



2016 – 2017 Alabama Pasture to Rail Program

Rules and Regulations



Announcing 2016-2017 Alabama Pasture to Rail Program

After taking a break for several years, Alabama Pasture to Rail is back! Alabama Pasture to Rail is a retained ownership program allowing beef producers to collect post-weaning performance and carcass data on cattle from their breeding program. This allows producers to determine whether changes need to be made to the breeding program for post-weaning traits.

Southeastern cattle represent 25% of calves being fed in U.S. feedlots annually. For most producers, calves are sold at weaning, and because of U.S. Beef Industry fragmentation, little to no feedback is provided back to the cow/calf level. However, in the end, a high quality carcass is the most valuable item a cow/calf operation produces, but it is the last thing producers are paid for.

As the U.S. Beef Industry moves forward, the prosperity of the entire industry rests on its customers. In 2015, beef prices were 57% higher than pork and 207% higher than chicken. The demand for beef has remained strong because customers still want taste. Much of beef's taste or flavor is enhanced by the amount of marbling in the beef. In early 2015, sales of prime and branded choice beef surpassed sales of select beef for the first time backing up the claim that our customers want taste.

Understanding how calves fit into the entire beef chain is critical for optimal marketing. Obtaining post-weaning and carcass information on calves will allow you to tweak your breeding program and strengthen your position in marketing your calves each year.

Objectives

The Alabama Pasture to Rail Program is an educational program for cattle producers. The purpose is to give cattle producers the following opportunities without the investment required to finish an entire pen of cattle.

1. To obtain individual animal data for post-weaning performance and carcass merit that can be used to assist producers with selection decisions pertaining to existing breeding programs.
2. To educate cattle producers on recommended health practices and custom feeding programs.

General Information

1. A consignor may enter three (3) or more home-raised steers or heifers born September 1, 2015 or after, provided that each calf weigh a minimum of 600 pounds on the day of delivery.
2. Consignments are **due** three weeks prior to shipment of cattle. A consignment fee of \$75 per head is required at nomination for trucking, ear tags and health papers. The consignment fee is refundable until 10 days prior to shipment.

2016-17 Shipping Dates	
Nomination Due	Shipment Date
August 31	September 21
September 28	October 19
January 11	February 1
*Additional shipping dates can be added	

3. Calves must be weaned for **60** days prior to shipment. They must also be castrated and dehorned and properly vaccinated.

4. Calves will be gathered at central locations around Alabama for shipping. Locations will be determined once nominations are received. At the shipping point, calves will be tagged, weighed and graded.
5. Cattle will be shipped to Hy-Plains Feedlot in Montezuma, KS as soon as possible after processing. This will be a 15-20 hour ride depending on where calves are comingled in Alabama.
6. For calves to be shipped on a given date, there **must** be 48,000 pounds of cattle to ship.
7. Cattle will be fed to market weight as determined by the feedlot management team.
8. There will be a maximum of three (3) slaughter dates per shipment to try and slaughter cattle at their optimum size.
9. Cattle will remain the property of the consignor, and thus consignors assume responsibility for loss by death or injury. A named peril insurance in which all cattle will be covered is automatically provided at the feedlot. Bloat and respiratory items are not covered by the peril insurance. Items covered include lightning strikes, smothering by snowstorms, tornadoes or electrocution. Other livestock insurance can be purchased by each individual consignor which could cover losses due to bloat, broken limbs, respiratory, water belly, enterotoxemia and the like. Consignors would be responsible for purchasing additional insurance prior to shipment.

About the Feedyard, Including Costs

Hy-Plains Feedyard is located in Montezuma, KS, which is approximately 30 miles west of Dodge City. It has a 28,000 head capacity.

Hy-Plains will sell the cattle on a carcass grid. Cattle can be sold to one of three plants: Cargill, Tyson or National Beef. At National Beef, cattle would be sold on the U.S. Premium Beef grid. At the other two plants, they would be sold on the plant carcass grid. Thus, cattle will be sold based on their merit to grow, grade and yield.

The following table will outline the costs of retaining ownership:

Item	Cost/head
Shipping/tags/health papers	\$75.00
Yardage (cost/day at feedyard)	\$0.30
Feed cost – feed cost plus \$30/ton markup (In June \$262/T or \$0.131/lb)	Varies
Interest rate on carrying costs	5%
Carcass collection. If U.S. Premium Beef, \$7/hd. If Cargill or Tyson, \$3/hd	\$3-\$7
National Beef Checkoff	\$1.00
Administrative Fee	\$4.00

There will also be an opportunity for risk protection. Hy-Plains is willing to put our cattle under price protection using a basis contract. That will allow us some protection against falling prices. The cost of the price protection would be added to the bill.

Mandatory Pre-Delivery Calf Management

Producers are strongly urged work with their veterinarian and to carefully follow the pre- delivery health guidelines. Complete the health record enclosed. The following must be done at least 4 weeks prior to delivery:

1. Castrated, dehorned and healed.
2. Dewormed
3. Vaccinated for:
 - a. IBR, BVD, PI₃ and BSRV
 - b. 7-way Blackleg
 - c. Mannheimia hemolytica and Pasteurella multocida
4. Booster Vaccinations for:
 - a. IBR, BVD, PI₃ and BSRV
 - i. Booster must be a Modified Live Vaccine
 - b. 7-way Blackleg
5. Weaned and started on feed for 60 days by shipping date (minimum 5 lbs. per hd/day).
6. Do not implant calves at weaning. The implant program will begin when calves are started on feed.

The pre-shipment health program is extremely important. Immunity is established only if calves are vaccinated without added stress. For added protection,

the above series of vaccinations is given 30 to 60 days prior to weaning and repeated at weaning.

Explanation of Health Program for Alabama Pasture to Rail Calves

A vaccination record, stating the calf has been vaccinated for IBR, PI₃, BVD, BRSV (Respiratory); Clostridium chauvoei, septicum, sordellii, novyi, perfringens types C & D, bacterin-toxoid (7-way Blackleg); Mannheimia hemolytica and Pasteurella multocida all according to manufacturer's recommendations.

We recommend at least using a modified live vaccine to booster calves for IBR, PI₃, BRSV, and BVD. Following label directions when utilizing modified live vaccine is extremely important. This is imperative with calves nursing pregnant cows.

Any implants given on the farm should be given long enough before shipment to "play out" before arrival at the feedyard. This will allow you to receive the full benefit of any implants you use and give the feed yard the ability to fully implement their implant strategy.

Recommendations above required program:

If you feel you have an immune response problem on your farm, giving each calf an A-D-E vitamin shot can also help jumpstart their immune system.

It also might be a very good idea to test for persistently infected BVD calves. To do this, you send an ear notch sample to Alabama Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Auburn. The sample submission form can be found at:

<http://www.agi.alabama.gov/divisions/avdl/submission-forms>

The cost is \$5/hd. You will need tubes to put the ear notch in. You may be able to obtain these from your veterinarian, or you can order:

<http://www.agi.alabama.gov/divisions/avdl/fee-schedule>

Synopsis of Recommended Health Program:

1. *Approximately 3-month old calf:*
 - a. Vaccinations for:

- i. 7-way Blackleg (Clostridial)
 - b. Also castrate and implant.
 2. *Around weaning:*
 - a. Booster vaccinations for:
 - i. 7-way Blackleg (Clostridial)
 - ii. IBR-BVD-PI₃-BRSV(Respiratory) using a Modified Live vaccine.
 - b. Deworm.
 3. *Three to Six weeks later(According to Vaccine Label):*
 - a. Booster vaccination for:
 - i. IBR-BVD-PI₃-BRSV (Respiratory) using a Modified Live vaccine.
 - b. Vaccinate for Mannheimia hemolytica and Pasteurella multocida
 - c. DO NOT RE-IMPLANT CALVES PRIOR TO SHIPMENT

Producers are strongly urged work with their veterinarian and to carefully follow the health guidelines.

Questions?

For more information regarding the Alabama Pasture to Rail Program, please contact:

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2016-2017 Alabama Pasture to Rail Consignment Form

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Premise ID: _____

Email Address: _____

Farm Tag	Consignment Tag ^a	Birth Date ^b	Estimated Wt. at Shipment	Sire Registration No.	Sire Breed	Dam ID	Dam Breed

^a Assigned at shipping location ^b At least month and year

Preferred Shipping Date: September _____ October _____ February _____

Return completed Consignment form and \$75/hd consignment fee at least **21 days prior to shipment to:**
 Alex Tigie; Animal Science & Forages Regional Agent; 13075 Alabama Highway 157, #6; Moulton, AL 35650; email: dat0002@aces.edu

2016-2017 Alabama Pasture to Rail Health Form

Option 1

3 mo. of age	Product	Company	Route	Date
Clostridial 7-way			SQ only	

Around Weaning	Product	Company	Route	Date
Clostridial 7-way			SQ only	
IBR/BVD/PI ₃ /BSRV				
Deworm				
External Parasites (if necessary)				

3 to 6 Weeks Later	Product	Company	Route	Date
IBR/BVD/PI ₃ /BSRV				
Pasturella*				

Date Weaned: _____ Date Castrated: _____ Date Dehorned: _____

Implanted? If yes; date & product _____

- Depending on manufacturer, the pasturella vaccine may be a one time vaccine. Some products require a booster. Read label directions on all products and follow specific product directions.

2016-2017 Alabama Pasture to Rail Health Form

Option 2

At Weaning	Product	Company	Route	Date
Clostridial 7-way			SQ only	
IBR/BVD/PI ₃ /BSRV				
Deworm				
External Parasites (if necessary)				

3 to 6 weeks later*	Product	Company	Route	Date
IBR/BVD/PI ₃ /BSRV				
Clostridial 7-way			SQ only	
Pasteurella				

*Booster vaccinations should be administered in a time frame listed on the label of the vaccine.

Date Weaned: _____ Date Castrated/dehorned: _____

Implanted? If yes; date & product _____

- Depending on manufacturer, the pasturella vaccine may be a one time vaccine. Some products require a booster. Read label directions on all products and follow specific product directions.