

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM26 – Managing calving to coincide with forage availability

Louisiana Criteria

A controlled calving season concentrates time and labor for calving, reduces expenses and increases efficiency. The herd health and management of the cow herd is better facilitated with a shortened calving season. Cow nutritional management can be improved when all cows are in the same stage of production. Controlled breeding allows producer to plan calving and rebreeding during times of peak forage production.

The calving dates will vary a little depending on the producer's location in the state (north vs. south Louisiana). The enhancement should be coordinated with either the flush/peak quality of cool season forages (rye grass, wheat, oats, clover, fescue) or warm season forages (common/hybrid bermudagrass, bahia, dallisgrass, and natives). Calving should be done 4-6 weeks prior to this, with a 90 day calving season as a goal.

Contact a Grazing Lands Specialist for assistance.