

## CFAP Program 2 cont'd

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Producers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can [call 877-508-8364](tel:877-508-8364) to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment.



### CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2

Accepting Applications  
Through Dec. 11



[Learn More](#)

Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment.

Local Farm Service Agency contact information:

- Menomonie Service Center (715) 232-2614 Ext 2
- Baldwin Service Center (715) 684-2874 Ext 2
- Barron Service Center (715) 537-5645 Ext 2
- Chippewa Falls Service Center (715) 723-8556 Ext 2
- Durand Service Center (715) 672-8663 Ext 4

Please feel free to also reach out to local Extension Agriculture educators if you have specific questions or assistance in completing the CFAP 2 application.

## Culling Considerations for Beef Cow-Calf Herd

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Culling decisions are a routine part of beef cow-calf herd management. Producers should make culling decisions based on what is best for their farm's profitability, and what is best for animal well-being. This can be summed up as marketing cattle while they are in a condition that processors prefer, before they become a transportation risk, and their value declines.

Adequately conditioned cows have greater carcass and economic value and are increasingly being referred to as market cows instead of cull cows. The following suggestions are general considerations for you to factor in when developing your farm's culling strategies.

### Decisions specific to an individual animal

**Declining health and/or weight loss:** Scrutiny is greater than ever to evaluate livestock fitness for transport, specifically cattle at risk for becoming non-ambulatory. Cows must be in adequate health to make the haul when leaving the farm for market and from market to the processing plant. Farmers need to make the decision to market cows before declining health or low Body Condition Scores (BCS) makes them less desirable to processors and sales revenue is lost.

**Reproduction:** Reproductive efficiency is one of the greatest factors impacting beef cow-calf enterprise profitability. Open cows and heifers consume feed without providing income from calf sales. Late calving cows produce lighter weight calves and have fewer chances to breed back. Economic modeling shows that 6 calvings are needed to recover the initial investment of rearing a replacement heifer. In Boyer's analysis it took 8 calvings if one calving season is lost due to failure to conceive, and over 9 calves if two calving seasons were lost.

**Udder conformation:** Cows with weakening udder attachments and median suspensory ligaments can have low, pendulous udders. Extremely low udders can be difficult for calves to reach to suckle and are a risk for injury and mastitis infections. Large teats can also be difficult for calves to nurse.

**Feet and legs:** Lameness is an animal well-being concern and can lead to rapid weight loss. In less extreme cases, undesirable foot and leg composition can lead to chronic mobility issues. Extremely straight ("posty") or set ("sickle hocked") rear leg set and poor rump structure are examples of structural faults that negatively affect mobility. In

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