

Herd Growth Plan Checklist:

Overall Summary	
Background Information on your Farm	
Current Operation	Number of cows, estimation of age breakdown, calving season, breed structure, land base, feed availability, calf sales or finish your own.
Proposed Expansion	Purchase (where from, cost) vs retained heifers/females, requirements for feed, pasture, barn space, water. Target number of females in the herd in 3- 5 years. Females eligible for funding assistance need to be confirmed pregnant.
Financial Estimates	Financing requirements (cattle/land), cost to raise a weaned calf – include feed, overhead, yardage, land rent. With expansion, how will this affect the cost of raising a calf?
Management Considerations	Other things that will help execute expansion plan and stay at the level or grow further. In the event of a market decline how will you remain competitive? Could include items aimed at improving operational efficiency – Improved grazing management practices to increase carrying capacity, soil health, utilizing herd management software for benchmarking, implementation of vet approved health protocols, specialized equipment to improve efficiency of cattle handling and feeding etc.