



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Cow/Calf Record Book

Year: _____



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station
and Cooperative Extension Service

If found return this book to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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Have you ever stopped to wonder which heifer calf had a twin brother you patched on the cow that lost her calf, or recall how long it took the 2-year-olds to consume 50 pounds of mineral? Then you understand the value of keeping records. Besides helping with day-to-day decisions, records allow you to evaluate yearly performance and see where to make adjustments.

Use this book to write down important details about calving, cow and bull inventories, vaccination and treatment records, death loss and cause, and calving distribution. Summarize your entries from the *Body Condition Record Book* (MF3277) and include them here.

Each year, herd performance should be summarized (e.g., percent pregnant, percent calf crop, and weaning weight per cow exposed). Look for the SPA Reproduction and Production Excel file on *KSUBeef.org* under the reproduction and genetics section to help you with those calculations. For more help collecting or interpreting data, contact your local extension professional or anyone on the beef extension team.

You can't manage what you don't measure!

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Calving Ease Score (C.E.)

- 1 – No difficulty, no assistance
- 2 – Minor difficulty, some assistance
- 3 – Major difficulty, usually mechanical assistance
- 4 – Cesarean section or other surgery
- 5 – Abnormal presentation

Calf Vigor (V)

- 1 – Nursed immediately, calf healthy/strong
- 2 – Nursed on its own, but took some time
- 3 – Required some assistance to suckle
- 4 – Died shortly after birth
- 5 – Dead on arrival

For recording purposes calving ease scores can be combined with calf vigor score (e.g., 45 = Cesarean, dead on arrival)

Calf Death Loss Codes

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 0 – Predator | 5 – Birth related |
| 1 – Abortion | 6 – Accident |
| 2 – Scours | 7 – Cold stress |
| 3 – Pneumonia | 8 – Other, known |
| 4 – Enterotoxemia | 9 – Other, unknown |

Age at Death

- 1 – Under 15 days
- 2 – 15 to 30 days
- 3 – 30 to branding/working
- 4 – Branding/working – weaning

For recording purposes combine death loss with age of death (e.g., 32, pneumonia, 15 to 30 days)

Cull Cow Codes

- 1 – Died
- 2 – Sold, old age
- 3 – Sold, physical defect
- 4 – Sold, open or other reproductive
- 5 – Sold, poor calf performance
- 6 – Sold as replacement
- 7 – Sold, unknown reason

International letter for year of birth

Letter	Year	Letter	Year	Letter	Year
U	2008	E	2017	P	2026
W	2009	F	2018	R	2027
X	2010	G	2019	S	2028
Y	2011	H	2020	T	2029
Z	2012	J	2021	U	2030
A	2013	K	2022	W	2031
B	2014	L	2023	X	2032
C	2015	M	2024	Y	2033
D	2016	N	2025	Z	2034

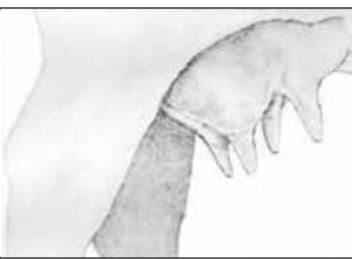
Letters I, O, Q and V are not used.

Example use, first- and second-born calves in 2021 could be J001 and J002.

Udder Score *(take within 24 hours of calving on weakest quarter)*

Record as suspension score / teat score (e.g., 97, very tight, small teat size)

Udder suspension		Teat size	
Score	Description	Description	
9	Very tight	Very small	
7	Tight	Small	

<p>5</p> <p>Intermediate/ moderate</p>		<p>Intermediate/ moderate</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Pendulous</p>		<p>Large</p>	
<p>1</p> <p>Very pendulous, broken floor</p>		<p>Very large, balloon-shaped</p>	

Source: 2016 Beef Improvement Federation Guidelines

Docility Score (*weaning or later, head caught but no other restraint*)

- Score 1** – Docile. Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. Does not pull on headgate when in chute. Exits chute calmly.
- Score 2** – Restless. Quieter than average, but may be stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
- Score 3** – Nervous. Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on headgate. Exits chute briskly.
- Score 4** – Flighty (Wild). Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits chute wildly.
- Score 5** – Aggressive. May be similar to Score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute. Exits chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.
- Score 6** – Very aggressive. Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.

Beef 283-Day Gestation Table

Find service date in top line, calving date in bottom line

Bred	Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Oct</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>Nov</i>	
Bred	Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				Feb	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Nov</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				<i>Dec</i>	
Bred	Mar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Mar	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Dec</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<i>Jan</i>	
Bred	Apr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			Apr
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Jan</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	<i>Feb</i>		
Bred	May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	May	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Feb</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>Mar</i>	
Bred	June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			June
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Mar</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<i>Apr</i>		
Bred	July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	July	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>April</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>May</i>	
Bred	Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>May</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>June</i>	
Bred	Sept	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			Sept
<i>Calve</i>	<i>June</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>July</i>		
Bred	Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Oct	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>July</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>Aug</i>	
Bred	Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			Nov
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Aug</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<i>Sept</i>		
Bred	Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Dec	
<i>Calve</i>	<i>Sept</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<i>Oct</i>	

Visual Evaluation of Body Condition Scores for Cattle

	BCS	Physical Attribute					
		Spine	Ribs	Hooks/Pins	Tail head	Brisket	Muscling
Thin	1	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None/atrophy
	2	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None/atrophy
Borderline	3	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None
	4	Slightly visible	Foreribs visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	Full
Optimum Condition	5	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	Full
	6	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Some fat	Some fat	Full
Over- Conditioned	7	Not visible	Not visible	Slightly visible	Some fat	Fat	Full
	8	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Abundant fat	Abundant fat	Full
	9	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Extremely fat	Extremely fat	Full

Adapted from Herd and Sprott, 1986; BCS = body condition score

Suggestions for Body Condition Scoring Cows

A record of body condition score (BCS) at several key times of the year allows you to assess how well nutrient requirements have been met prior to scoring and to plan feeding programs to account for any needed body condition changes. Each BCS accounts for approximately 85 pounds of body weight. Group body condition scores can be recorded while moving through cows in a vehicle, on a horse, or on foot. Simply make a tally mark to reflect each cow's BCS as you pass by as shown in the cow *Body Condition Record Book* (MF3277). See *Guide to Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows and Bulls* (MF3274) for information on how to body condition score cattle.

Evaluate animals at weaning, 90 to 100 days before calving, calving, and breeding. In a spring calving system, monitor body condition to help determine weaning time, especially for young cows. If condition change is needed after weaning, develop an improvement plan and rescore in 45 days to assess progress. Cows with high milk production potential need abundant high-quality feed to meet lactation requirements, which makes any body condition change during lactation very difficult and expensive. Body condition changes should be made before calving, aiming for a calving BCS of 5 or greater (5.5 to 6 for first calf heifers) to ensure timely rebreeding. Cows must gain 100 to 150 pounds in fetal weight and fluids during gestation. Weight change less than that results in a loss of body condition.

Body condition score at breeding is a good assessment of how well nutrient requirements were met during the high-demand periods of late gestation and early lactation. Individual body condition scores can be used to identify individuals that don't fit your environment and to create separate groups for feeding.

Cow Body Condition Record *(Use Cow Body Condition Score Record Book to collect and record group average below.)*

Group	Calving	Prebreeding	Weaning	90 days precalving		
Date	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
2-yr-olds						
3-yr-olds						
4 +						

Bull Inventory

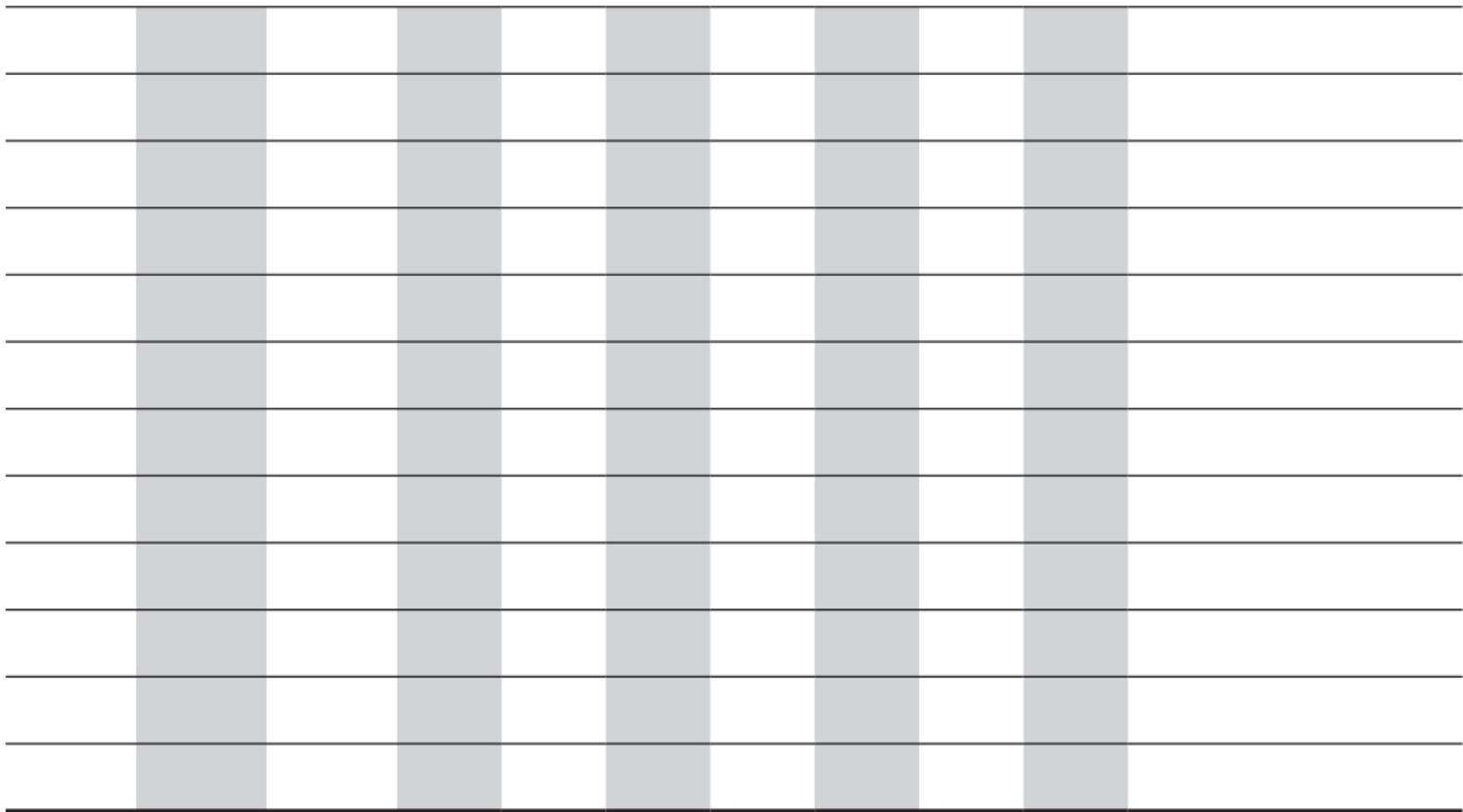
	Group			Total
Yearlings				
2-yr-olds				
3-yr-olds				
4-yr-olds				
5-yr-olds				
6+				
Total				

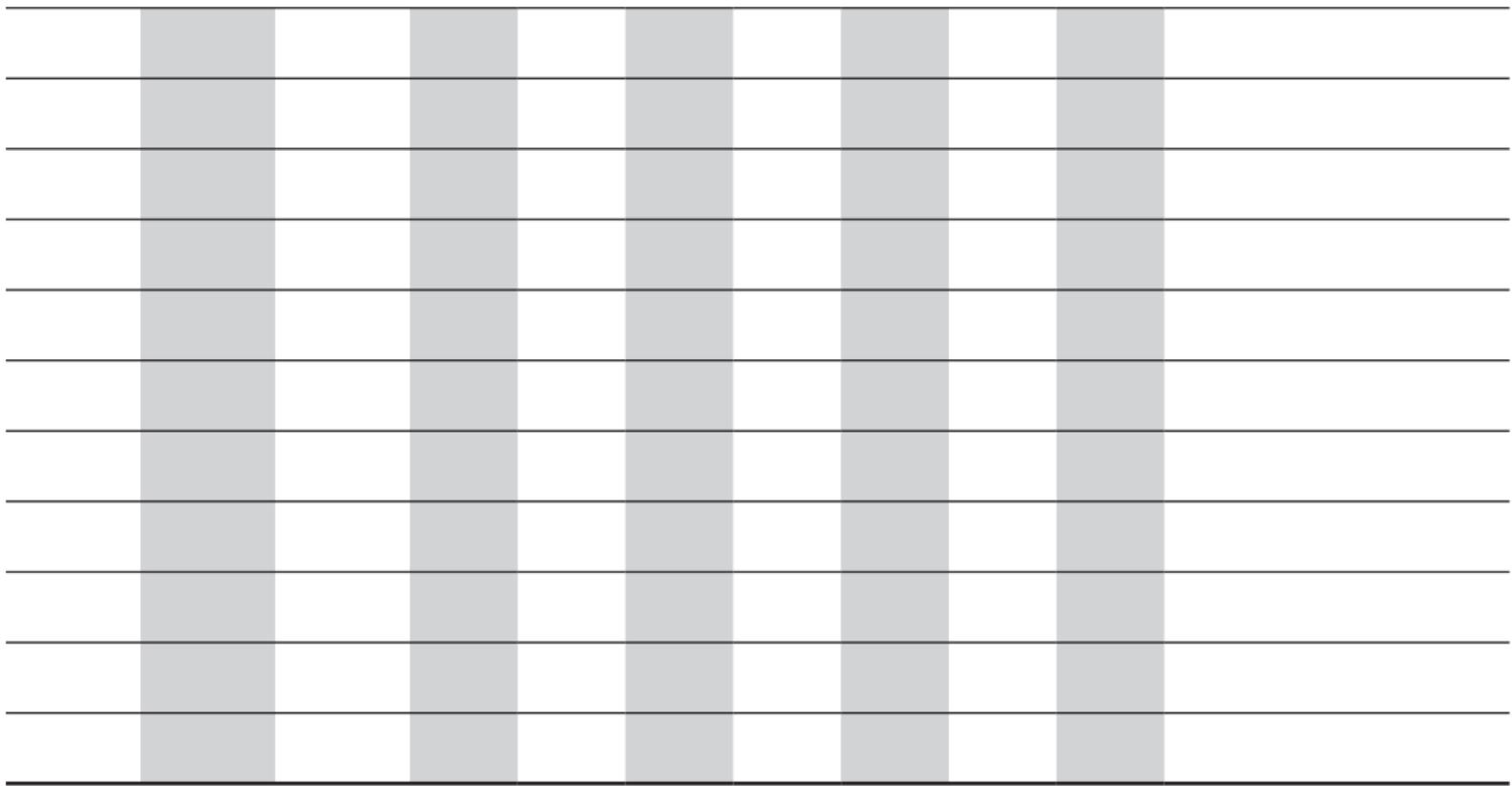
Beginning of Fiscal Year Cow Herd Inventory

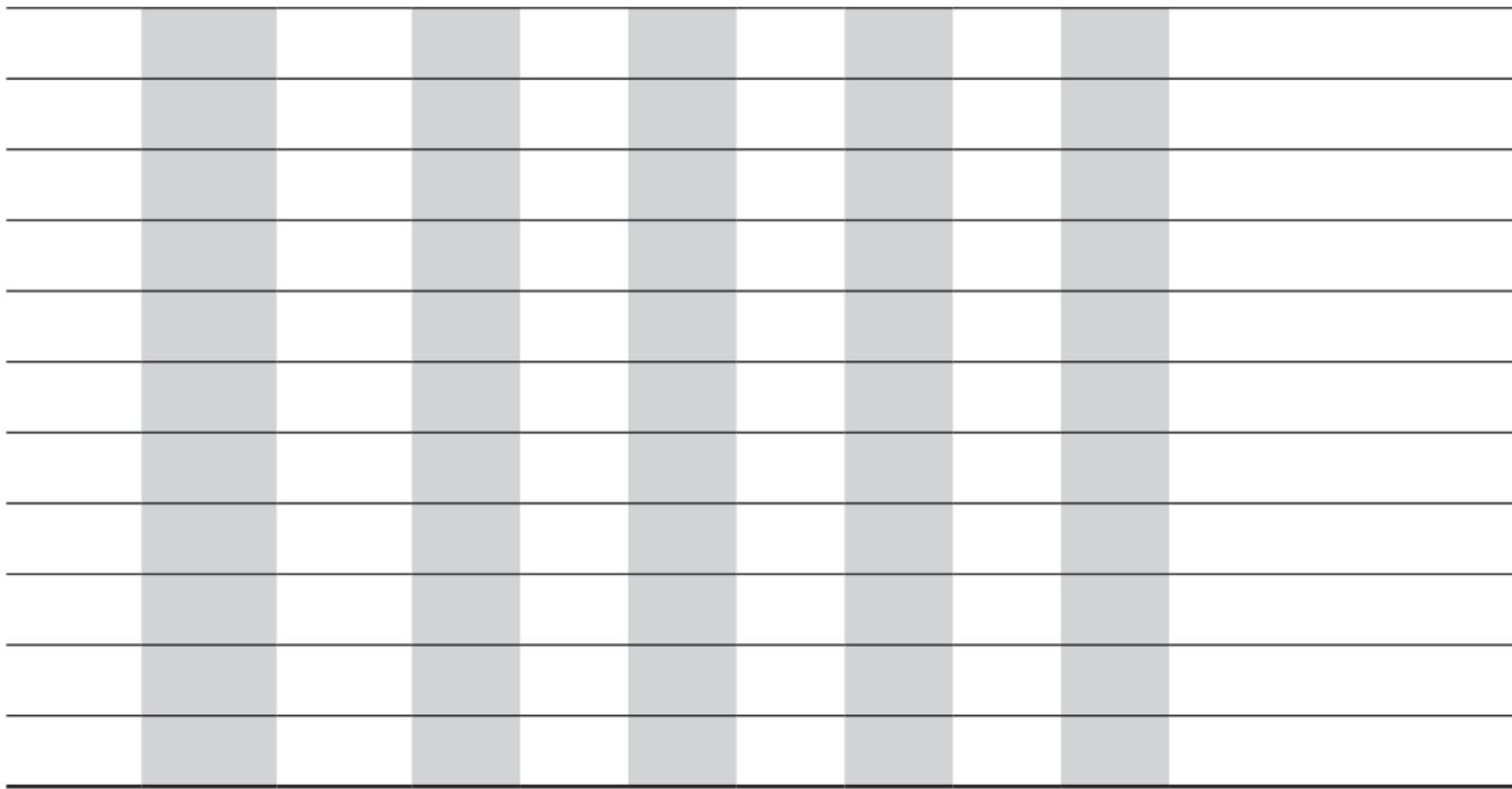
	Group				Total
Open replacements					
Pregnant replacements					
2-yr-olds					
3-yr-olds					
4 +					
Total					

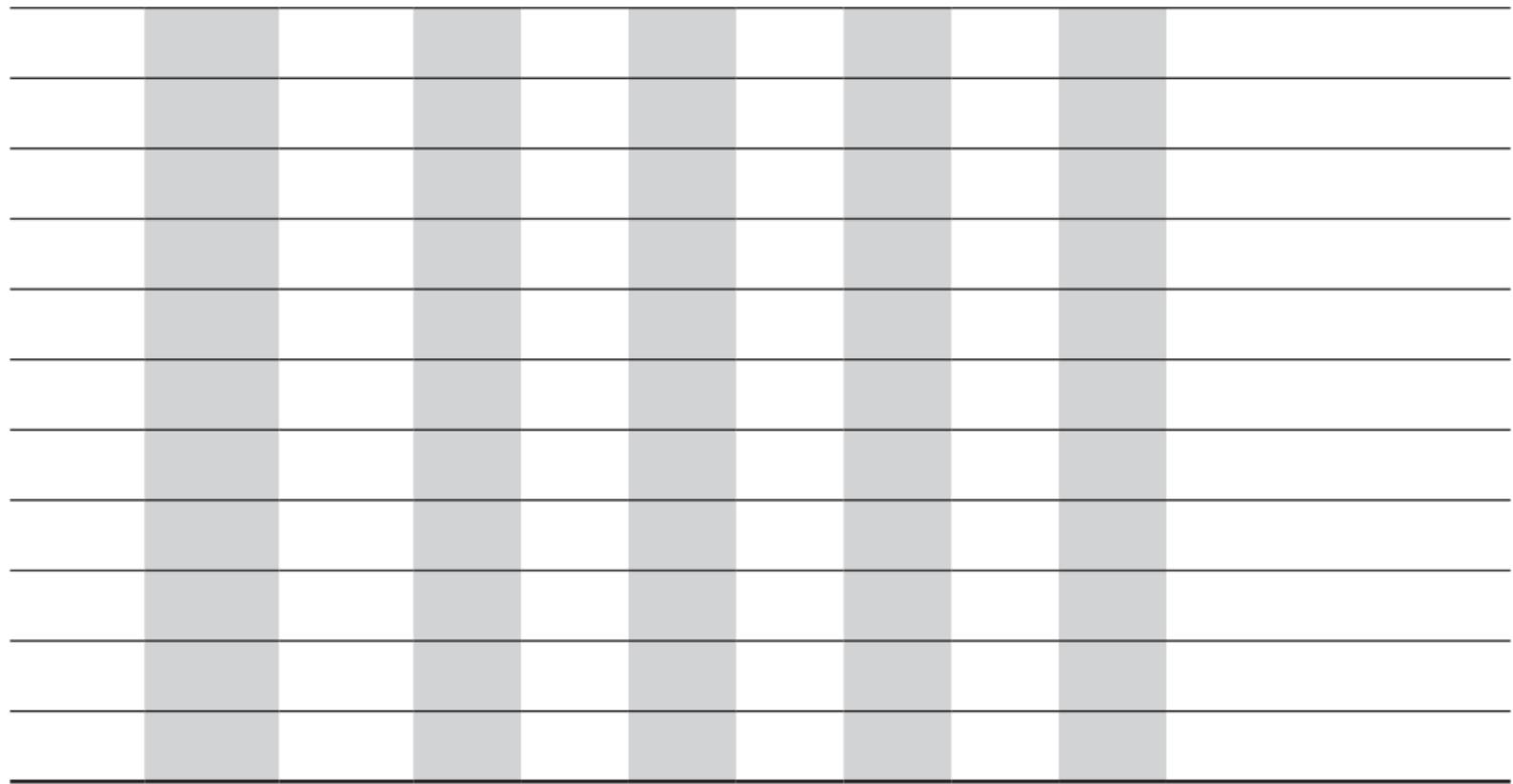
Beginning of Breeding Season Exposed Cow Herd Inventory

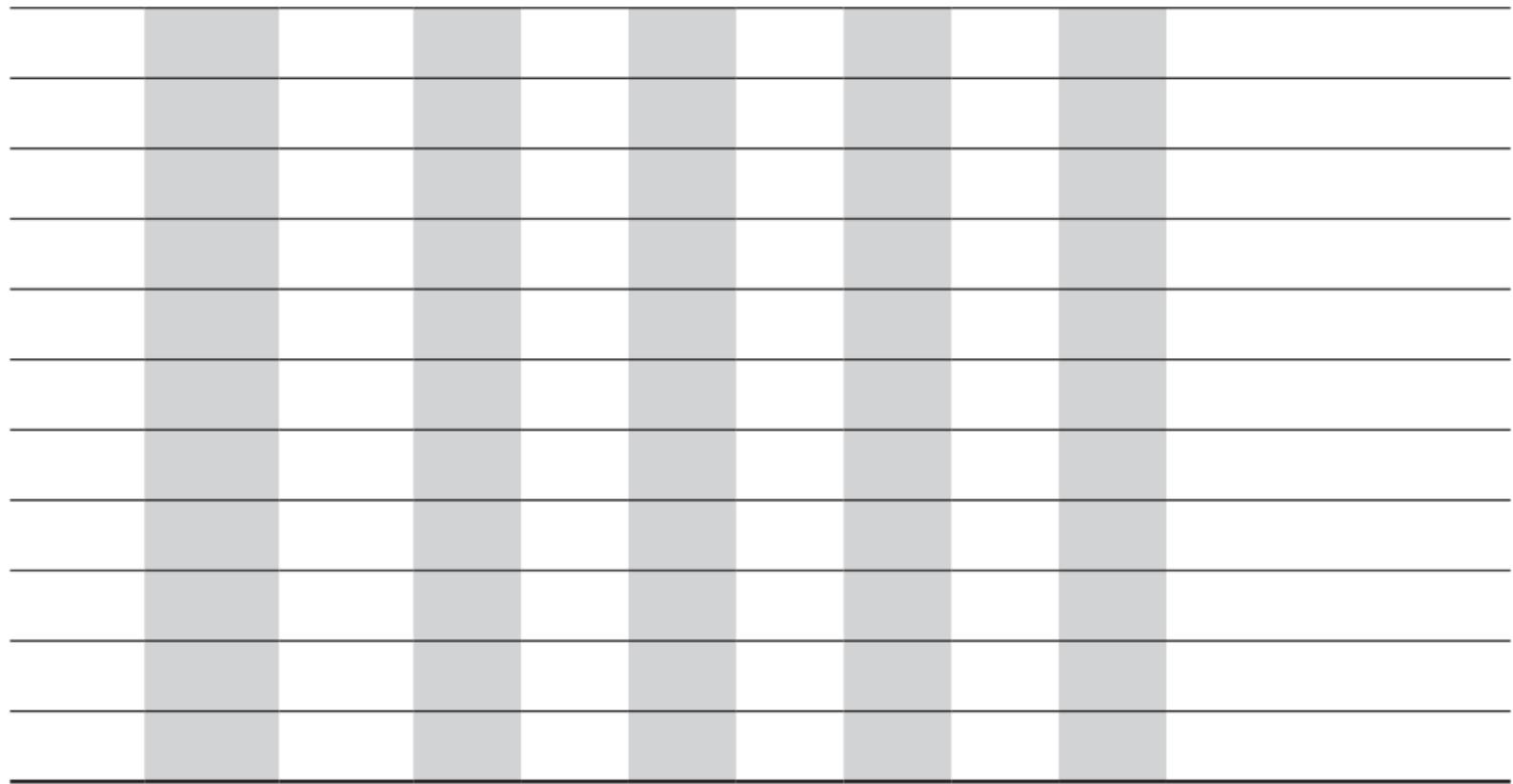
	Group				Total
Open replacements					
Pregnant replacements					
2-yr-olds					
3-yr-olds					
4 +					
Total					

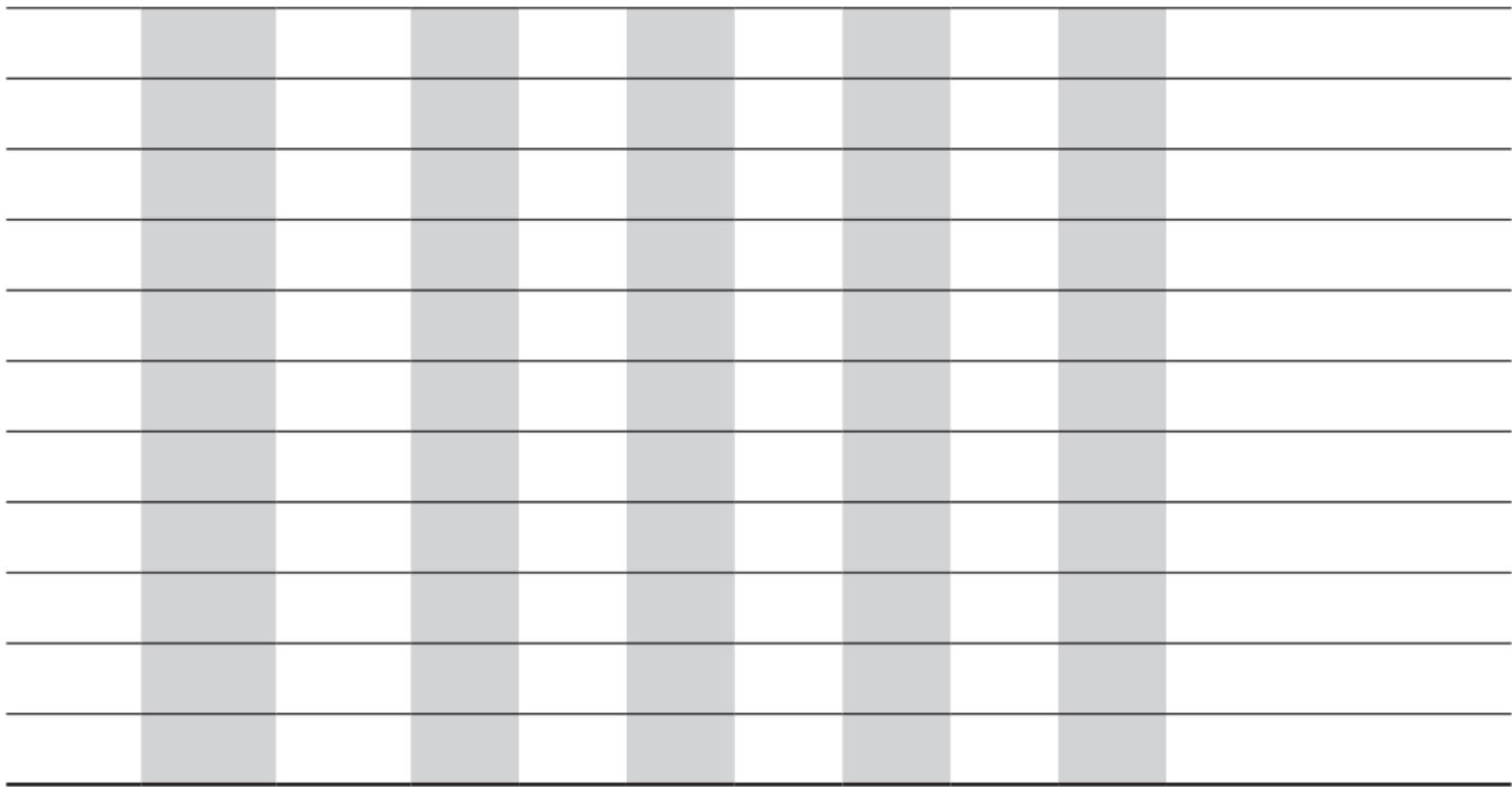


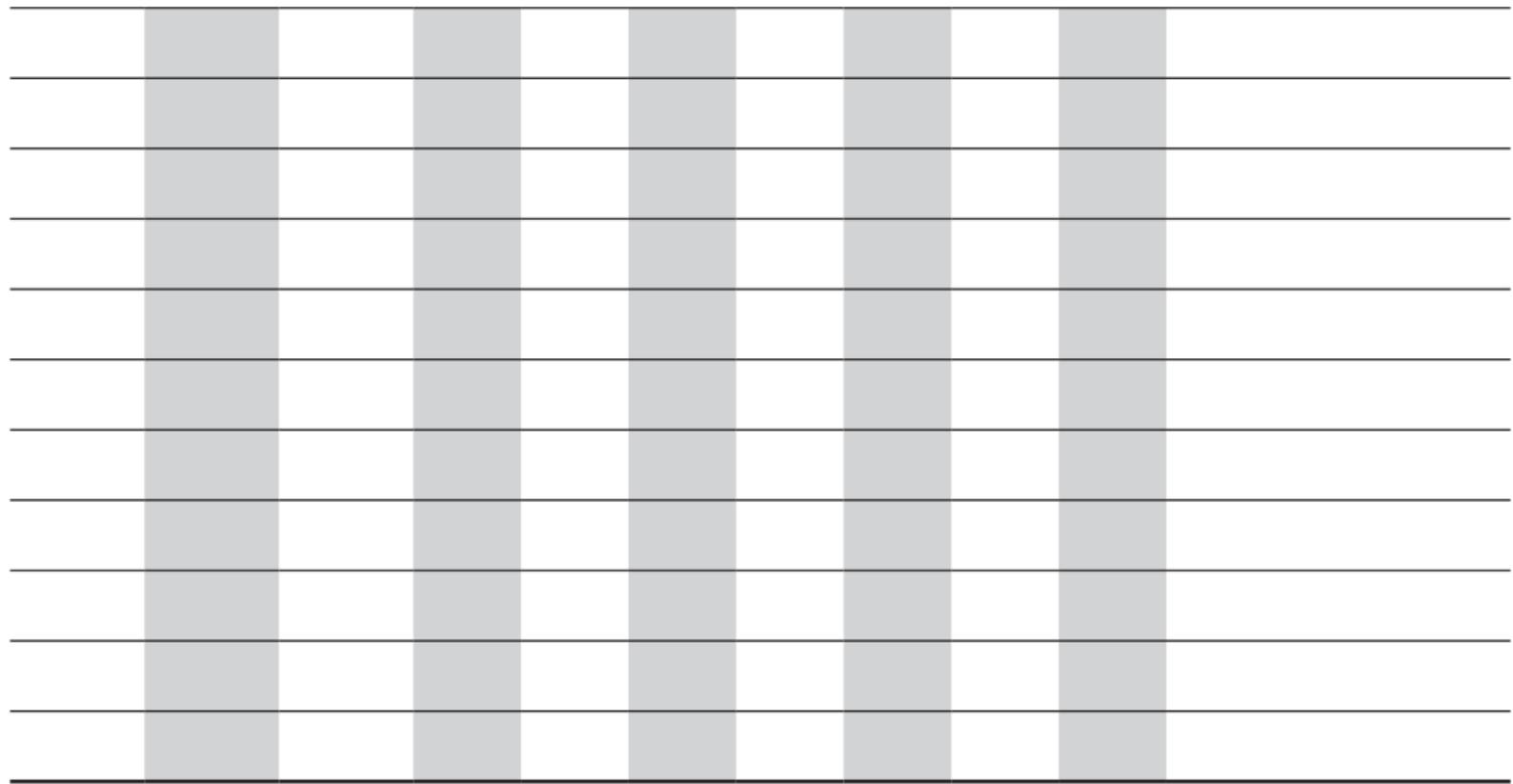


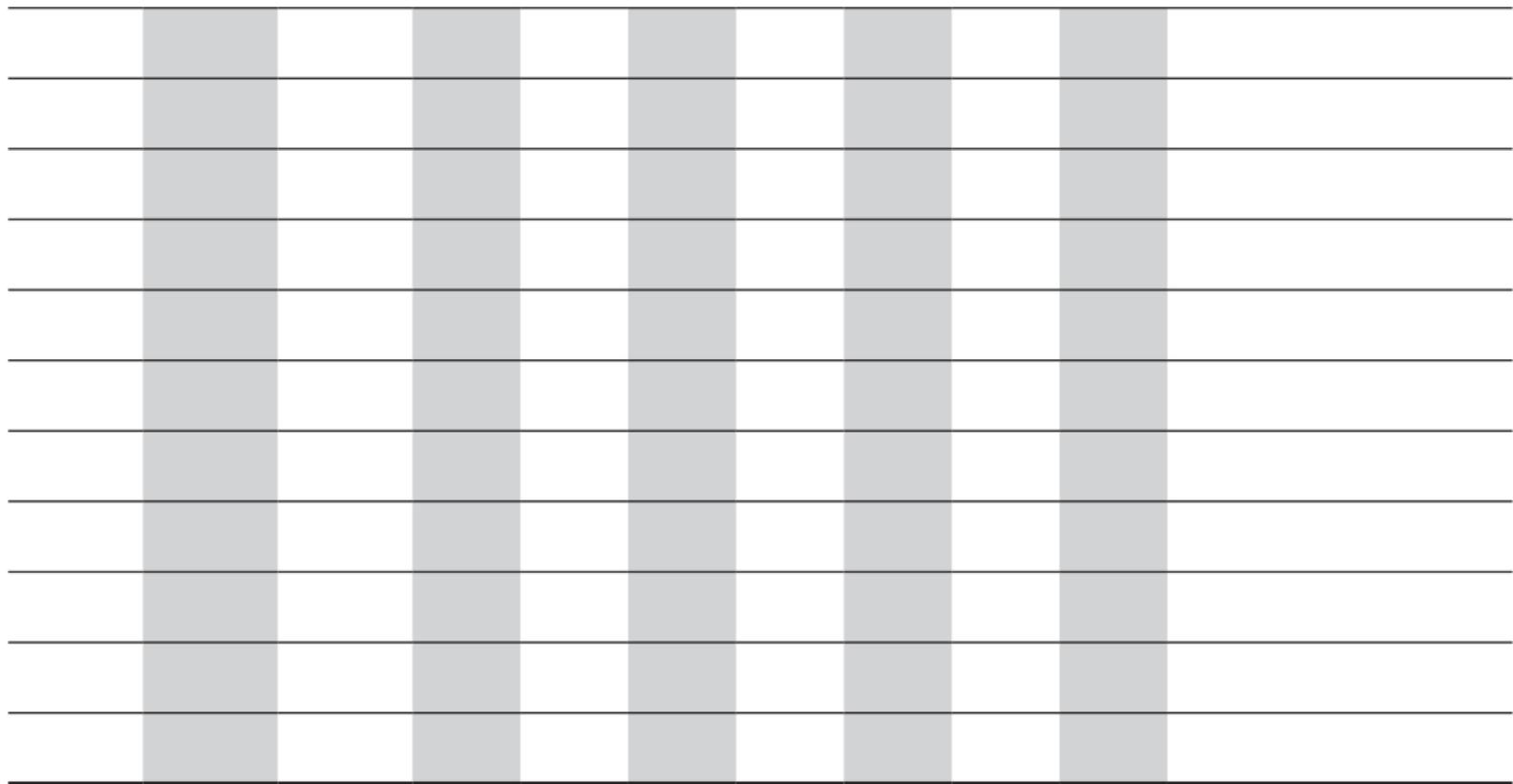


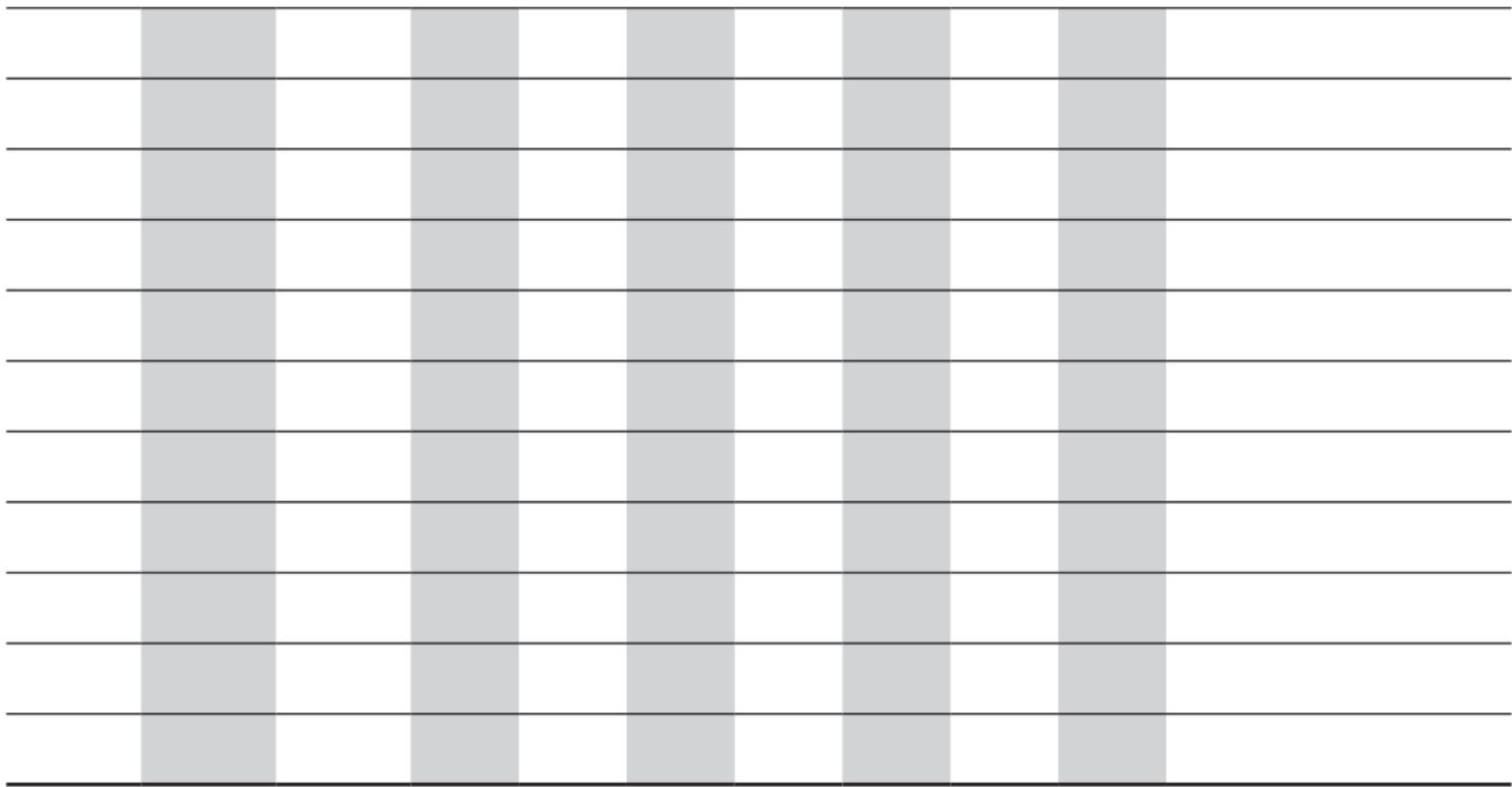


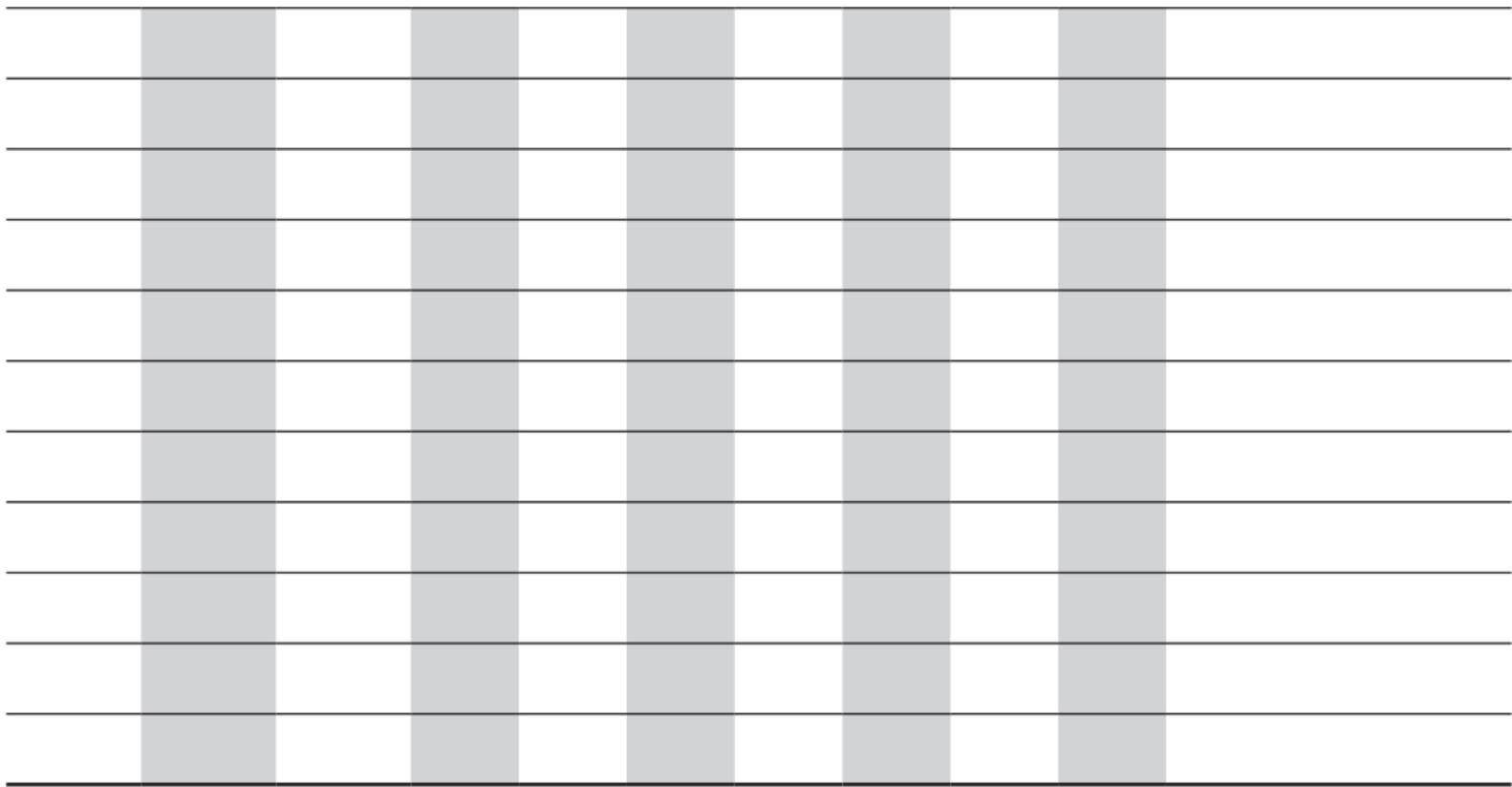


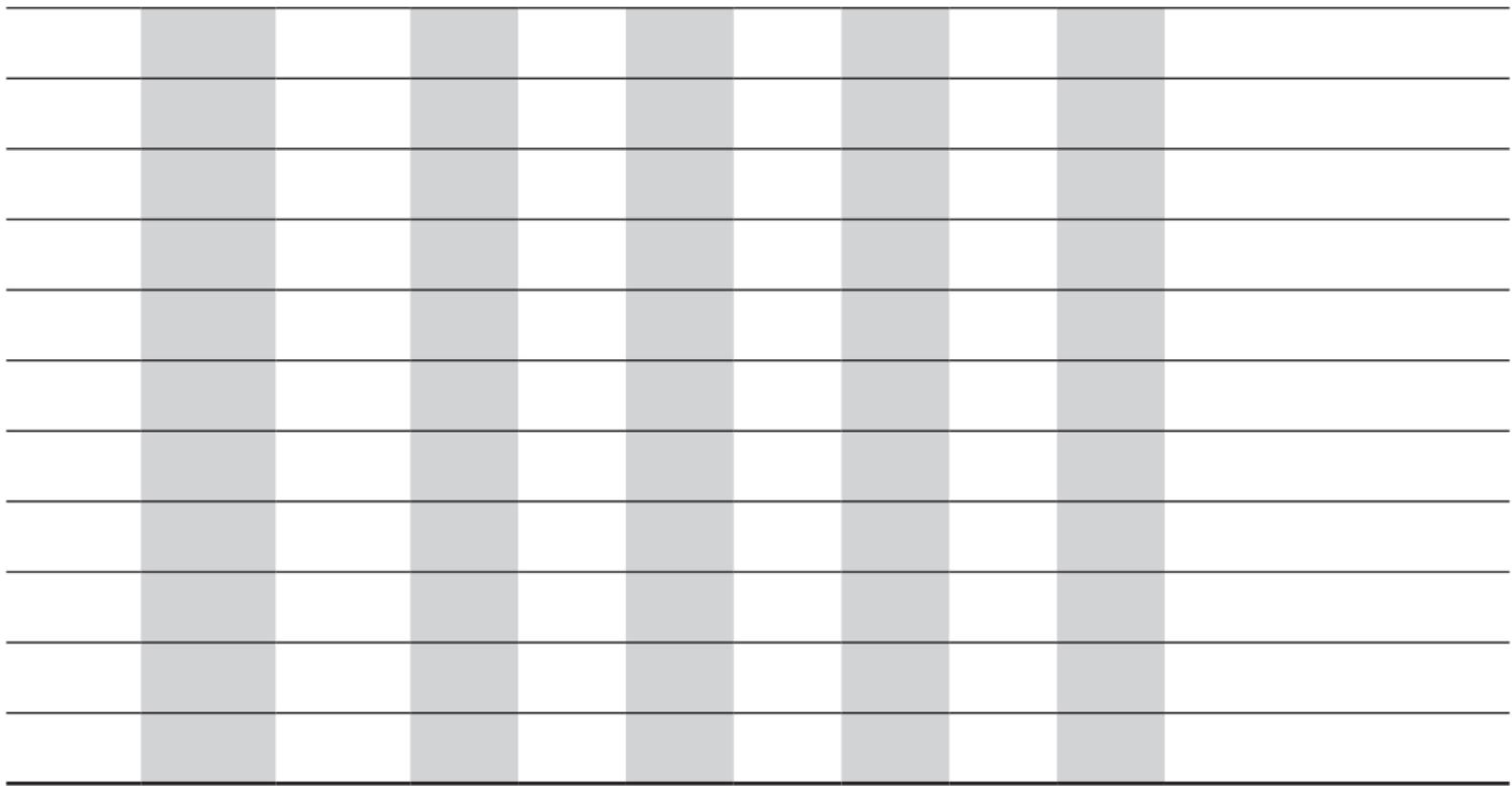












Calving Distribution *(Count the number of calves born per day for each 21-day period.)*

Calving period day

Period #2	Calving period day																					Total		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
2-yr-olds	Date																							
	No.																							
3-yr-olds	Date																							
	No.																							
4+	Date																							
	No.																							
	Date																							
	No.																							
	Date																							
	No.																							
	Date																							
	No.																							

Calving Distribution *(Count number of calves born per day for each 21-day period.)*

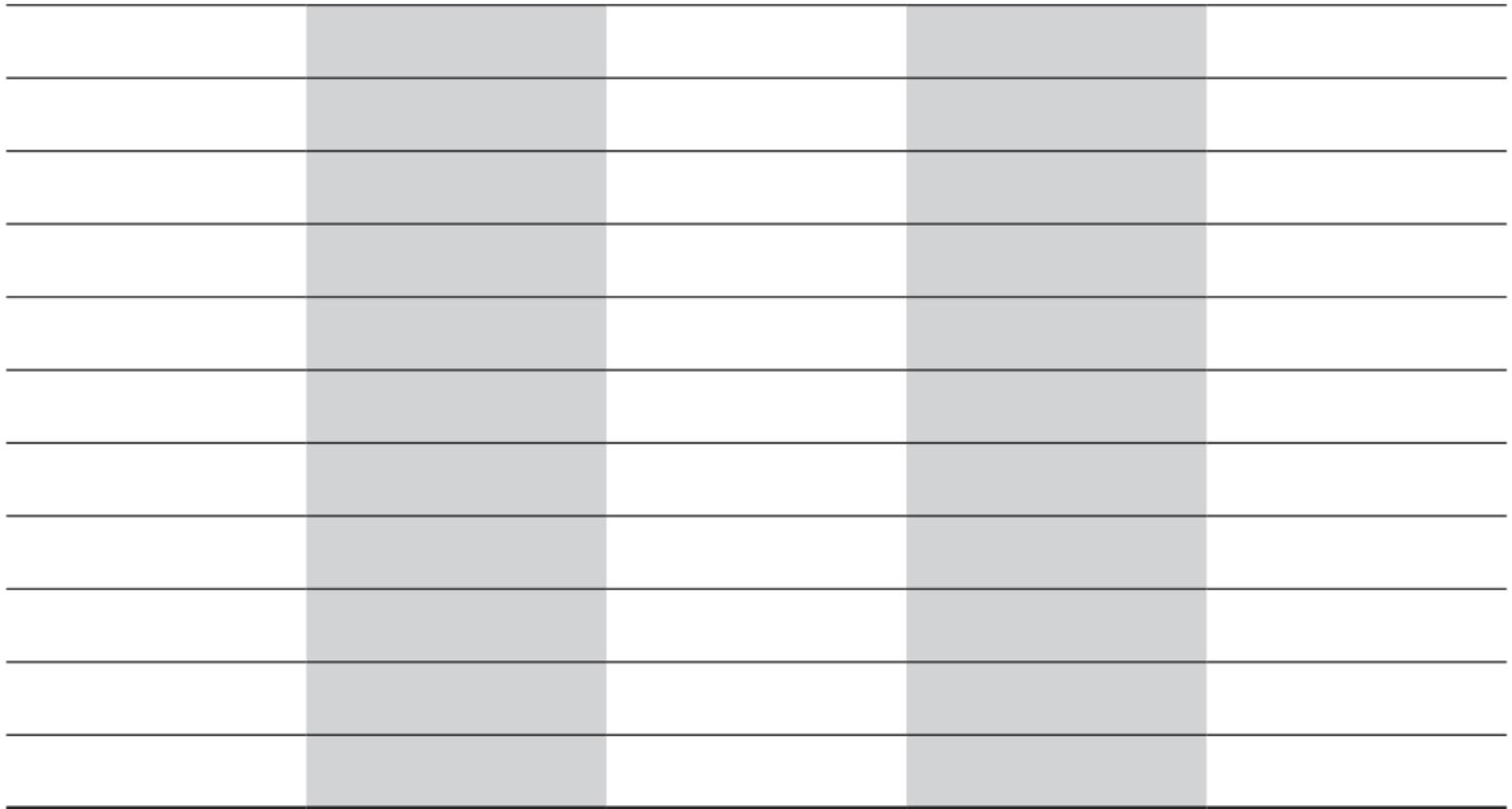
Calving period day

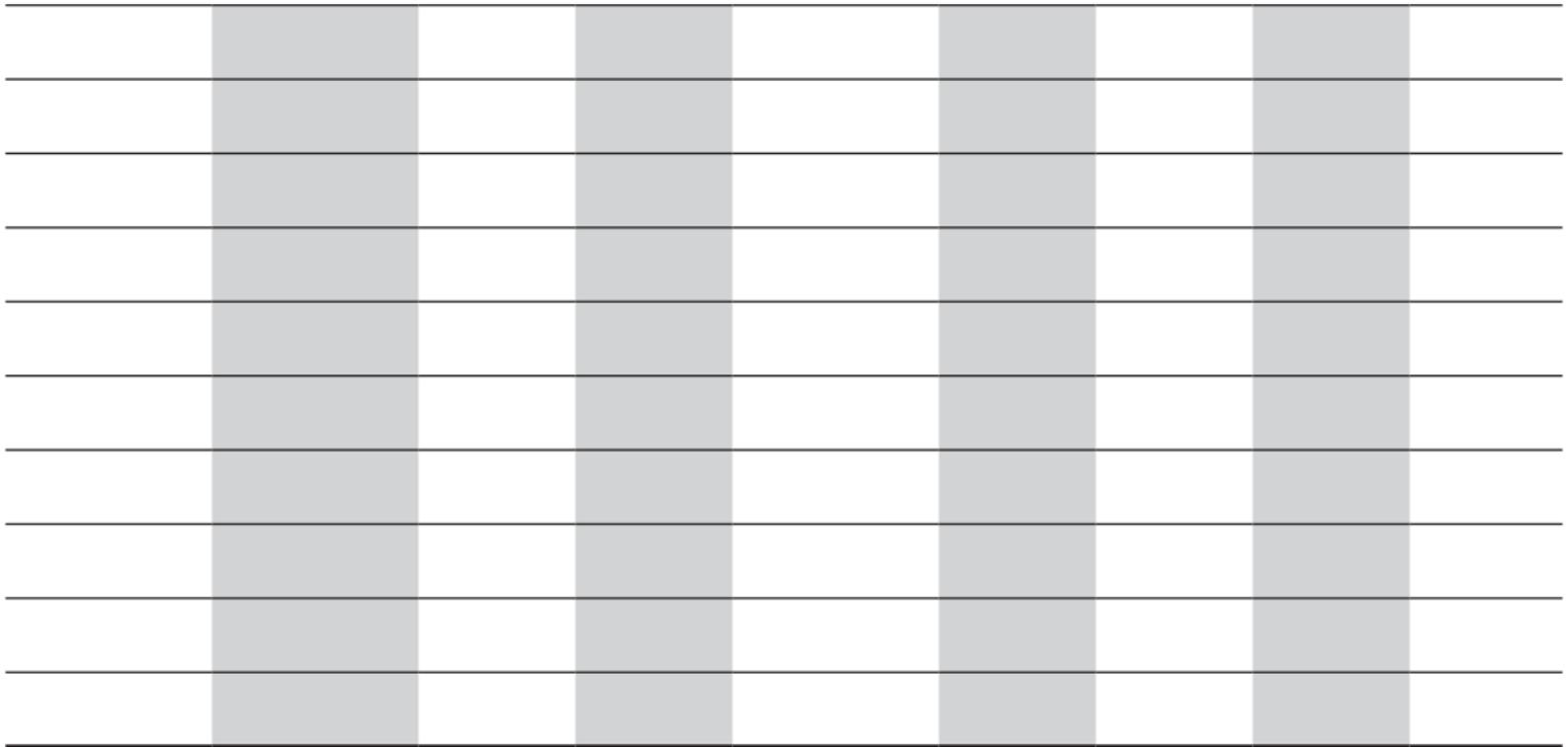
Period #4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total	
2-yr-olds	Date																						
	No.																						
3-yr-olds	Date																						
	No.																						
4+	Date																						
	No.																						
	Date																						
	No.																						
	Date																						
	No.																						
	Date																						
	No.																						

Calving Distribution Summary

Calving period	Number of calves born per period by cow age group					total	%
	2 yr olds	3 yr olds	4+				
First 21 days							
Second 21 days							
Third 21 days							
63+ days							
Did not calve							
Total							

Date first calf born _____ Date last calf born _____ Total days calving _____



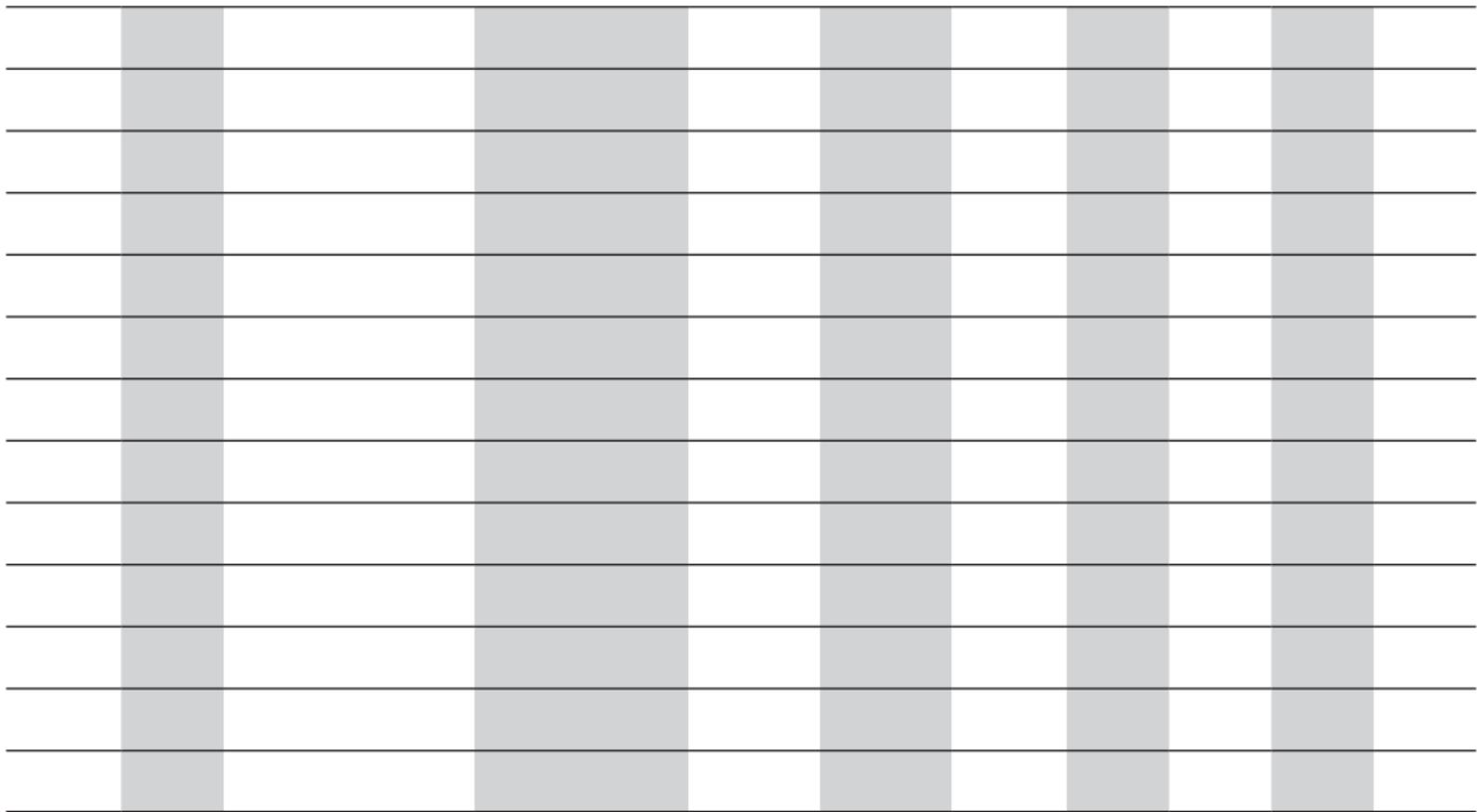


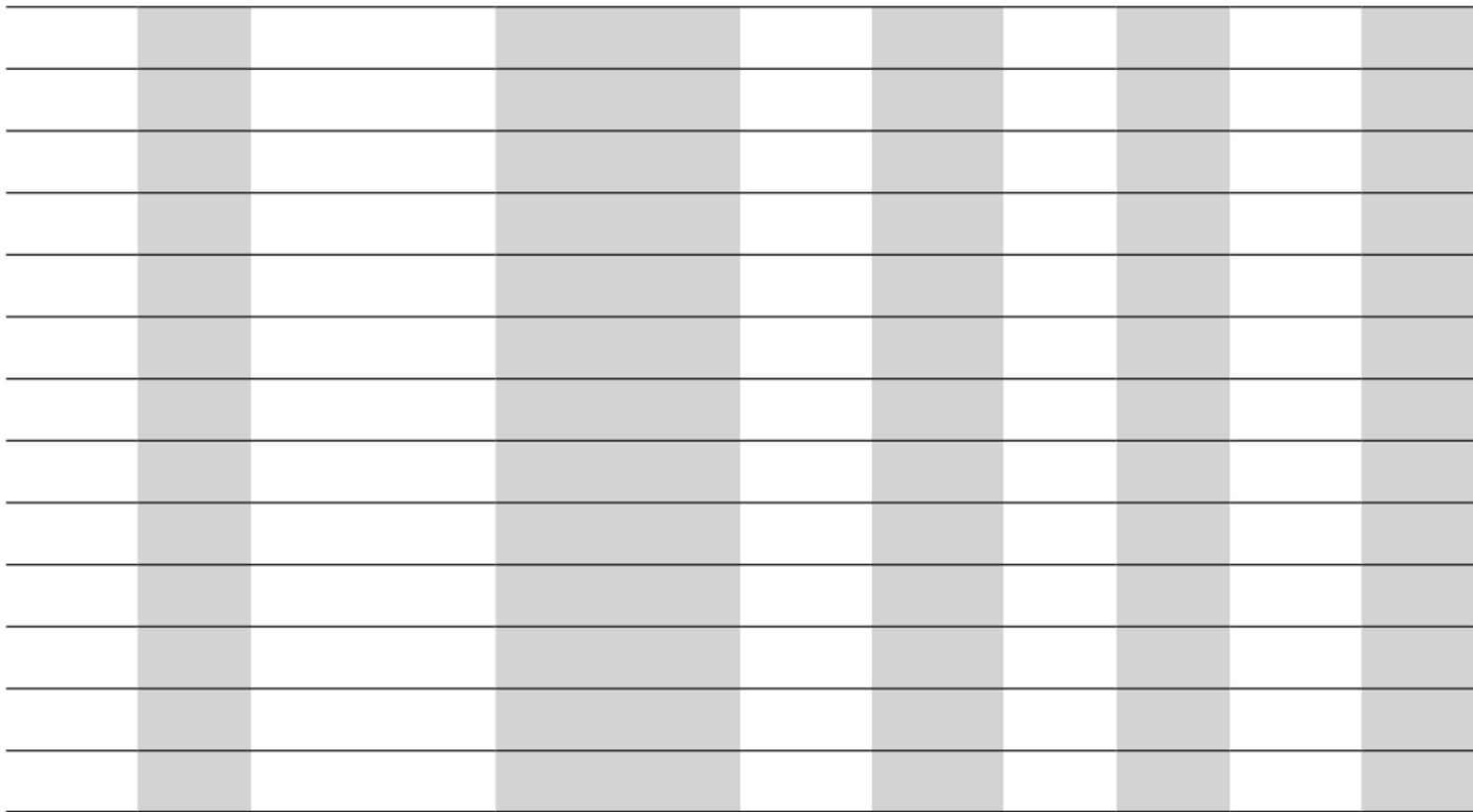
* Degree of use is an estimate of how much forage has been harvested by livestock at the end of the season. (L=Light, 1-33%; M=Moderate, 33-66%, H=Heavy, 66-100%)

Steps to Improve Injection-Site Quality Control

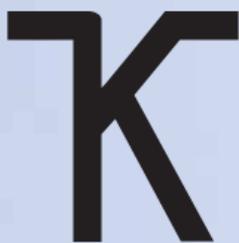
1. Administer all injectable products in the neck or shoulder region of your cattle, not in the round. By doing so, you can help prevent defects from occurring.
2. Follow instructions. Make sure you read label and labeling information before administering any animal health products.
3. Avoid IM injections whenever other labeled routes of administration are available.
4. Never mix products. Mixing products can cause unnecessary tissue damage and may reduce the efficacy of the product administered and extend withdrawal period.
5. Ask your supplier to provide you and/or your veterinarian with sufficient documentation that shows that their injectable animal-health product does not cause tissue damage.
6. Encourage biological and pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide tissue reaction information on all injectables, animal-health products.

Source: Adapted from It's Your Product, NCBA, 1999





** See codes on pages 2-3.*



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