Activity 1

Beef Cattle – Calendar of Operations

(late winter/early spring calving *Bos taurus* herd)

A Calendar of Operations is a month-by-month guide to managing a sustainable, productive and efficient farming enterprise with considerations to animal health and productivity. This tool will vary based on production systems, location, breeds, goals and management practices.

Observe the 'Beef Cattle – Calendar of Operations' poster and cut out the 12 operation cards. Sequence the cards in the correct order from January to December. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Place breeders in pre-calving paddocks	**Remove bulls from breeders**	**Joining of bulls and female animals starts**	**Pasture planning for autumn sowing**
Evaluate end-of-year production and management	**Conduct pregnancy testing of breeders**	**Annual vaccination for all non-breeding stock**	**Wean calves if the market preference**
Mark, NLIS tag, and castrate as applicable	**Calving continues; monitor cows and calves**	**Calving starts; monitor for birthing difficulty**	**Condition score pregnant cows and heifers**

Activity 2

1. Review the key tasks outlined in the Beef Cattle – Calendar of Operations poster. Explain why tasks like calving, weaning calves and vaccinations occur at specific times of the year.

2. Consider a year that may have lower rainfall. Identify two ways that this factor may impact the calendar of operations.

3. Consider a year that may have higher parasite pressure. Identify two ways that this factor may impact the calendar of operations.
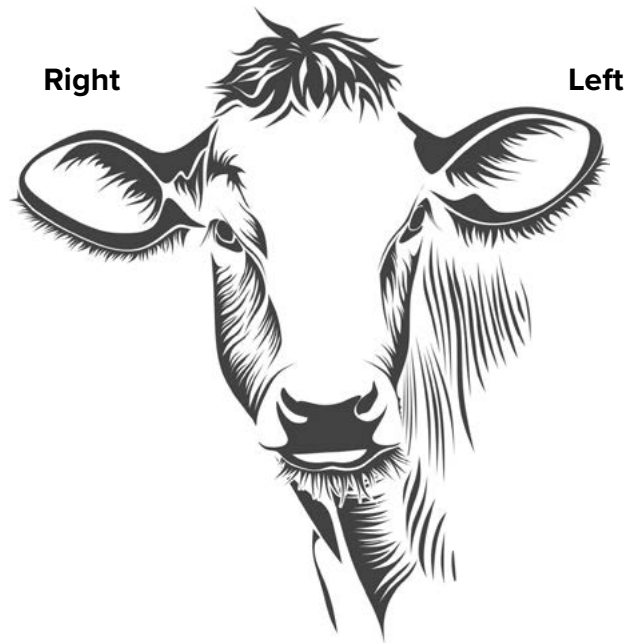
Activity 2 continued

Activity **2**

Extension:

4. Research and list the diseases that the 7-in-1 vaccine protects cattle against.

5. Explain why the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is important for the red meat industry.

6. Identify the correct placement of an NLIS tag on cattle by colouring the specific area on the image.

Right　　　　　　　　**Left**

Refer to Answers document for references.

Access the curriculum-aligned Australian Good Meat Education resources Year 7–10 to extend the learning on this topic, including Year 7–8 Manging sustainable red meat production, Feeding strategies and product quality, Management of plants and animals and Year 9–10 Intensive and extensive production systems, Animal welfare considerations, and Emerging production technologies.