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Poster: Beef Cattle – Calendar of Operations

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

1. Calving typically occurs during late winter or early spring to align with improving pasture conditions. This ensures sufficient nutrition for lactating cows and promotes healthy growth in calves. Calves are usually weaned at 7–8 months of age. This timing reduces nutritional demand on cows, allowing them to recover before the next breeding cycle. It also prepares calves for independent growth, often coinciding with abundant feed availability. Vaccinations are scheduled to provide protection against diseases during critical periods, such as before calving, weaning, or transport. This minimises stress-related risks and helps ensure herd health.
2. Lower rainfall can lead to reduced pasture growth, increasing the need for supplementary feeding or adjustments in grazing to prevent overgrazing. Producers may need to reduce herd sizes to match available feed resources, sell cattle earlier or adjust breeding schedules to minimise pasture stress.
3. Higher parasite pressure, such as ticks or worms, may require more frequent health checks and treatments to maintain cattle health and prevent production losses. Producers may need to rotate pastures more frequently or avoid high-risk areas where parasites are more prevalent to reduce exposure.
4. Tetanus; Blackleg; Malignant Oedema; Black Disease; Pulpy Kidney (Enterotoxaemia); *Leptospirosis hardjo*; *Leptospirosis pomona*.
5. The NLIS ensures livestock traceability throughout their lifecycle, which is critical for managing disease outbreaks. It maintains food safety by recording livestock movement and health, supporting export markets by meeting stringent biosecurity and quality assurance standards. This system builds consumer trust and upholds Australia's reputation as a producer of high-quality, safe meat products.



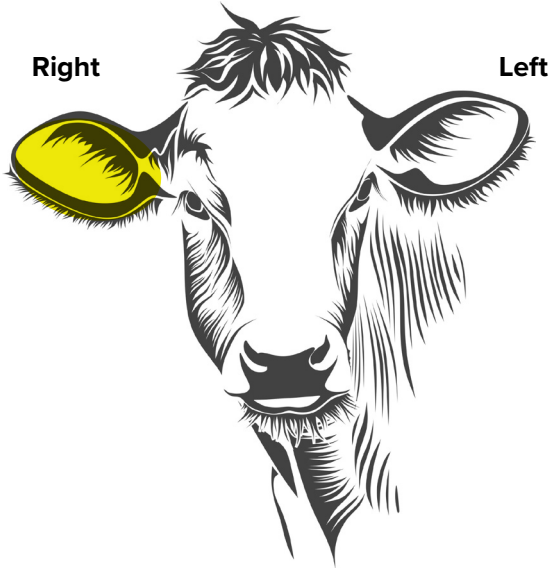
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ANSWERS

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6. The NLIS tag is placed on the right ear of the cattle.



References

Animal Husbandry and other Calendars – Local Land Services. (n.d.). www.lls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/every-bit-counts/resources/livestock/managing-animals/calendars

NSW Local Land Services. (2025). Beef Calendar of Operations. https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1273848/SELLS-Beef-Calendar-Final-version.pdf