

Fetal Programming: What role does cowherd nutrition play?



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What Role Does Cowherd Nutrition Play?

- The nutritional status of an animal during gestation can have a lifetime effect on offspring.
- Each trimester has its own unique needs and affects the development of the animal's physiology.
 - ❖ First Trimester - life time supply of oocytes in females, bull reproductive performance, heart development and performance .
 - ❖ Second trimester – muscle fiber development .
 - ❖ Third trimester - muscle and adipocyte production (weaning weights and carcass value), potential age of puberty for heifers, A.I. conception rates and overall animal health.
- How does this affect me/my herd?
 - ❖ Calf performance and carcass value.
 - ❖ Bull reproductive performance.
 - ❖ Heifer lifetime reproduction.
- Fetal programming effects can have a lifetime effect on cattle and can impact the financial status of an operation.



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