

Late summer and early fall bring with them threats and risks that are not observed in the other three seasons of the year. This week we will briefly discuss some of the most prevalent threats, and will provide tips to help you efficiently transition and plan for the winter months. We have grouped these tips into three categories- cow management, grazing herd management, and feeding management.

Cow management tips and other items to be aware of as summer draws to an end:

- \* Check body condition score of the cows. If they are in BCS 4.5 or lower, consider weaning their calves now. If cows are in BCS 5 or higher, plan to wean October 1.
- \* Fall calving cows may calve early due to excessive heat.
- \* If you plan to market your calves through special sales (i.e. NETBIO program), plan for appropriate vaccination and weaning.
- \* All newly acquired high-risk calves should be properly cared for upon arrival to help prevent illness from occurring.
- \* An annual adult herd vaccination program involving a killed respiratory virus is recommended.

Grazing herd management tips:

- \* Keep an eye out for fall armyworms in your pastures and take the necessary steps to eliminate them.
- \* Be prepared for when acorns begin falling and be aware of the health problems they may cause.
- \* Be aware of the risks of dallisgrass poisoning.
- \* It is important to test the soil fertility in any pasture that will be planted with a winter crop.

Feeding management tips:

- \* Have your hay tested to determine the protein quality and develop a plan for winter protein supplementation.
- \* Begin planning for winter forage feeding.

If you have any questions about these topics, please contact us. Many of these topics have already been discussed in previous articles, which may be found under the “Herd Health” tab on our website [hcvethospital.com](http://hcvethospital.com).

Thanks,

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