



**VIRGINIA
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Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Livestock Update Webinar

Nutrition Update 4/24/20

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Challenges with Cow/Calf Nutrition

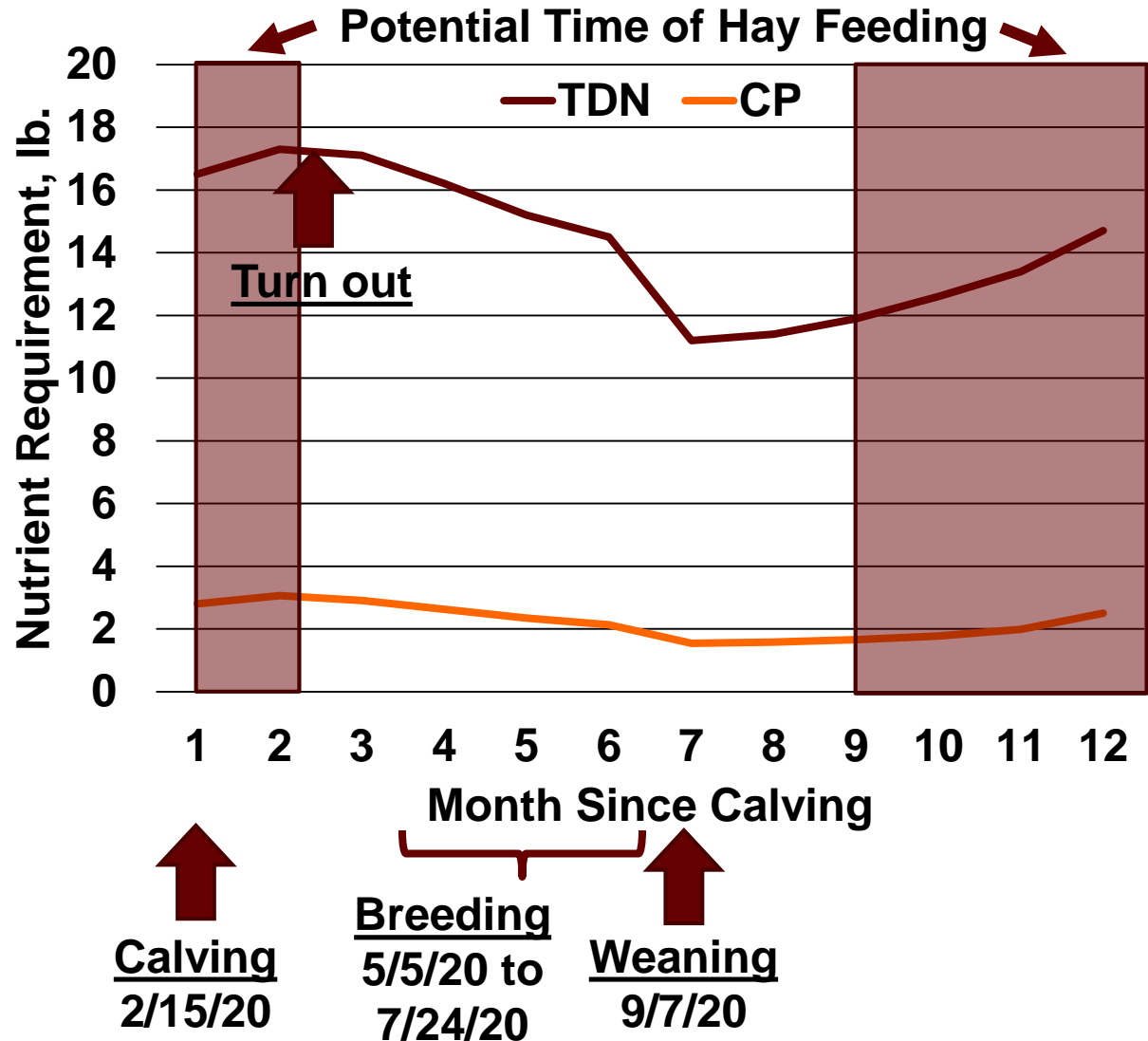
- **Past year was extremely dry with limited availability of pasture and hay**
 - ▣ **Potential for cows to be in low BCS heading into winter**
 - How do they look today?
 - ▣ **Cows in poor body condition**
 - Can negatively affect conception rates
 - Milk production
 - Development of the next calf while *in utero*
- **Cows need to be in moderate BCS heading into breeding season**
 - ▣ **If thin, get them on a positive plane of nutrition**
 - Can use commodity feeds or fat supplements if extremely thin
- **Spring-calving cows are near peak nutrient requirements**

Beef Cow Nutrient Requirements

Spring-calving

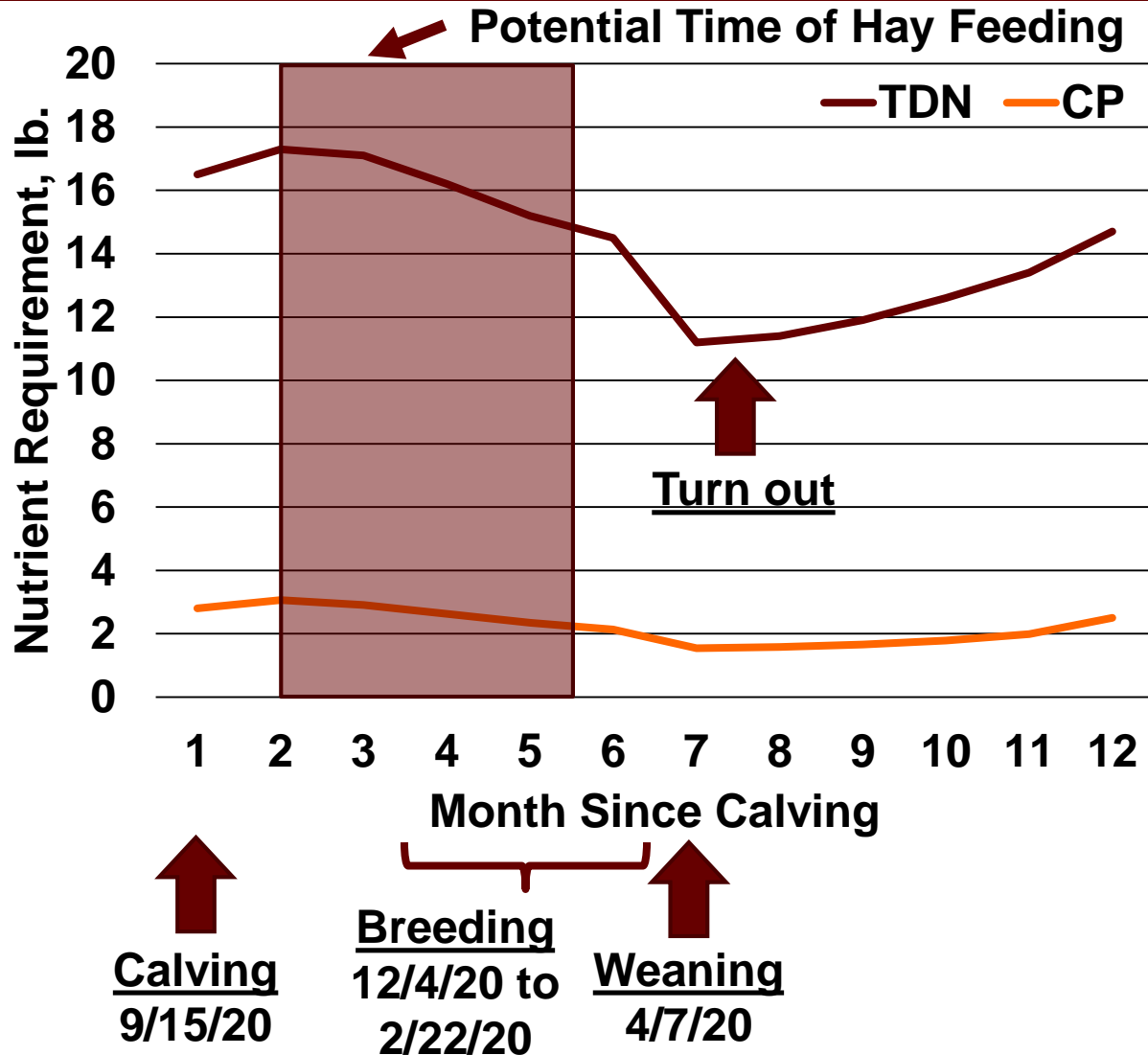
1,300 lb. cow

20 lb. peak
milk
production



Beef Cow Nutrient Requirements

Fall-calving
1,300 lb. cow
20 lb. peak
milk
production



Body Condition Score

BCS 4



BCS 5



BCS 6



BCS 7



**Moderate
BCS**



Relation between Cow BCS and BW

		Mature Cow Body Weight, lb.				
BCS	BW Adj.	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400
1	0.716	716	788	859	931	1002
2	0.787	787	866	944	1023	1102
3	0.858	858	944	1030	1115	1201
4	0.929	929	1022	1115	1208	1301
5	1.000	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400
6	1.071	1071	1178	1285	1392	1499
7	1.142	1142	1256	1370	1485	1599
8	1.213	1213	1334	1456	1577	1698
9	1.284	1284	1412	1541	1669	1798

99 lbs

Adapted from Lemenager, 2016 NRBCM Seminar

Challenges with Cow/Calf Nutrition

- This is time of year for high magnesium minerals
- Don't get cheap with mineral program because of COVID
- May be tough for spring-calving cows to meet all of their requirements early in grazing season
 - ▣ Rapidly growing pastures are low in dry matter
 - ▣ Save best forages for spring-calving cows heading into breeding season
 - ▣ Be cognizant of additional nutrient requirements of first-calf heifers and 3 year old cows
- Fall-calving cows are at lowest requirements after weaning
 - ▣ Should be able to rebuild body condition on pasture

Other Challenges

- **Availability of feed**
 - ▣ **Limited availability of DDGS with shutdown of corn dry mills**
 - Related to low demand for ethanol to blend with gasoline
 - DDGD that are available are less affordable
 - ▣ **Future disruptions in other commodities like corn gluten feed, soybean meal, soy hulls?**
 - ▣ **Be cognizant of local availability and prices of feedstuffs**
 - Buy early so alternative feeds can be sourced
- **Holding livestock can be difficult**
 - ▣ **Be aware of maximums for fat thickness for market livestock**
 - ▣ **Can limit fed to maintain quality and decrease daily feed costs**