Successful Beef Production Begins With Good Records

Year:

NDSU | EXTENSION

Calving Book

CHAPS

Owner:_____

Owner's phone: _____

CHAPS ID:_____

Herd ID: _____

CHAPS™ (Cow Herd Appraisal Performance Software) Online is a data-intensive beef production record system designed to provide you with vital information about your managerial decisions and herd's performance.

CHAPS™ was developed in 1985 by NDSU Extension and the North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association with CHAPS™ Online being released in 2022.

CHAPS™ Online collects, stores and evaluates individual herd data, according to Beef Improvement Federation guidelines. Specialists compile herd data to generate five-year rolling benchmarks of key cow herd production parameters.

For more information about CHAPS™, visit **chaps.ndsu.edu** or email **ndsu.chaps.info@ndsu.edu**.

Why Keep a Calving Book?

A calving book provides:

- An inventory of cows in the herd and calves produced for management and marketing decisions

- Cattle identification in conjunction with calving and weaning information, which is the basis for evaluating cow productivity and herd reproduction

- Details on health care, bull turnout dates and breeding records of the animals in a beef cow herd

Resource Contact List

NDSU Extension Beef Specialists

Karl Hoppe
Carrington Research Extension Center
701-652-2951
karl.hoppe@ndsu.edu

Janna Block
Hettinger Research Extension Center
701-567-4323
janna.block@ndsu.edu

Zachary Carlson
701-231-1884
or 701-231-7641
zachary.e.carlson@ndsu.edu
or ndsu.ansc@ndsu.edu

NDSU Extension Beef Quality Assurance Specialist

Lisa Pederson
701-328-9718
lisa.pederson@ndsu.edu

NDSU Extension Veterinarian

Gerald Stokka
701-231-5082
gerald.stokka@ndsu.edu

2023

JANUARY 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2024

JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2025

JANUARY 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Calving Records

Calving Ease (CE) Codes

1 = No difficulty, no assistance
2 = Minor difficulty; some assistance
3 = Major difficulty; usually mechanical assistance
4 = Caesarean section
5 = Abnormal presentation

Sex Codes

0 = Miscellaneous (assigned for management codes A, B and C, and D if sex is unknown)
1 = Bull
2 = Heifer
3 = Steer

International Year Letter Codes

2010 X	2019 ...... G	2028 ..... Q
2011 ...... Y	2020 ...... H	2029 ..... R
2012 ...... Z	2021 ...... J	2030 ..... S
2013 ...... A	2022 ...... K	2031 ..... T
2014 ...... B	2023 L	2032 ..... U
2015 C	2024 ...... M	2033 V
2016 ...... D	2025 ...... N	2034 ..... W
2017 ...... E	2026 ..... O	2035 X
2018 ...... F	2027 ..... P	2036 ..... Y

Calving Records

Management Codes(MC)

0 = no creep feed
1-7 = months actual creep fed
A = cow that didn't calve but kept in herd
B = cow aborted
C = calf died before 2 weeks of age
D = calf died after 2 weeks but before weighing
E = embryo transplant
F = purchased calf
N = calf that was in herd but raised by another cow
K = twin, raised on foster cow with known birthdate
S = twin, raised on own dam as single
T = twin, raised on own dam as twin
X = calf present but not weighed

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Records

Calf ID	Cow ID	Sex	Sire	DOB	BW

Calving Records

CE	MC	Notes

Calving Summary

Item	Days 1-30	Days 31-60	Days 61-90	Days > 90
Cows calved				
Calves lost				
Birth difficulty				
Scours				
Illness				
Malnutrition				
Other_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
# Heifer calves				
# Steer calves				
# Bull calves				
Comments				

Health Records

The success of a beef operation depends on the health of your beef animals. Healthy cattle grow better. They also adapt to environmental changes faster and more easily.

An active health management protocol is very important. A key component of any health protocol involves a relationship with the local veterinarian, which includes regular dialogue.

Disease control and prevention, animal traceback and good-quality beef products for consumers require collaboration along the entire beef industry chain.

Keep a record of vaccinations, antimicrobials and parasiticids administered to cattle. Keeping this type of information can increase the value of your animals.

Processing

Processing information helps you provide a complete "picture" of how you manage your animals . Work with your veterinarian to develop a complete herd health program for your animals.

Most herds process different classes of cattle (calves, cows, bulls or replacement heifers) the same so recording individual ID is not needed. A suggested method could be "Repl Heifers, Red #124-237."

However, sometimes individual animals are not processed along with others because of some underlying condition such as too young, sick or injured. The ID's of these animals can be noted as NOT processed. A suggested method could be "Not Processed Repl Heifer #195, running fever."

Processing

DATE PROC – date of processing

PROD – product name, serial number

IDs of animals NOT processed – When recording information, it is often easier to record which animals were NOT processed on that day and record them as a "Treatment" at a later date.

BY WHOM – person administering product

Processing

Date Proc.	Product, Dose and Serial #	Processed Group Animal ID's OR Not Processed Individual Animal ID	W/D Days	By Whom

Processing

Date Proc.	Product, Dose and Serial #	Processed Group Animal ID's OR Not Processed Individual Animal ID	W/D Days	By Whom

Processing

Date Proc.	Product, Dose and Serial #	Processed Group Animal ID's OR Not Processed Individual Animal ID	W/D Days	By Whom

Treatment

Recording the treatment of animals should be on an individual basis. Not all animals will respond the same. Work with your veterinarian to develop a standardized treatment protocol for the different types of animals within your herd. A treatment program is part of a complete herd health program for your animals.

Treatment

DATE ADMIN – date treatment was administered

ID – animal's identification

DX – Following are recommendations for diagnosis and treatment:

    R - respiratory

    P - pinkeye

    F - footrot

    S - structural (ex: leg, hip)

    U - reproductive (ex: metritis, retained placenta)

    M - metabolic (ex: grass tetany, milk fever)

    O - other

PROD – product name, serial number

WD DAYS – product withdrawal days

BY WHOM – person administering product

Treatment

Date Admin.	ID	Dx (Codes on Page 78)	Prod., Dose and Serial #	W/D Days	By Whom

Treatment

Date Admin.	ID	Dx (Codes on Page 78)	Prod., Dose and Serial #	W/D Days	By Whom

Treatment

Date Admin.	ID	Dx (Codes on Page 78)	Prod., Dose and Serial #	W/D Days	By Whom

Treatment

Date Admin.	ID	Dx (Codes on Page 78)	Prod., Dose and Serial #	W/D Days	By Whom

Treatment

Date Admin.	ID	Dx (Codes on Page 78)	Prod., Dose and Serial #	W/D Days	By Whom

CHAPS™
Cow Culling
Codes

The collection of performance data in beef cattle has helped the industry move forward to evaluate many different traits. In addition to direct economic evaluations, producers can assess resource usage and benefits indirectly.

Another major benefit of performance data is the ability to evaluate traits that can be useful in improving the quality of beef products sold to consumers.

  G = cow died
  H = cow sold, age
  J = cow sold, physical defect
  K = cow sold, poor fertility or open
  L = cow sold, inferior calves
  R = cow sold, replacement stock
  Y = cow sold, unknown

Culling Records

Date	Animal	(Based on codes on Page 82)

Culling Records

Date	Animal	(Based on codes on Page 82)

Culling Records

Date	Animal	(Based on codes on Page 82)

Culling Records

Date	Animal	(Based on codes on Page 82)

Culling Records

Date	Animal	(Based on codes on Page 82)

Beef Improvement Federation (BIF)

Body Condition Scoring (BCS) for Beef Cattle

(Richards et al., 1986. J. Anim. Sci. 62:300.)

Condition BCS Description

THIN

1: **Emaciated** – The cow is extremely emaciated, with no palpable fat detectable over the spinous processes, transverse processes, hip bones or ribs. The tail head and ribs project quite prominently.

2: **Poor** – The cow still appears somewhat emaciated but the tail head and ribs are less prominent. Individual spinous processes still are rather sharp to the touch, but some tissue cover exists over the dorsal portion of the ribs.

3: **Thin** – Ribs still are individually identifiable but not quite as sharp to the touch. Obvious palpable fat is along the spine and over the tail head, with some tissue cover over the dorsal portion of the ribs.

4: **Borderline** – Individual ribs no longer are visually obvious. The spinous processes can be identified individually on palpation but feel rounded rather than sharp. Some fat cover is over the ribs, transverse processes and hip bones.

OPTIMUM/MODERATE

5: **Moderate** – The cow has a generally good overall appearance. On palpation, the fat cover over the ribs feels spongy and areas on either side of the tail head have palpable fat cover.

6: **High moderate** – Firm pressure needs to be applied to feel the spinous processes. A high degree of fat is palpable over the ribs and around the tail head.

FAT

7: **Good** – The cow appears fleshy and obviously carries considerable fat. Very spongy fat cover is over the ribs and around the tail head. In fact, "rounds" or "pones" are beginning to be obvious. Some fat is around the vulva and in the crotch.

8: **Fat** – The cow very fleshy and over-conditioned. Spinous processes are almost impossible to palpate. The cow has large fat deposits over the ribs, around the tail head and below the vulva. "Rounds" or "pones" are obvious.

9: **Extremely fat** – The cow is obviously extremely wasty and patchy and looks blocky. The tail head and hips are buried in fatty tissue and "rounds" or "pones" of fat are protruding. Bone structure no longer is visible and barely palpable. The animal's mobility even might be impaired by large fatty deposits.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS)
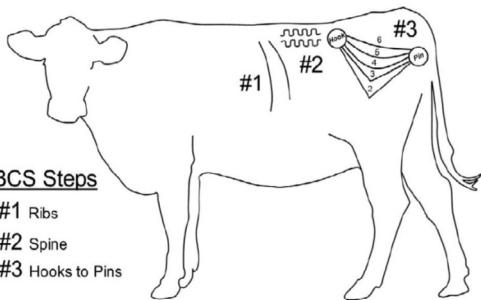
BCS Steps

#1 Ribs

#2 Spine

#3 Hooks to Pins

1. **Look at last two ribs**
   Visible: <5
   Not visible: ≥ 5

   U.S. Beef
   Body Condition Scores:
   Range from 1-9
   BCS 1: Starved
   BCS 9: Obese

2. **Spine**
   Visible: ≤ 3

3. **Shape between hooks and pins (thurl)**
   Shallow U: BCS 6
   Strong U: BCS 5
   V Shape: BCS 4
   Strong V: BCS 3
   Very Strong V: BCS 2

3-Step Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Guide for Range Cattle (B-1294), Scasta, et al, 2016, University of Wyoming Extension. http://www.wyoextension.org/publications/html/B1294/

A Look at BCS-Cows

Last two ribs visible: BCS <5
Spine visible: BCS ≤3
Shape between hooks and pins is strong V: BCS 3

BCS 3

Last two ribs visible: BCS <5
Spine not visible: BCS >3
Shape between hooks and pins is V: BCS 4

BCS 4

Last two ribs not visible: BCS ≥5
Spine not visible: BCS >3
Shape between hooks and pins is strong U: BCS 5

BCS 5

Last two ribs not visible: BCS ≥5
Spine not visible: BCS >3
Shape between hooks and pins is very shallow or flat U: BCS ≥6

BCS 6+

3-Step Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Guide for Range Cattle (B-1294), Scasta, et al, 2016, University of Wyoming Extension. http://www.wyoextension.org/publications/html/B1294/

Gestation Table

Estimated calving date (283 days)

Breed Date	Calf Date	Breed Date	Calf Date
Jan. 1	Oct. 11	July 4	April 13
Jan. 9	Oct. 19	July 12	April 21
Jan. 17	Oct. 27	July 20	April 29
Jan. 25	Nov. 4	July 28	May 7
Feb. 2	Nov. 12	Aug. 5	May 15
Feb. 10	Nov. 20	Aug. 13	May 23
Feb. 18	Nov. 28	Aug. 21	May 31
Feb. 26	Dec. 6	Aug. 29	June 8
March 6	Dec. 14	Sept. 6	June 16
March 14	Dec. 22	Sept. 14	June 24
March 22	Dec. 30	Sept. 22	July 2
March 30	Jan. 7	Sept. 30	July 10
April 7	Jan. 15	Oct. 8	July 18
April 15	Jan. 23	Oct. 16	July 26
April 23	Jan. 31	Oct. 24	Aug. 3
May 1	Feb. 8	Nov. 1	Aug. 11
May 9	Feb. 16	Nov. 9	Aug. 19
May 17	Feb. 24	Nov. 17	Aug. 27
May 25	March 4	Nov. 25	Sept. 4
June 2	March 12	Dec. 3	Sept. 12
June 10	March 20	Dec. 11	Sept. 20
June 18	March 28	Dec. 19	Sept. 28
June 26	April 5	Dec. 27	Oct. 6

*Leap years: If the breed date is between May 22 (prior to leap year) and Feb. 28 (leap year), then subtract one day from calf date. Use www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html to verify the calf date by adding 283 days to the breed date for specific years.

Local Extension Assistance Available

North Dakota State University Extension has a network of beef professionals available for all counties in North Dakota.

If you have questions about beef production, your local Extension agent is available to assist you or put you in touch with people knowledgeable about issues such as electronic identification, range management, cropping systems and waste management.

Also contact your local Extension agent for additional calving books. A complete listing of Extension agents is at **www.ndsu.edu/ agriculture/ag-home/directory**.

CHAPS™

A Management Tool
That Helps Beef Producers Connect
With All Segments of the Beef Industry!

Agriculture Communication Distribution Center
NDSU Dept. 7070
PO Box 6050
Fargo ND 58108-6050