**Lesson Title: Breeding Heifers**

**Unit: 8**

TEKS: 130.7(C) 5 (a)(b)(c)

OBJECTIVES

The student shall be able to:

1. List selection priorities in order of importance
2. Evaluate selection priorities of breeding cattle
3. Understand the purpose of breeding cattle selection

TEACHING MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT

PPT: Selection and Evaluation of Breeding Cattle

Jars and stuffed animals

TEACHING PROCEDURE

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| --- | --- |
| Interest Approach/Anticipatory Set | Teacher Notes |
| Open discussion – Review the selection process for steers | Teacher initiated – Student led, teacher may have to encourage the students what to look for |

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| --- | --- |
| Teaching Plan and Strategy / Presentation of New Material | Teacher Notes |
| Discuss the priorities of selection for breeding heifers  Functionality  Structural correctness, review the importance of being structurally correct because of genetic influence as they are being used for breeding and also, they have to carry the calf to term  Rib  Rib shape should be similar to market steers with the end results differing. Within steers we want a large rib capacity in order to produce a desired amount of finish. Within heifers we want a large rib capacity in order to have the room to produce a large calf.  Growth Performance  Growth performance has a large impact on the meat industry. A larger calf produces more meat, thereby resulting in more dollars for the farmers. Growth performance is genetic, so it is important that the heifer has the genetics to produce a calf with a good growth performance.  Balance and Eye Appeal  Similar to market steers  Femininity  Muscle  Similar to market steers, although note that it is not the top priority, but it is important because it is genetic | Have students pull out their “notes packet” |

ENGAGEMENT

**Rib:**

Have students get into groups and ask a member of the group to come to the front and grab one stuffed animal and one jar. Once that is done, have the students stuff the animal into the jar with the rear end going first, to the head is near the opening. Once they have done this ask each group to pull their calf out individually and explain the struggles that they had, if any. This is to simulate a cow giving birth.

EVALUATION

Have students write a paragraph of the qualities selected for in breeding cattle and why they are important.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

College & Career Readiness Standards: II.C.1; II.E.7

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