

■ HEIFER

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ally correct females that can get around the pasture to graze," she said.

Heavy structured and large footed females, with a more correct angle to their shoulder and hock will rise to the top.

Heifer size

Size of the heifer is also important to consider. What will be her mature size and maintenance cost? Does your operation have the resources and environment to support her? "In this case, if the older females being selected are also larger, they may require more input to be maintained in the herd than smaller framed counterparts," Grussing said. "However, small females can be very inefficient also."

Having a good balance between the heifer's phenotype, weight per day of age, as well as the cows mature size is important for profitability and efficiency of the cow herd.

Are you maintaining or expanding the size of your cow herd?

Grussing said, the way a cattle producer answers this question will help them decide how many replacement heifers should be kept. "If the size of the cow herd is to be maintained, the culling rate should equal the replacement rate right? Not necessarily," she said. "No matter if you are maintaining or expanding your herd, it is best to keep 10 - 15 percent more replacement heifers than actually needed, to account for the 5 - 10 percent of females that will be late bred or never become pregnant at all."

This way Grussing said cattle producers will have enough to replace culled females, as well as extras to expand the herd or be marketed. "In addition, if more females become pregnant than you need, you can increase selection pressure on which females have the best genetics to add to the cow herd," she said.

How will I develop them?

Replacement heifers are one of the most important management groups in the herd and it can be a costly investment to develop heifers that won't provide returns for two years.

Therefore, cattle producers need to make sure they have the resources and management to develop them correctly. "This is vital to attaining genetic progress in your herd," Grussing said.

When resources are limited to develop heifers, custom heifer development companies are available to complete the development for a cost.

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South Dakota Farm Stories

Expansion of family run livestock operations has been happening for a while in the US. The reason is oftentimes attributed to the economies of scale which give farms greater leverage with suppliers and clients and helps them keep up with inflation. One other reason that compels farms to expand or relocate is the desire for the next generation to join the operation and eventually take over.

There is oftentimes a transition period before this next generation becomes the main owner/operator. In addition, there's frequently the need to generate enough net income to supplement the older generation's budget during retirement.

When I discuss family farms, I'm talking about those operations where the majority of the business is owned by the operator and his or her relatives. This is also the USDA's official definition.

In South Dakota, 98 percent of the livestock farms are family owned and managed.

By the numbers: the state of family farms in South Dakota

Commercial small farms in the state are disappearing at a constant rate of 3.5 percent per year.

Bear in mind that these figures constituted 24 percent of all 2012 farms (31,989) or a loss of 276 farms per year. According to the U.S. census of agriculture, between 2002 and 2012, small South Dakota commercial farms, with gross sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999, decreased at a constant rate of approximately 3.5 percent per year. On the other hand, those farms with a gross income between \$100,000 and \$499,999 have seen only a 0.35 percent yearly reduction

in numbers.

According to the USDA "average small-farm financial performance lags well behind that of large farms, suggesting that production will continue to shift to larger operations". (To read more on this go to the "Farm's Tipping Point in South Dakota" iGrow article here).

According to a 2010 USDA report, farms selling less than \$100,000 will likely continue to disappear and production shift to larger farms.

Small farms have to improve production, increase livestock numbers or relocate to increase their likelihood of remaining in business.

According to the USDA ERS (2010): "Farmers who want to make a living from farming, and who can operate a larger crop operation, have a strong incentive to expand because larger operations, on average, show better financial performance". Small South Dakota farm operators who want to live exclusively on their farm income need to enhance their gross sales. The second approach is for one or more of the family members to work elsewhere thus contributing to the total family income with off the farm funds.

According to a recent USDA report "Larger farms have a competitive advantage over smaller farms in most commodities because the average cost of production per unit declines as the size of the operation grows (referred to as economies of size)". There are numerous stories that exemplify how farms have faced these challenges with success. One such story is that of the Krause family who farm near

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40 years of SDSU Extension On Exhibit



BROOKINGS, S.D. - In 1952, photographer and journalist, Leland "Lee" Sudlow joined SDSU Extension as a Visual Aids Specialist. For the next 38 years he captured SDSU Extension serving individuals and communities across South Dakota.

Celebrating SDSU Extension's service to South Dakotans, the exhibit, Through Leland Sudlow's Lens: 40 Years of Extension Service History, is on display at the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum in Brookings now through Feb. 29, 2015.

"This exhibit brings nearly four decades of SDSU Extension in South Dakota to life," said Karla Trautman, SDSU Extension Associate Director. "Whether it is through 4-H or relying on SDSU Extension for information and resources to help

them improve their farm or provide them with advice on home and family - many South Dakotans have a strong relationship and rich history with SDSU Extension."

As the outreach arm of our state's Land Grant, South Dakota State University, SDSU Extension's vision is to be "the indispensable outreach link to people growing South Dakota's, and the nation's, future by providing solutions and creating opportunities. We foster learning communities that empower citizens to advocate for sustainable change and strengthen agriculture, natural resources, youth, families and communities."

Families, farming and ranching practices and communities in South Dakota look much different today than they did 60 years ago when Sudlow began capturing

them on film. So does SDSU Extension. By using images selected from the collection of more than 80,000, which Sudlow amassed during his career (1952-1990), the exhibit clearly demonstrates how SDSU Extension evolved through the decades to meet the changing needs of South Dakotans, explained Gwen McCausland, Director of the S.D. Agricultural Heritage Museum.

"We used his work as a framework to create a visual history of SDSU Extension and life in South Dakota," McCausland said of the collection, which the Sudlow family and the SDSU Agricultural Communications Department donated to the museum for safe-keeping.

This exhibit is S.D. Agricultural Heritage Museum's way of honoring SDSU Extension, which celebrated a century of service to South Dakota communities and individuals in 2014.

"The great thing about SDSU Extension is the programs they offer change to meet the needs of the people they serve," McCausland said. "Extension today is much different than it was in the 1950s - but so are the needs of South Dakotans."

Black and white still life's along with brochures, Sudlow's camera and a recreated

1950s-era office, introduce visitors to different times in South Dakota's history and ways SDSU Extension provided them with information: Cold War days when citizens needed direction on how to build a fallout shelter; guidance on how to use a microwave, easy meals to prepare as mother's entered the workforce or knowing how much DEET to spray on your crops.

"We wanted to preserve the history my husband captured, which is why we gave the images to the Agriculture Heritage Museum," explained Adele Sudlow, who like her deceased husband, began working for SDSU Extension in 1952.

Adele served as a Music Specialist for SDSU Extension, instructing music for women's Extension groups, 4-H and other Extension events. The couple married in 1953. When their first child was born, Adele decided to work from home as a piano teacher. At its peak, Adele was instructing as many as 60 students who would drive from as far away as Huron to take lessons. At 88, Adele still teaches piano in her Brookings home.

With more than 80,000 images to sift through, the Agriculture Heritage Museum staff called upon Adele to help them identify images. She in turn, reached out to Sudlow's SDSU Extension friends and colleagues.

"No one I called turned me down unless they were out of town," Adele said, of the task which took nearly a year. The museum also hired an intern, Corey Korth, an SDSU Journalism major, to help with archival research.

The exhibit will be on display at the Agricultural Heritage Museum through February 2016. Like the organization it highlights, the exhibit is designed to travel and will be displayed in communities throughout South Dakota in the coming years.

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Notice of Petition to Vacate Section Line in Mission Hill Township

A Petition was presented before the Mission Hill Township Board of Supervisors at the Regular meeting held October 27th, 2015 to Vacate Section Line between Sections 21&28 of Township T-94-N, R-55-W in Yankton County.

The Mission Hill Township Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to vacate said section line and validation becomes official thirty (30) days after the second publication provided there is no appeal by law.

George Wathier, Clerk
30480 NE Jim River Road
Mission Hill, SD, 57046