Geaux Beef Replacement Heifer Guidelines
LSU AGCENTER
RESEARCH STATION DEVELOPMENT
2026-2027

Program Objectives:
- Develop a management verification program focused on best management practices (BMPs).
- Educate producers on advantages and disadvantages of different marketing avenues.
- Collect and disseminate data on heifer and cow productivity and performance of offspring.
- Assess producer profitability through implementation of BMPs and chosen marketing avenues.

Benefits of the Program:
- Consultations with members of the LSU AgCenter on all aspects of production, such as reproductive management, health protocols, herd nutrition, record keeping, data analysis, and product marketing.
- Opportunity to collect and evaluate growth and reproductive performance data.
- Opportunity to market heifers through LSU AgCenter-supported sales.
    - An online catalog of all Geaux Beef verified heifers will be developed and advertised publicly prior to all LSU AgCenter-supported sales.

What is an LSU AgCenter-Supported Sale?
- We are excited to be partnering with local auction barns throughout the state to consign Geaux Beef heifers into their sales in the spring and fall.
- Participating auction barns will select dates to sale Geaux Beef heifers. This may be during a weekly sale or a special sale. Sale dates will be announced months in advance for marketing purposes.
- The LSU AgCenter will place pictures/videos and data of the consigned heifers online. These will be shared through the LSU AgCenter's website and social media platforms, as well as by the auction barns through their social media platforms.

Program Costs:
- Producers must register cattle for the program no later than September 18, 2026.
    - $100 registration fee per heifer is due with the registration form.
- Producers will be billed monthly at the rate of $1.50 per heifer per day.
- If you wish to consign in an LSU AgCenter-supported sale during the spring or fall:
    - A $20 per head consignment fee will be due on the dates listed below.
        - Spring Sales: February 5, 2027
        - Fall Sales: August 6, 2027
    - A 1% commission fee will be charged per heifer sold within the Geaux Beef Program at an LSU AgCenter-supported sale.
        - Note: This commission is in addition to the commission deducted by the sale barn and will be collected by the sale barn.
- If you wish to officially verify your heifers but retain them for your herd:
    - A $20 per head official verification fee will be due before the heifer(s) leave the research station.

General Requirements:

- An on-site verification will be performed by an LSU AgCenter member.
- The appropriate ear tags will be placed and samples for PI-BVDV testing will be taken immediately upon arrival at the LSU AgCenter.
- Producers must provide evidence of general farm insurance coverage, particularly liability coverage, applicable to heifers entered into the program and located on the LSU AgCenter Hill Farm Research Station or Dean Lee Research and Extension Center.
    - Please visit with an LSU AgCenter agent if you are unsure of your insurance coverage or currently do not have any and would like to participate in the Heifer Development Program.
- Participating producers must maintain a current Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification.
- Participating producers must adhere to the management and health protocols required by the program. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program without a refund of the nomination fee or other fees associated with the program.
- Producers are strongly encouraged to share production information with the LSU AgCenter. Record sheets will be provided to use as a template for each aspect of the program. All data utilized and published by the LSU AgCenter will be anonymous. Therefore, producer names will not be associated with any reported data.

Replacement Heifer Management Requirements:

- Individual birth dates must be recorded. (At minimum within a week of their birth date.)
- Individual identification is required on all animals.
- Both birth weights and weaning weights are highly encouraged, if feasible.
- Heifers must be dehorned and completely healed from the dehorning process prior to being received by the LSU AgCenter.
- Heifers must be PI-BVDV negative for entry in the program and follow a recommended health protocol throughout the program. (Registration fee includes testing costs.)
    - Producers will be required to pick up any heifer(s) testing positive from PI-BVDV.
- The use of growth implants is discouraged in replacement heifers. If implants were used at any time, this must be disclosed in the heifer's health form.
- All heifers being developed by the LSU AgCenter must weigh a minimum of 550 pounds and a maximum of 800 pounds when brought to the LSU AgCenter.
- Heifers must be open (not bred or exposed) upon arrival at the LSU AgCenter.
    - Producers will be required to pick up any heifer(s) testing positive from a blood pregnancy test.

Option of Artificial Insemination or Bull Breeding for Replacement Heifers:

- Producers will have the option of artificial insemination and/or exposure to an Angus bull.
- An additional fee of $100 will be required for synchronization and artificial insemination costs if the LSU AgCenter is purchasing the semen.
- Producers may select from 4 bulls for each heifer or send straws of their choice to the LSU AgCenter.
    - EPDs will be provided on each bull if straws are purchased by the LSU AgCenter.
- Heifers can be exposed to a cleanup bull following artificial insemination. This will be an Angus bull owned and selected by the LSU AgCenter.

Official Verification and Sale Requirements:

To receive an official Geaux Beef ear tag, whether retaining the heifers at home or placing them into an LSU AgCenter-supported sale, a heifer will have to meet the following criteria:

- Reproductive tract scores will be collected by a licensed veterinarian to determine pubertal status.
  - Heifers that have not fully reached pubertal status will not be officially verified or sold.
- Pelvic area measurements will be conducted either by a licensed veterinarian or LSU AgCenter faculty member. Pelvic area must meet breed standards.
- Weight Requirements:
  - Open heifers must weigh at least 700 lbs. at the time of sale.
  - Heifers weighing more than 1,000 are encouraged to be sold as bred.
  - Both birth weights and weaning weights are highly encouraged, if feasible.
- Heifers must be weaned at least 45 days prior to delivery for the sale.
- Age Requirements:
  - Heifers must be between 8 and 24 months of age at time of sale.
- Heifers may be bred but cannot have calved prior to verification or sale.
- All heifers will be visually evaluated through photographs and video by an anonymous group of out-of-state extension and/or industry members. These members will determine if the heifers enrolled are of superior quality to represent the Geaux Beef Heifer Development Program. Again, heifers failing to meet LSU AgCenter's general standards for the Geaux Beef Heifer Development Program will be excluded from the sale to maintain the quality and integrity of the event.
  - Once the heifer(s) pass through the verification committee and meet all health and management requirements, an LSU AgCenter faculty member will place an official Geaux Beef branded ear tag in that heifer's ear.

TENTATIVE Timeline for 2026-2027 Program:

	Research Station Development	Sale Consignment
September 18	Registration Fee & Form Due; LSU AgCenter Verification	
September 24-25	Heifers Arrive at Dean Lee Research & Extension Center	
October 1-2	Heifers Arrive at Hill Farm Research Station	
December/January	Turn onto Cool-Season Pastures Breeding Form & Fee Due	
February 26		Consignment Fees Due
March - May	AI and/or Bull Breeding	Spring Sales
April 16	Final Payments Due	
April 29-30	Heifers Leave Dean Lee Research & Extension Center	
May 6-7	Heifers Leave Hill Farm Research Station	
August 6		Consignment Fees Due
August/September		Breeding Form Due
September/October		Fall Sales

Replacement Heifer Health Protocol

- Participation in the Geaux Beef Replacement Heifer Program requires adherence to the minimum health and management standards outlined below.
- Producers should consult their veterinarian to develop herd-specific protocols that meet or exceed these requirements.
- Vaccines should be given twice (a primary and booster) in accordance with the specific vaccine label directions or within a veterinarian-client relationship in accordance with Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines.

First Working of Heifers – Approximately 3 Months of Age

Management Practice	Additional Instruction(s)	Suggested Products*
Blackleg Vaccination	Required.	Calvary 9®, UltraChoice® 7 or 8, Vision 7 or 8®
Viral Respiratory Complex	Optional but recommended at this age. Cows of nursing calves must have received the same product within the past 12 months if administered to calves.	BoviShield Gold 5®, Inforce 3® along with OneShot® BVD, Pyramid 5®, Vista 5 SQ®
Deworm	Required when indicated by herd health evaluation.	Cydectin®, Dectomax®, Eprinex®, Ivomec®, LongRange®, Safe-guard®, Valbazen®
Dehorn	Required.	Work with an LSU AgCenter agent or local veterinarian for the best way to minimize stress.
Individual Number - Ear Tag	Required.	Any tag that displays the individual animal identification
Fly Control	Required when indicated by herd health evaluation.	Any product appropriately labeled for cattle.

**Comparable products approved by a licensed veterinarian may be substituted.*

Second Working of Heifers – Approximately 6-8 Months of Age

Management Practice	Additional Instruction(s)	Suggested Products*
Booster Blackleg Vaccination	Required.	Calvary 9®, UltraChoice® 7 or 8, Vision 7 or 8®
Viral Respiratory Complex (BRSD, BVD type 1 and 2, IBR, and PI_3)	Required. Must follow up with a booster if the first dose was not administered at 3 months of age. Calves must have received two rounds of the product prior to shipping.	BoviShield Gold 5®, Inforce 3® along with OneShot® BVD, Pyramid 5®, Vista 5 SQ®
Shipping Fever Complex Vaccination	Required.	Nuplura® PH, OneShot®, Once® PMH IN, Once® PMH SQ, Presponse®, Pulmo-Guard® PMH-1, Vista Once® SQ
Deworm	Required when indicated by herd health evaluation.	Cydectin®, Dectomax®, Eprinex®, Ivomec®, LongRange®, Safe-guard®, Valbazen®
Fly Control	Required when indicated by herd health evaluation.	Any product appropriately labeled for cattle.

**Comparable products approved by a licensed veterinarian may be substituted.*

Note: Producers may give other vaccinations and should treat animals for any illness based on the guidance of a licensed veterinarian. All medications, vaccinations, and other health treatments MUST be disclosed in the health form prior to sale of the heifer.