



The Quarterly Beef News

Winter Edition Newsletter



McDowell County Center

January 2023

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January Cattlemen's Meeting

I hope everyone is looking forward to the annual cattlemen's meeting; I know I am looking forward to meeting all of you. This year the annual cattlemen's meeting will be held, **January 26th at 6 PM at the Senior Center**. Annual dues of \$20 will need to be paid at this meeting. We plan to have an auction and draw the winner from the raffle ticket sales at the annual meeting. If you have something you want to put in the auction please let me know by January 24th! All proceeds from the raffle and auction will go toward the Mario Deluca Scholarship Fund. Raffle tickets are \$500 towards the purchase of 4 Cooper, Michelin, BF Goodrich, or Uniroyal tires at Bakers Automotive. Tickets are for sale at \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Board members were distributed raffle tickets, if you are interested in purchasing more or need more to sell, feel free to contact me at the extension office. Please **RSVP** for the meeting by **January 24th**, you can call the office at (828) 652-8104.

Contact Us!

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LIVESTOCK ANTIBIOTICS LEAVING THE SHELVES NEAR YOU 2023

Have you heard about the FDA's latest news? Over the counter, livestock antibiotics will start leaving the shelves near you starting June 2023. This latest ruling by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) has been in the works for a long time. The main goal of this new antibiotic guidance is to help ensure animal drugs that contain antimicrobials are not being overused or used incorrectly. With many antibiotics being used in both animal & human medicine there's concern that over or misuse of those medicines can contribute to antimicrobial resistance. Which in turn, could eventually lead to a mega-bug that will be untreatable with medicine; whether it was treated with over-the-counter antibiotics or veterinary prescribed.

The medicines listed are going to be taken off the shelf in June 2023. Some stores may have already started taking the products off of the shelf or, may no longer stock them.

- Cephapirin
- Benzathine
- Gentamicin
- Lincomycin
- Oxytetracycline
- Penicillin G Procaine,
- Penicillin G Benzathine,
- Sulfadimethoxine,
- Sulfamethazine,
- Tylosin

You may be asking what are these? The medicines listed above are used in injectables, boluses, and intermammary tube medicines. These are medicines you can easily purchase at Tractor Supply, Rural King, or at a local feed store near you.

What does this mean for producers? You will need to work to establish a VCPR (Veterinary Client Patient Relationship). Some of the benefits of this coming into play is, it can allow you to get a second opinion on your livestock if you are unsure of what is wrong. If it is something that over-the-counter medicine would not fix like you thought it would; this could save you time & money by getting a veterinarian's opinion.

You need to establish a VCPR (Veterinary Client Patient Relationship) with your preferred veterinarian. Your veterinarian will be the one to write you a prescription in order to purchase medicine for your livestock. This does not mean you should abandon your livestock, you should seek veterinarian attention when the need arises.

ARE HAY FEEDERS REALLY WORTH IT?

Wanting to make your hay go further this winter? Are you using bale feeders? With the price of hay at an all-time high, it would make sense to conserve as much hay as possible. Without a bale feeder, up to 45% of the bale is wasted, when fed in the open without a barrier. That 45% is trampled into the ground to never be consumed. Is a feeder worth the price? Yes, while the initial costs of round bale feeders can vary from \$339-800 and up, they help preserve your hay. While there are many different bale feeders out there; choose the one that fits your operation the best.

- Regular Round Bale Feeder- Allows bale to sit on the ground and decompose if cattle do not eat it in a timely manner.
- Plastic Feeder- Lightweight and easy to move, allowing the bale to sit on the ground as well.
- Cone Feeder- Best option, also more expensive, keeps the bale off the ground and takes longer for the bale to decompose.
- Trailer Feeder- Best for large operations, but will still have waste from cattle pulling hay off the trailer.

Let's think about this in terms of money for a second. If you paid \$50 for a round bale and 45% of it was wasted, that would be a loss of \$22.50. While \$22.50 may not sound like much if you are putting out a bale twice a week that is a loss of \$45 per week. That may not sound like much, but at the end of the month that adds up to a \$180 loss. Whereas with a round bale feeder you may only lose up to 12% depending on the type of feeder that you utilize. That loss goes down to \$6 a bale, at the end of the month that is \$48. That is a pretty big difference from the \$180 loss without the round bale feeder; therefore, round bale feeders save you \$132 per month. In 1-6 months that loss is enough to purchase a round bale feeder to help make your hay go further.



Calving kit preparation for cow-calf producers

Troy Salzer, Extension educator and Joe Armstrong, DVM, Extension educator, cattle production systems

Calving season, whether it is in the spring or the fall, is a critical time for every cow-calf operation. Being prepared is essential for success when assisting cows and calves when they need help. Having everything you need together in a kit can save precious time and prevent frustration in a stressful situation.

Calving essential components

These lists include essential items to have on hand for going into the calving season. Collect them at least four weeks prior to the date the first calf is expected.

Items to include for pre-calving

- The farm veterinarian's phone number: Don't be afraid to use it if needed!
- Warm clothing: Bibs and a coat are recommended so you can take off the coat and have your arms free to assist with calving but still be warm.
- Headlamp - A great light is often underappreciated. Don't skimp on this one. A hands-free light is preferred.
- A restraining device: This is for the cow's safety and yours. A halter works well. Tie it down low so that the cow can lie down. A chute is good for examinations but awkward if the cow goes down.
- Disinfectant: Use udder wash diluted in warm water or a suitable iodine preparation to wash the plastic gloves and cow's vulva. Cleanliness is critical to prevent post-calving complications for the cow and the calf.
- Long plastic gloves (OB sleeves): Wear these when examining the cow to protect you and the cow. If these are not available, be sure to wash your hands and arms thoroughly, keeping all materials as clean as possible.
- A pail for warm water.
- Clean towels and paper towels.
- Lubricant: Use a veterinary OB lubricant. Don't let it freeze. There are also dry types of lubricant available. This might be the most important item in your kit. You will use this liberally when you need to, so keep plenty of it available.
- Calf puller (calf jack) to assist with difficult births. This can be a dangerous tool if used incorrectly. Make sure to talk with your veterinarian about the best way to use a calf jack.
- OB chains plus two handles: Put one loop above the dewclaw and the other below the dewclaw. Use one chain for each leg. Put the large link on top of the foot, so the pull is on the topside.
- Iodine (7%) and scissors for the navel cord.
- Dental floss to tie off navel cord if it won't quit bleeding.

- Clean straw to tickle the nose.

Items to include for post-calving

- The farm veterinarian's phone number.
- Calf warming box or coats.
- Colostrum: Have a supply of fresh, frozen or commercial colostrum available for calves: You may need to give colostrum to calves from heifers, thin cows, cows with large teats, cows with twins, cows with premature calves, cows with uterine prolapses, or from cows who have difficult or cesarean deliveries.
- Nipple bottle and esophageal feeder to ensure that the calf gets colostrum. Try the nipple bottle first but make sure that at least 2 to 4 quarts of colostrum are given to the calf within 6 hours after birth.
- Calf claim products: Grain, calf claim products, dog, etc.
- Syringes and needles: 3-10 cc and 18 gauge x 1" for calves, 16 gauge x 1.5" for cows (IM).
- Tags and marker, tagger, record-book and pencil.
- Castration bander.

Items to include in your medicine cabinet

These items are recommended in every medicine cabinet

- Thermometer: One of the best tools for diagnostics. If you call your veterinarian, their first question likely will be: what is the calf's temperature?
- Oxytocin: for milk let down*.
- Penicillin: Penicillin given at any dose other than the labeled dose of 1 ml/100 lbs. requires a veterinary prescription*.
- Long acting systemic antibiotic*.
- Medication to reduce inflammation and pain (Meloxicam, flunixin meglumine)*.
- Sulfamethazine tablets for treating coccidia in calves at least 3 weeks old*.
- Electrolytes: Dehydration is the biggest enemy for calf scours and oral electrolyte products are our best defense.
- Probiotic.
- Vitamin B complex.

Discuss with your veterinarian

Ideally, you would discuss these items with your veterinarian as some of these medications can be specific to certain regions or operations based on history and nutrition. These items are not necessary for all cattle operations.

- Vitamin E & Selenium*
- Iron
- Vitamin A & D

The following items should be included for producers who are comfortable with IV administration of medications and epidural administration.

2% Lidocaine: local anesthetic*

23% Calcium Gluconate*

50% Dextrose

Hypertonic saline*

0.9% Sodium chloride or lactated ringers

IV setup

* These items require prescriptions from your Veterinarian of Record who holds your Veterinary client-patient relationship (VCPR).



GARLIC HERB-CRUSTED BEEF ROAST

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Top Round Roast
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Rub:
- 2 teaspoons garlic-pepper seasoning
- 2 teaspoons dried basil leaves, crushed
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme leaves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley leaves, crushed

COOKING:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine rub ingredients in small bowl; press evenly onto all surfaces of beef Top Round Roast.

Place roast on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef. Do not add water or cover. Roast in 325°F oven 1-1/4 to 1-3/4 hours for medium rare doneness.

Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare.)

Carve roast into thin slices; season with salt and black pepper, as desired.

Beef Cow Nutrition During Calving and Early Lactation

Ken Olson

Professor & SDSU Extension Beef Specialist

Written with contributions by Adele Harty, former SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist.

Calving season has started or will be starting in the near future for most producers. Nutritional management of the cow herd is more important during the periods of late pregnancy and early lactation than any other. It has a huge impact on the performance of both the cow and the newborn calf.

Nutrition for the cow is important during this period because of its effect on subsequent reproductive performance. Nutritional status of the cow at the time that she calves and from calving until initiation of the breeding season will determine if and when she returns to estrus (cycles) and her level of fertility. Thus, it drives if and when cows become pregnant. To make the situation more complex to manage, the cow's nutrient requirements increase throughout these periods. During late pregnancy, the fetus grows exponentially in the cow's uterus, causing a directly proportional increase in nutrient requirements. Seventy percent of the fetus' growth occurs in the last 3 months of pregnancy. This means the cow needs to gain about 1.25 lb. per day in fetus and related tissue growth during late gestation. If she doesn't gain this much, then her own body weight and condition are decreasing. As this occurs, the growing fetus is filling an ever-increasing portion of the cow's body cavity, thus displacing rumen capacity. This often requires the need to provide higher quality feed in late pregnancy to overcome lost capacity for forage intake.

After the calf is born, nutrient requirements rise dramatically to meet the demand of milk production. The amount of increase is directly proportional to the genetic potential to produce milk, so the breed and bloodlines of the cow will influence her requirements for nutrients to produce milk.

All of these changing variables make it challenging to manage the nutrient intake to match the nutrient demand. A few tools are available to help with this process. The first tool is to test feeds to know the nutrient content that the cows are receiving. This is relatively straight forward with harvested feeds where representative samples can be collected and sent to a feed testing lab. Once nutrient levels are known, ration balancing programs can be used to balance diets to meet nutrient requirements. Extension beef and cow/calf field specialists can assist with ration balancing.

The second tool is to use body condition scoring (BCS) to evaluate the nutritional status of the cow. The most common BCS system is to numerically score the cows from one (thinnest) to nine (fattest), with a moderate score of 5 being the most desirable at calving. Based on a great deal of

research, cows with a BCS of 5 will have a high likelihood of returning to estrus by initiation of breeding. Managing BCS from calving until initiation of breeding can also be accomplished.

Research suggests that feeding management should be adjusted so that cows that are not at a BCS of 5 at calving move toward a BCS of 5 by initiation of breeding. In other words, thin cows should gain BCS and fat cows should lose BCS. Again, research suggests that movement in nutritional status (BCS) toward a moderate level (BCS=5) will increase fertility so that more cows become pregnant.

Nutrition of the cow during late gestation and early lactation is also very important to calf health and performance. Adequate nutrition to the pregnant cow will improve the nutritional status of the growing fetus inside the cow as well as colostrum quality. This will lead to a strong calf that will have good vigor so that it stands quickly and suckles colostrum soon after birth. All of this is important to the early development of the immune system in the calf and will influence its health and performance throughout its life. Cow nutrition after calving will also affect quantity of milk produced; further influencing calf health and performance.

It has been wrongly suggested that under-nourishment of the cow will reduce the birth weight of the calf to decrease calving difficulty. This practice actually backfires, in that undernourished cows are weak and cannot labor as vigorously, and undernourished newborn calves are weak, slow to rise, slow to suckle colostrum and as a result, will suffer increased sickness and death.

Although feeding the cows is the largest production cost in a cow-calf operation, money invested in improving cow nutritional status now will pay for itself in terms of improved cow pregnancy rates this fall and overall calf performance.

Got Hay For Sale?

If you are in need of hay or want to sell hay, the NC Department of Ag Hay Alert website may be beneficial for you.

<https://www.ncagr.gov/hayalert/>

Producers can also call the Hay Alert Line at

(866) 506-6222

Also, be sure to let me know, I get calls from people looking to purchase hay.

Scholarship Opportunities:

- **North Carolina Cattlemen's Association-**
January 15, 2023
- **Select Sires-** *January 31, 2023*
- **Sullivan Supply-** *March, 2023*
- **American Hereford Association-** *April 1*

Cow Herd Management Calendar

January/February/March:

- Make sure bull is in good breeding condition. Trim the hooves, conduct breeding soundness exams, body condition needs to be at least a 6.0, may need to provide additional feed to get to that score.
- Make sure your cattle have minerals, and order more as needed.
- Check your calving supplies to ensure you have the proper equipment on hand if the need arises.
- Start checking you heifers and cows if they are due to come in.
- Make sure the cattle maintain a body condition score of 5 to 6, provide additional feed if necessary.
- Vaccinate calves with 7-way clostridium

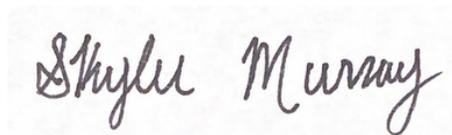
Upcoming Events:



- **Cattlemen's Meeting-** *January 26th at 6 PM, Senior Center*
- **Yon Family Farms Spring Sale, Ridge Spring, SC-** *February 18*
- **Locust Hill Cattle Company 2nd Annual Production Sale, Pelham, NC-** *February 19*
- **NC Cattlemen Conference, Hickory, NC-** *February 24-25*
- **Knoll Crest Farm's Spring Bull & Female, Red House, VA.-** *April 8*
- **South Carolina Hereford Association/ Red Angus of the Carolinas Annual Sale, Pendleton, SC-** *May 6*

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