

Red Choice Program Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment: To enroll contact Chessie Mitchell at RAAA (chessie@redangus.org) Enrollment deadlines are February 1st for spring breeding season and September 1st for the fall breeding season.

Ownership: *Heifers enrolled in the program, if home raised, must be enrolled in the Feeder Calf Certification Program, Allied Access Program, Premium Red Baldy, American Red or be registered through the RAAA. If purchased, heifers must be owned a minimum of 60 days prior to breeding and have been enrolled in the FCCP, PRB or AR programs prior to purchase at the ranch of origin. For cattle enrolled in PRB or AR, all sires must be eligible Red Angus sires.*

Minimum Vaccination Requirements: Follow label directions for all products used. A comprehensive herd health vaccination program starting at weaning age or before should be administered under the advice and guidance of a veterinarian in the context of a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. The following vaccination program is required at a minimum:

Weaning

Vaccination against IBR, BVD, PI 3, BRSV, leptospirosis (5-way), vibriosis (optional) and 7-way clostridia. Heifers must be 5 months of age or older at time of vaccinations, and receive booster vaccination according to label directions

Prebreeding

Between 30 and 60 days prior to breeding, booster vaccinations must be given against IBR, BVD, leptospirosis (5-way) and vibriosis. Modified live vaccines for IBR and BVD are recommended. If killed viral vaccine products are used, two boosters are strongly recommended.

Pregnancy Check

A booster vaccination against leptospirosis (5-way) is required at pregnancy examination.

Calfhood Vaccination against brucellosis (Bangs) *Official calfhood vaccination (OCV) tag number will be recorded as a secondary ID. Note that brucellosis vaccination must be given by an accredited veterinarian in accordance with state and federal regulations (i.e. prior to heifers reaching over 12 months of age).*

Prebreeding Evaluation A prebreeding reproductive evaluation is required for all heifers and must be performed 30 to 60 days prior to breeding. Individual animal identification, pelvic measurement and reproductive tract score([opens in new window](#)) is required at this time. Heifers must have a minimum pelvic area of 150 cm². Heifers with a pelvic area smaller than 150 cm² may be re-measured at the initial pregnancy exam, performed within 90 days from the start of the breeding season. At that time, heifers that are re-measured must have a minimum pelvic area of 180 cm² to qualify.

Breeding Producers using artificial insemination must report breeding dates as well as method of estrus synchronization (if applicable). Natural service bull exposure dates are also reported. To ensure accuracy when distinguishing between AI versus natural service pregnancies, heifers that are bred artificially may not be exposed for natural service for a minimum of 14 days.

Pregnancy examination An initial [pregnancy examination \(opens in new window\)](#) must be performed within 90 days from the start of the breeding season. Individual animal identification, pregnancy status and fetal age (in days) are required. Reporting of fetal sex is optional. Any heifer that fails to become pregnant, or loses a pregnancy following the original breeding season, is no longer eligible for the program.

Genetic Requirements

Sire Requirements *Eligible sires must have a known ID, be registered with the RAAA, be Category IA, 1B or II and have complete EPD information. All sires, AI or natural service, must be a 14 for the CED and have GE-EPDs.*

Red Choice-Plus Classification: *Heifers tested with a heifer genomic prediction panel approved by Red Choice coordinators will be given the designation of Red Choice-Plus Heifer. These include GE-EPD or Red Navigator. DNA samples must be submitted to the Red Angus Association of America.*

Fee Structure

Red Choice fees will be \$2/head enrollment fee for cattle enrolled through December 31, 2023, moving to \$5/head enrollment after for females enrolled after January 1, 2024. For females with Red Navigator results (Red Choice Plus) or registered females with GE-EPDs (Red Choice Plus), the enrollment fee is waived.