Shortening the Calving Season

The situation
A survey conducted in cooperation with the Lewiston Veterinary Clinic in 1982 revealed that 23% of the cows and first calf heifers that were pregnancy-checked were not pregnant after a 60-day breeding season. The survey involved 27 different herds and 2,187 animals.

Our response
An IRM (Integrated Resource Management) committee was formed. Representatives included cattle producers from each geographical region of Nez Perce County, a banker, a veterinarian, and the University of Idaho Extension agent.

Calving management schools, field demonstrations, newsletters, media releases, ranch visits, recordkeeping systems, and the use of Cow-Calf Management Guides were implemented based on information collected from producer records and needs identified by the IRM committee. Over 20 Cow-Calf Management Guides were sold to producers.

Results
A 1992 survey representing 3,512 cows and 20 different herds shows 14% of the cows and first calf heifers pregnancy-checked were either not pregnant or would not calve within a 60-day calving season, compared to 23% in 1982.

In Nez Perce County, for each 1 percent reduction in a calving period of 60 days, 70 more cows are potentially kept in breeding herds, and they raise approximately 31,500 more pounds of beef as weaned calves at an estimated value of $31,500 annually (based on $1.00/pound). (Graph 1)

This survey also indicates that a 9 percent increase in the number of cows calving is approximately 630 cows that were not culled from breeding herds in Nez Perce County. If 20 percent of these animals were retained in breeding herds, 56,700 more pounds of beef were marketed as weaned calves at an estimated value of $56,700.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of New Animals Retained in County Breeding Herd</th>
<th>Number of Animals</th>
<th>-Average Weaning Wt.</th>
<th>Total Value at $1.00 per Pound</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% x 630 = 126 x 450 pounds = 56,700</td>
<td>$ 56,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>40% x 630 = 252 x 450 pounds = 113,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>60% x 630 = 378 x 450 pounds = 170,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>80% x 630 = 504 x 450 pounds = 226,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% x 630 = 630 x 450 pounds = 283,500</td>
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</table>

**Cooperators**
Lewiston Veterinary Clinic
Nez Perce County Cattle Producers Association

**For More Information**
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