LEBANON COUNTY DAIRY BEEF CLUB

January 20th 2026

Birth Dates & Calf Selection: **Calves must be born January 20th - February 28th, 2026.** Calves with white feet, a white tail or white on their face bigger than a silver dollar are discouraged. A buyer will reserve the option for deduction on these cattle.
-Calves must be sired by angus and be crossed with a 1st generation Holstein or the other 7 U.S. dairy breeds. (Holstein, R&W Holstein, Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn, Jersey, Ayrshire, and Guernsey)
Some A.I. companies will provide a blue or red tag to put in the calf to identify the genetic sourcing, please use these tags in addition to our club tag. Please let Duane know when you are ready to tag your calves.

Calf Selection is Key:

Frame Size of the Calf- The size of the calf is an important feature to consider. Larger calves tend to become heavier feeder steers. However, smaller-framed steers tend to be thicker and produce heavier-muscled carcasses. Calves from short statured cows that exhibit less "dairy traits" are good candidates for breeding.

Conformation and Balance of the Calf- Conformation is the way the entire body structure is put together. Structural correctness is essential in ensuring that the calf can compete for feed with other steers in a feedlot. Balance is more important from a show standpoint. The conformation flaws seen at birth will rarely change as the calf grows. A shallow-bodied, bow-legged, heavy-fronted calf will have those same characteristics as a feeder and finished steer. You can tell a lot about a calf by looking at his face.

Muscling of the Calf- Even as young as one day old, a calf's muscle structure is evident. When selecting a calf, compare the calves. The easiest place to look for muscling on a new- born is in the hindquarters. **Look at your calf from behind and observe the muscles across the rump and down the hindquarters.** Natural muscling will also be visible in the stifle area. Calves should stand naturally with their rear legs wide apart.

Health of the Calf- Newborn calves can get sick very easily in the first few weeks of age, especially if they did not get enough colostrum. Simply transporting the calf to your home causes stress. Look for signs of illness right away. Scours, lethargy and/ or a runny nose are warming signs that your calf is already feeling under the weather.



Calf Management & Vaccinate:

-Use calf blankets to conserve energy and improve rate of gain. Always have a thermometer on hand.
-Thermometer- You need to have one on hand. A rise in body temperature is an indication of an infection.
-Make sure ventilation is adequate, good air exchange with no drafts.
-The 20 second knee test, make sure the bedding is plentiful and dry.
-Be looking for some common health-relate related illnesses:
-Scours (Diarrhea) - Thin manure that is foul smelling and hard to find but look for a wet tail.
Pneumonia – Lethargic behavior, lack of appetite, high temperature, cough, rapid breathing.
This can even result after scours.
-Electrolytes- You need to have some on hand to help with scours treatment and receiving your calf.
-Castration and Dehorning should be done prior to weaning or 8 weeks of age.
-Measure your calf so you have a starting point.
- Remember that calves are born with **no** immunity, it needs to be developed through colostrum.
-Vaccinate against respiratory diseases, BRSV, IBR, PI3 with an intranasal product like INFORCE 3

This vaccine does not certify them for the Lebanon Fair. Additional vaccines will need to be given later, including a repeat of INFORCE 3.

Feeding Milk Replacer:

-Use a milk replacer that is 22% protein and 20% fat minimum, with a feeding rate
of 1.5 lb. (24 oz.) of powder per day. Wean when your calf is 8 weeks old or 1.5lb of starter feed per day.
-Mix at the appropriate water temperature 110-115 degrees. Free-Choice Water needs to be warm water.
-Measure the appropriate amount of water to mix with milk replacer.
-3X a day feeding would be 10-12 oz. of powder per feeding.
-Feeding a colostrum replacer (IgG) the first 2 weeks with the milk replacer and help prevent scours.
-Feed buckets and water need to be clean and highly managed.
-Calves should double their birth weight by 2 months of age.

Feeding Grain:

-Begin offering calf starter grain within the first week, minimum 18% protein, 20% or 22% is better.
-Textured coarse feeds with no fines will get the best consumption. Keep feed fresh, throw-out old feed.

-Starter feed should be medicated for coccidiosis, examples are Deccox, Rummensin or Bovatec.

How to find calves:

Meadow Spring Farm, Andy Bollinger 717-587-4829

Duane Copenhaver, 717-821-0675

Meadow Wood Farms, Dave Bomberger 717-821-9577

Scattered Acres, Diane Hartman 484-955-9055 (Call between 7a.m. to Noon)

Leaders: Duane Nolt 717-813-3373

Jess Spangler 570-444-0002

LEBANON COUNTY
Youth Ag & Community Clubs