**Red Choice Program Eligibility Requirements**

**Enrollment:** To enroll contact Erin Larrimore, program coordinator at University of Missouri (LarimoreE@missouri.edu).

**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 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](https://youtu.be/BbxVC_fvXdw) and [reproductive tract score(opens in new window)](https://youtu.be/fijfIJzXayw)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)](https://youtu.be/T65jy2kdnOU) 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 have a CED EPD of at least 13 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**

*All Red Choice enrollment fees will be waived through June 30, 2024, moving to $2/head thereafter.*

***Red Choice Replacement Heifer Program***

*Timeline and Data Collection*

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| ***Weaning*** | ***Pre-Breeding****30-60 days prior to breeding* | ***Breeding*** | ***Pregnancy Exam****maximum of 90 days after start of breeding* |
| ***Procedures****o Vaccinations: IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, 7-way clostridial, and brucellosis**o Evaluate structural soundness and blemishes (scarred eyes, rat-tails, injuries)**o Parasite control as needed* | ***Procedures****o Vaccinations: IBR, BVD, vibriosis, 5-way leptospirosis**o Reproductive tract score**o Pelvic measurement**o Evaluate structural soundness and blemishes**o Parasite control as needed**o Confirm eligibility of planned service sires**o AI sire EPDs and accuracies must meet requirements**o Natural service sires must have GE-EPDs and meet calving ease EPD requirement****Required Data****o Individual ID**o OCV (brucellosis) tag number**o Reproductive tract score**o Pelvic measurements**o Breed or breed cross**o Coat color**o Blemishes/unsoundness****Optional Data*** *(if available)**o Registration number**o Genomic test**o Body condition score**o Hair shedding score**o Docility**o Sire registration number**o Birth date**o Weight**o Hip height**o Notes/concerns**o Foot score* | ***Required Data****o Breeding program**o Artificial insemination (AI)**o Breeding date(s)**o Service sire registration numbers**o Natural service**o Bull exposure dates**o Estrus synch protocol**o 1 Shot PG**o CIDR + PG**o MGA + PG**o Select Synch + CIDR**o 7-d CO-Synch + CIDR**o 5-d CO-Synch + CIDR**o 14-day CIDR + PG**o Breeding management**o Heat detection**o Heat detection and clean-up AI**o Fixed-time AI**o Split-time AI**o Individual animal records**o Heat expression (if known)**o Breeding date (mo/day)**o Breeding time (am/pm)**o Technician information**o Initials**o Lay versus professional* | ***Procedures****o Booster vaccination: 5-way leptospirosis**o Pregnancy exam**o Body condition score**o Re-measure pelvis on heifers less than 150 cm2 at pre-breeding**o Evaluate for structural soundness and blemishes**o Parasite control as needed****Required Data****o Individual ID**o OCV (brucellosis) tag number**o Number of days pregnant**o Pelvic measurements (if re-measured)**o Blemishes/unsoundness****Optional Data*** *(if available)**o Fetal sex**o Body condition score**o Genomic test information* |

*All products listed must be used according to label directions. Consult your veterinarian regarding any questions on health procedures. Forms for data collection will be provided from a Red Choice coordinator. All data should be forwarded immediately after collection to Erin Larimore.*