr. Tim Page
Department of Animal Science
102 Francioni Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Darrin Goodwin
McNeese State University
2907 McNeese Farm Road
Lake Charles, LA 70607

Preconditioning Site (check one):

McNeese State University Dean Lee Lafourche Parish Home

Liability Statement:

Each animal is the property of the owner/consignor until sold. While every effort will be made by all concerned to safeguard the health and well being of the cattle, neither the preconditioning site operators (McNeese State University, Dean Lee Research Station, Lafourche Parish Cattlemen), Louisiana State University AgCenter, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, the attending veterinarian, nor the feedlot may be held liable for loss of cattle due to theft, injury, sickness, death of any other cause.

The signature below signifies that the owner has read and understands the rules of the Calf to Carcass Program - Preconditioning Plan and agrees to abide by the rules.

Signature _____ Date _____

STATEMENT OF PRECONDITIONING AT HOME

I attest that I followed the preconditioning program that the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program requires with my cattle that I preconditioned at home.

PRINTED PRODUCER NAME: _____

PARISH _____

PRODUCER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

COUNTY AGENT SIGNATURE: _____

We want to especially thank our sponsors of the program. They include the following:

- **Elanco Animal Health**
- **Pfizer**
- **Intervet**
- **Fort Dodge Animal Health**
- **Cargill/Nutrena**
- **Purina**
- **Lone Star Feeds**
- **Louisiana Cattlemen's Association**
- **Merial**
- **the Hitch Family**
- **Hitch Feedyard**