

Tocal Virtual Farm

Calendar of Operations



Acknowledgements

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Calendar of Operations

Construction and interpretation of calendar of operations is a requirement of the NSW Agriculture syllabus. The following resource provides engaging authentic learning activities to develop and challenge student understanding of the concept. This resource addresses the NSW Agriculture Syllabus Stage 6 Farm Case study outcomes, with cross curricular connections.

Outcomes:

- P1.1 describes the complex, dynamic and interactive nature of agricultural production systems
- P1.2 describes the factors that influence agricultural systems
- P3.1 explains the role of decision-making in the management and marketing of agricultural products in response to consumer and market requirements

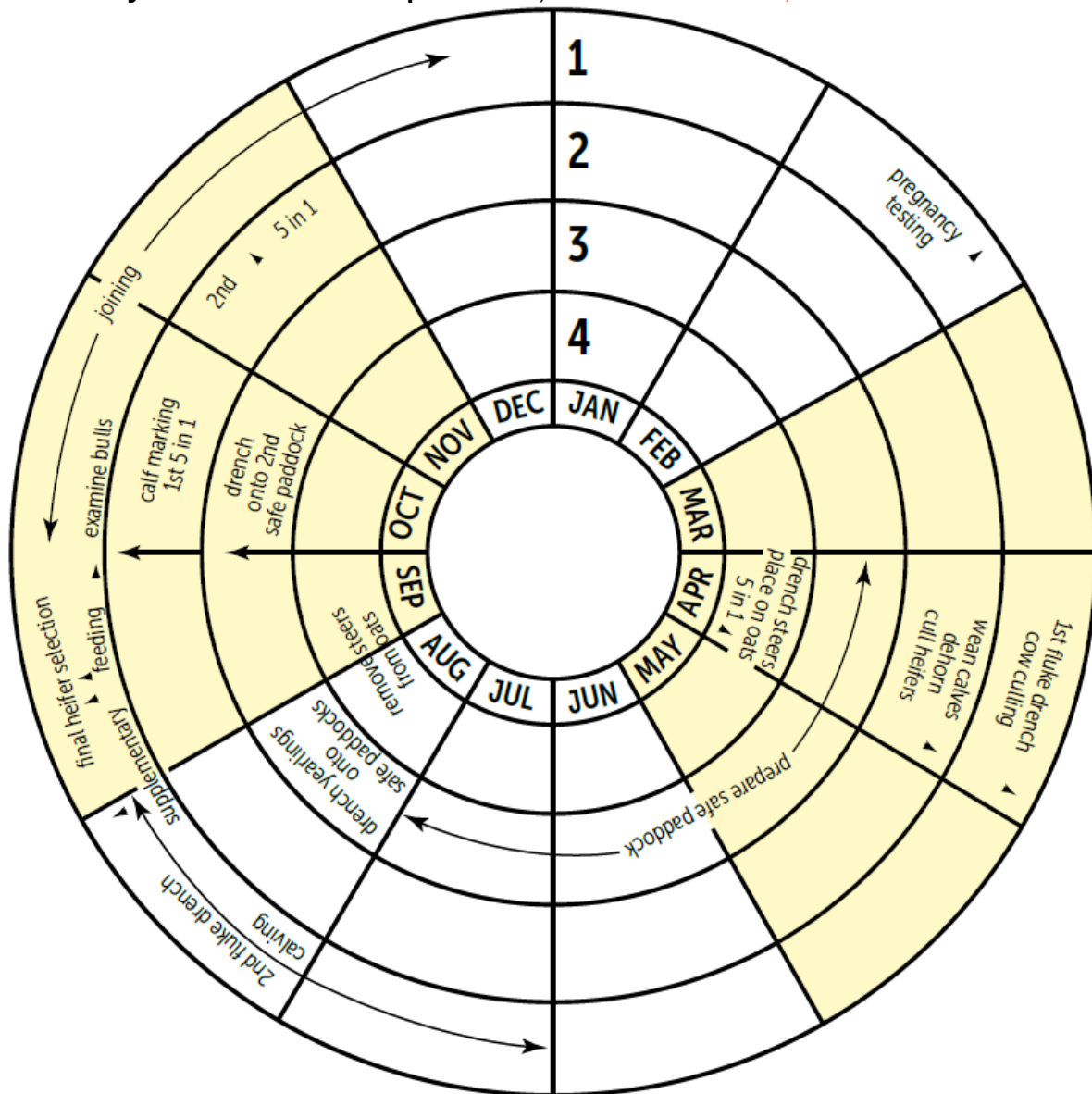
Calendar of operations are organisational recording tools which assist the producer with planning. Calendars illustrate the order of operations such as joining, lambing/calving, vaccinating, drenching, sowing, harvesting, and; often the type of management practice used for example stock processing before weaning, two step weaning, feed lotting, cultivation, and weed management.

The two most common types of calendar presentations are in either tabular form or cyclical.

Table 1: Format for tabular calendar of operations

Month	Livestock activities	Cropping activities	Other activities
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

Table 2: Cyclical calendar of operations, Source: Blackwood, DPI



Advantages of calendar of operations include:

- Allow for pre planning and budgeting of resources- for example labour, inputs and finances
- Detailed calendars help with preparation of financial performance plans such as cash flow budgets
- Indicate when you need to purchase inputs and sell produce
- Operations are cyclical due to climate factors

Activities

What do the numbers 1-4 from Table 2 indicate?

Identify quiet periods that occur in the beef operation from Table 2.

Identify other enterprises which could be farmed in conjunction with the beef enterprise. Explain how they would complement each other in terms of resources such as labour, finance and land use.

Select 8 more operations from **Table 2** to complete the following table. The first has been provided.

Husbandry practice	Description of operation and effect on production	Identify and explain timing of operation
Heifer selection	Selection of heifers to be retained for breeding. Superior females are selected using production criteria e.g. EMA, weight/age, and genetics. Heifers are integrated into breeding program and replace non-productive females.	Sep Carried out before joining to allow for culling and sale of undesirable females to the breeding program

Follow the link to the [Tocal Virtual Farm](#). In the beef enterprise section, find the subsection on 'Herd Management'. Use this information to create a tabular calendar of operations below. In your calendar of operations for Tocal Beef, include:

- The two calving periods
- Cow joining
- Heifer joining
- Weaning dates

Month	Autumn calvers	Spring calvers
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

Identify the benefits of having split Autumn and Spring calving periods at Tocal College

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Useful resources

Agfact A2.8. Record keeping and management planning

Blackwood, I 2007, NSW Department of Primary Industries,

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/management/business-management/record-keeping-mgt>

AgGuide - How to write a business plan and review farm performance

Walsh, B 2010, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Tocal College

Tocal Virtual Farm

<https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/farm-and-facilities/tocal-farms/tocal-virtual-farm-navigation>.