

5 TIPS TO PREVENT HIGH BIRTHWEIGHT CALVES



To help cattle producers maximize genetic progress while minimizing high birthweight calf challenges, Vytelle recommends these practical strategies that address nutritional, genetic, and management factors throughout the breeding process. These actionable steps can be implemented immediately to protect your investment and improve calving outcomes.

ACCELERATE YOUR GENETIC PROGRESS WITH CONFIDENCE

Schedule your next
Vytelle ADVANCE™ OPU today.



1

PAY ATTENTION TO MATINGS

Using available genetic selection tools like expected progeny differences (EPD) for both the sire and the donor's birthweight and calving ease, we can proactively avoid matings with an increased risk of high birthweights and dystocia. Genomically enhanced EPDs can be a powerful tool to boost the accuracy of these predictions.

2

PICK THE RIGHT RECIPIENT

The recipient is the one that has to do the work, so consider her body size and track record for unassisted births before transferring an embryo.

3

FEED THEM RIGHT

Work closely with your nutritionist to ensure that recipients maintain optimal body condition, especially during the third trimester. The fetus is growing at 1 to 2 lbs daily during this period and changes to the nutritional plane can have a large impact on these growth rates.

4

TRACK DUE DATES

With the rate of growth in the late stages of gestation, going past a due date by even a few days can make a huge difference in size of the calf at birth. Maintain accurate records of projected due dates confirmed with pregnancy examination to identify recipients that are approaching their due date. Work with your veterinarian to develop plans to induce calving in recipients that are past their due date or carrying a pregnancy with a known genetic risk for higher birthweight. Vytelle typically recommends that pregnancies that extend 3 or more days beyond the due date be induced.

5

PLAN AHEAD

By knowing the genetic composition of the calf and an accurate estimated calving date, producers can be proactive in managing pregnancies that are at risk for higher birthweights. Have a plan for each recipient, set calendar reminders, and be prepared to take quick action including consultation with your veterinarian if there is any concern.

“Understanding and assessing in advance all aspects of nutrition, genetics, and due date management is our best method of supporting the customer in any calving scenario, no matter the calf size.”

—TOMAS REIS, VYTELLE'S TECHNICAL MARKETING MANAGER