

# **TARGETED REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT IN BEEF CATTLE**

## *An Advanced Master Cattleman Program*

### **Introduction**

Targeted reproductive management is a new concept in managing reproduction in beef cattle. On the first day of the breeding season most beef cattle operations have cows that fit into two reproductive categories; cyclic and anestrus. Cows that have initiated estrous cycles have little problem conceiving during a 60-day breeding season. Alternatively, cows that have not begun to have estrous cycles often struggle to conceive and are often the cause of poor herd reproductive performance. This class will help producers learn the importance of regulating anestrus in cows, will teach producers to identify anestrus cows, and educate producers on methods to enhance the breeding performance of anestrus cows.

### **Course Outline**

This Advanced Master Cattleman course is designed to coincide with a “Targeted Reproductive Management” demonstration project. The course will consist of 2 lectures and 5 hands-on laboratories. The course will begin with a lecture explaining the biology, incidence, and management of anestrus in calving cows. This lecture will likely last about 2 hours (perhaps slightly longer). The course will then move to a farm. The first lab will focus on identification of cyclic and anestrus cows. Producers will first use calving records and cow data (age) to make a preliminary sort. Then producers will BCS all cows. Cows that are young (2 year olds), late-calving, or thin will be considered anestrus and will be treated. The remaining cows will not be handled. The second lab (could be combined with the first) will teach producers how to insert CIDR devices. All producers are expected to participate. One week later, another lab will teach the participants how to remove the CIDR devices and how to clean the CIDR devices for reuse. The fourth lab will occur when pregnancy is determined in the cows. Participants are encouraged to learn the basics of pregnancy diagnosis. The final lab session will occur when the calves born from this system are weaned. Weaning weight will be determined and compared to cows that were not treated. The final lecture session will discuss the results of the course/trial and will compare the results of this trial with the other trials conducted throughout the state. This final lecture could be in a field-day format instead of an organized lecture.

### **Requirements**

- 25 participants
- At least one herd committed to the Targeted Reproductive Management Demonstration project.
- Agent responsible for organizing ALL local events including the farm visits
- The specialist will likely NOT demonstrate CIDR insertion and removal and may not participate in weighing the calves.

## **Specialist Provides**

- Lectures
- CIDR devices
- Data analysis and organization
- Other support