

Figure 8.

As the "GROWING REPLACEMENT HEIFERS" reach the desired weight and age to be bred, bulls are introduced to the heifers, and the "BREEDING SEASON" for the replacement heifers begin. The beginning of the heifers' breeding season is illustrated in Figure 9 by an arc intersecting the heifer line; this point of intersection is designated as "BULLS IN."

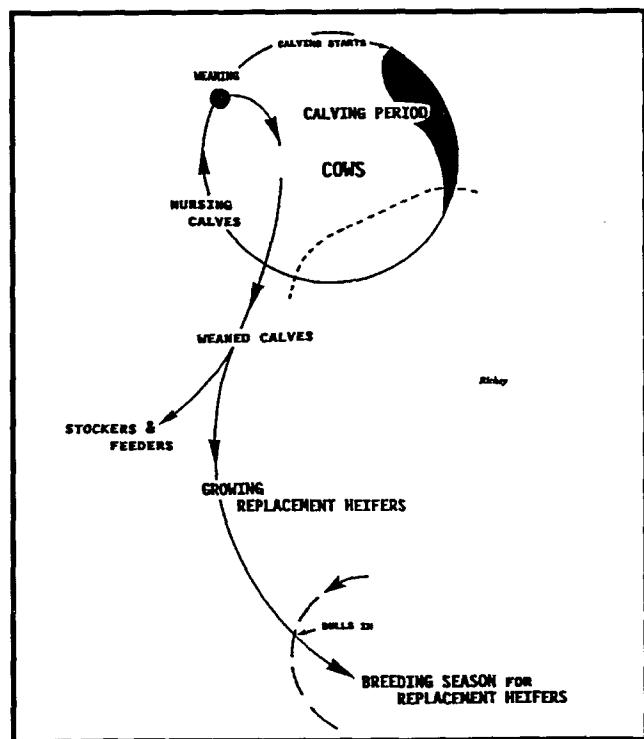


Figure 9.

The beginning of the heifers' breeding season needs to be well planned so that the heifers can calve at a time that allows them to fit into the breeding season of the adult cow herd. This may mean that the beginning of the heifers' breeding season begins 30 days before the beginning of the breeding season for the adult cows.

The heifer "BREEDING SEASON" ends when the bulls are removed ("BULLS OUT") from the heifers. The cycle continues as "PREGNANT REPLACEMENT HEIFERS." (Figure 10)

The length of the breeding season for the replacement heifers is designed to allow the "more fertile" heifers to be bred. The length of the breeding season is usually less than that of the adult cow herd. The age of the heifer at breeding depends largely on the ranch's ability to adequately develop the replacement heifer to breed at 14 to 15 months of age and to calve as 2-year-olds. Many operations chose to breed heifers to calve as 3-year-olds rather than make an effort to get the heifers ready to breed at 14 to 15 months of age.

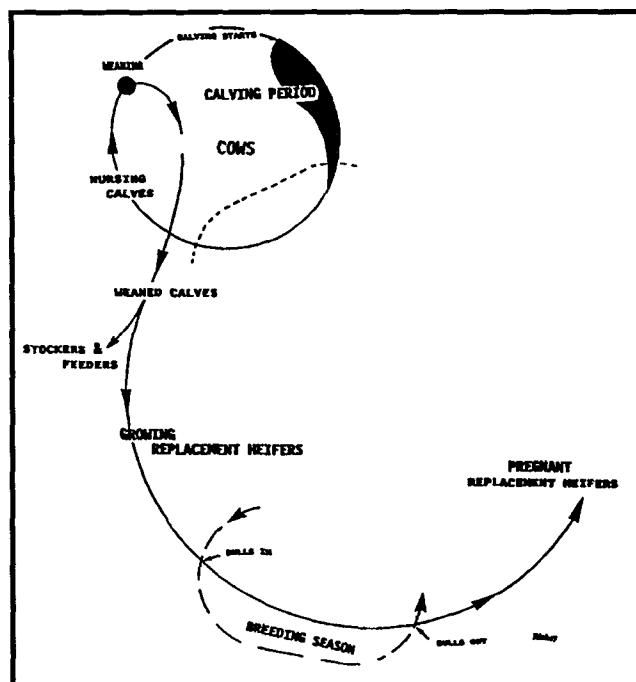


Figure 10.

Calving begins for the "PREGNANT REPLACEMENT HEIFERS" depending upon the start of the preceding breeding season and the length of the gestation period for their particular breed. The length of the calving period depends also upon the length of the preceding breeding sea-