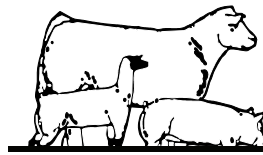


LIVESTOCK



November 2009

NEWSLETTER

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE MALHEUR COUNTY

710 SW 5th Avenue, Ontario, Oregon 97914 Telephone: (541) 881-1417 Fax: (541) 889-8840

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November:

4 - Malheur County Cattlemen's Annual Fall Meeting, 3:00 pm, Ontario Sizzler

December:

3 - 5 Oregon Cattlemen's Assoc. Annual Convention, Bend, OR.

3 - 5 Oregon Sheep Growers Assoc. Annual Convention, Pendleton, OR.

8 - Pesticide Core Training, 8:00am- 12:00pm, Extension Office, Ontario.

16 - OSU Calving School, 4:00 pm (PST), Burns

17 - OSU Calving School, 4:00 pm (PST), Baker City

A NOTE FROM THE AGENT-

I recently had the opportunity to join the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, 2009 Networking & Leadership Program. The topic for the monthly gathering was Malheur County Agriculture. I played the role of the Extension Service informant and along with John Hall from Northwest Farm Credit Services, attempted to educate the 20 some class participants on various facets of Malheur County Agriculture. We stopped first at Mirakami Produce and toured their onion sheds. I will admit this was my first time in such a facility and it was fascinating to see the assembly line method of sorting, processing and packaging onions. The experience was admittedly similar to touring a slaughter plant, although my eyes stung more and it was less bloody!

The second stop took us to the Dunaway Pumping Station. Following the pumping station, we headed to the Owyhee Dam and after having lunch and visiting the Dam Museum, we had the opportunity to travel underground and visit Tunnel 1. Finally, we traversed through the Owyhee Dam. Again, the tours were fascinating and I was struck with the immense fore-thinking and engineering involved in creating both structures. It really increased my appreciation for engineers, architects and geologists who not only had a vision, but made it work.

Think about it, what would Malheur County agriculture look, and be like, if it wasn't for the giant concrete obstruction up in the Owyhee Mountains?

My question to you is do you have a vision or plan for your operation? Can you envision what you want to achieve or the level you want to be at in 5 years? 20 years? 50 years? If they hadn't dared to dream up the idea of the Owyhee Dam, where would we be today?

Ace-Maine

County Moisture Outlook

Reservoir Report 10-27-09

Thief Valley 48% full
Philips 52% full
Unity 15% full
Beulah 3%
Bully Creek 4% full
Warm Springs 1% full
Owyhee 17% full



According to Bureau of Rec. web-site

Maintaining Post-Weaning Animal Health

Source: Tri-State Livestock News, by Amanda Nolz

With winter's icy grip just around the corner, ranchers are busy preparing for the harsh, adverse weather that the season is notorious for. A primary concern for cattlemen is maintaining animal health during the cold winter months. For the majority of ranchers, the calves have been weaned and have filled the feed yard, creating a load of chores and worries.

So what are the proactive steps cattlemen should take to maintain optimal animal health in their feeder calves, post-weaning? For Terry Hendrix, DMV, of Artesian Veterinary Clinic in Artesian, SD, it begins and ends with the mama cow.

"If you want a healthy calf after weaning, you have to think about the pregnant cow planning to calve this spring," said Hendrix. "The first 12 hours of a calf's life will determine their overall health and performance throughout their entire life. I can't stress that enough."

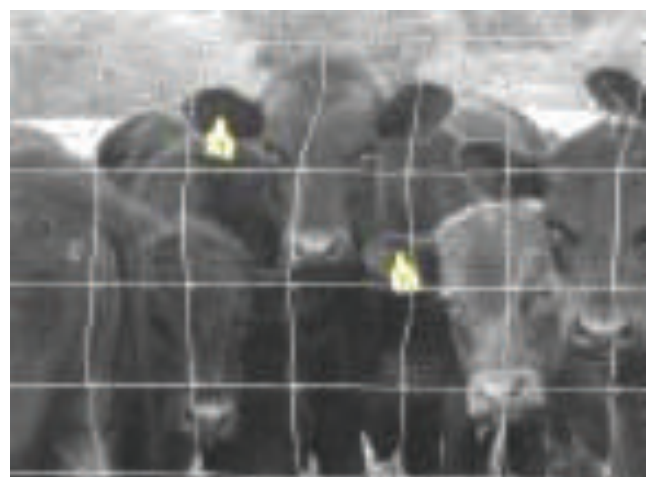
While Hendrix has plenty of advice in order to avoid sick calves in the feedlot, he strongly urges cattlemen to think about the mama cow to avoid health problems in the upcoming year. Cattlemen shouldn't try to reduce input costs by ignoring the needs of the cowherd, and Hendrix warns that this practice will cost cattlemen in the end. The following are Hendrix' top five tips for taking care of the cow and raising a healthy calf:

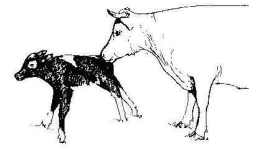
1. Take care of the cowherd. For a healthy calf, take note of your mama cows, maintaining body condition scores (BCS) and meeting nutritional requirements for the cow. "Maintain the cow's BCS, so that when she calves, she is at a 5 or 6," advised Hendrix. "This will ensure that she can provide optimal colostrums for the calf at birth. Also consider vaccination with a modified-live-virus to prevent pneumonia and scours, or you can administer a dead virus when you preg-check." Hendrix said that it's important to have a forage analysis and take stock of how much forage you have on hand. Know the average weight of your cows and feed accordingly.
2. Preg-checking is key. Hendrix strongly advised cattlemen to give pregnancy-examinations to the cowherd to tighten the length of the calving season and pinpoint the unproductive cows. "The benefits of preg-checking are numerous," said Hendrix. "Not only does it identify the open and late cows, but it gives the producer a time to examine the BCS of the cows and sort out the low producers and the mama cows with poor udders." Hendrix suggested that cattlemen keep accurate records of expected calving dates, sorting out the cows into groups. "Manage your calving season using the Sand Hills Technique," said Hendrix. "This works in a way so that older calves are sorted away from brand new babies. Keeping separate age groups as calves are born eliminates the rippling effect of spreading disease."

3. Building immunity, preventing disease. At birth, cholesterol immunity can make all the difference in the calf's overall health throughout its lifetime. "You want a healthy calf at weaning time?" asked Hendrix. "Take a look at what's happening with the calf at birth. Did it get up and suck right away? The first 12 hours are a critical time in a calf's life, and these first few hours will really reflect on the performance of the calf." Once the calf is up and running, Hendrix said it's time to think about boosters and vaccines. "I recommend that folks give two rounds of vaccinations prior to weaning," said Hendrix. "The calves should be de-wormed, both in the spring and at weaning. Give a booster at weaning. Building immunity is an important factor for maintaining post-weaning health."
4. Eliminating weaning stress. "Of course, studies show that fence-line weaning is the most beneficial way to eliminate stress," said Hendrix. "However, studies show that this practice doesn't have a significant impact on animal health." Another weaning method is to feed the cow-calf pairs together in the pen that the calves will continue to occupy post-weaning. According to Hendrix, this method allows for the rancher to simply pull the mama cows from the pen, and the calves are already used to their surroundings. "Calves are notorious for pacing the pens after weaning," said Hendrix. "Make sure you walk through the pens regularly, so the calves get used to having people around. Keep an eye out for a calf that doesn't come up to the bunk; the calf will need individual antibiotic treatment. Consider using CTC crumbles in any form 7-10 days after weaning, " adds Hendrix. "Add five mg/lb of feed for 2-3 days, give half the dose for another three days, and repeat in three weeks. I find this really does the trick."
5. Feed and environment. Hendrix recommended that cattlemen keep consistency in mind as calves transition into eating at the feed bunks. "Every year I hear about groups of calves that never find the watering source," says Hendrix. "Be sure your calves can find the water and it's a source they are accustomed to using." For getting calves on feed, Hendrix advised a slow acclimation process. "Do not put the creep feeder in the pen," noted Hendrix. "Give the calves free-choice grass hay and slowly introduce grain into their diets. Don't try to get them on a heavy ration too quickly, or you will soon have more serious problems. Take it slow and let them get used to their environment." With the changing weather, Hendrix said bedding is the cheapest way to keep calves healthy. As always, keep an eye on the calves and identify sick ones as soon as possible.

Follow these five tips and speak with your local veterinarian to develop an animal health plan that will fit the needs of your own operation. By the time winter ices over the countryside, your calves will be healthy and gaining weight and your cowherd will be ready for another successful calving season come spring.

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	If you are not a livestock owner, or	
	wish to discontinue delivery of this	
	newsletter to your residence,	
	please contact the Malheur County	
	Extension Office.	
	541-881-1417	
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Calving School

Preparing for the Next Calving Season

Thursday, December 17th 2009

**Baker County Extension Office
2610 Grove Street – Baker City, OR**

- 04:00 – 04:10 pm **Introduction**
Dr. Reinaldo Cooke - *Beef Cattle Specialist*
Mr. Cory Parsons - *Baker County Livestock Extension Agent*
- 04:10 – 04:40 pm **The Calving Process**
Dr. Aurora Villarroel - *Extension Veterinarian*
Dr. Charles Estill - *Extension Veterinarian*
- 04:40 – 05:00 pm **Nutritional and Management Strategies to Prevent Calving Problems**
Dr. Reinaldo Cooke - *Beef Cattle Specialist*
- 05:00 – 05:20 pm **Designing Calving Facilities**
Mr. Cory Parsons - *Baker County Livestock Extension Agent*
- 05:20 – 05:40 pm **Break – Refreshments Provided**
- 05:40 – 06:25 pm **Dystocia and Calving Assistance**
Dr. Aurora Villarroel - *Extension Veterinarian*
Dr. Charles Estill - *Extension Veterinarian*
- 06:25 – 06:40 pm **Diseases and Injuries Associated with Calving**
Dr. Aurora Villarroel - *Extension Veterinarian*
Dr. Charles Estill - *Extension Veterinarian*
- 06:40 – 07:00 pm **Managing Newborn Calves**
Dr. Aurora Villarroel - *Extension Veterinarian*
Dr. Charles Estill - *Extension Veterinarian*

This program will consist of presentations, educational videos, and simulated calving assistance. A handbook will be provided.

Registration fee: \$10.00

For more information, please contact Cory Parsons (541-523-6418) or Reinaldo Cooke (541-573-4083)

Oregon Cattlemen's Association Membership Drive

Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) members who recruit at least one member will receive an exclusive OCA hat. To receive credit, the recruiters name must be on the membership form.

The county that recruits the most associate and producer members between July 1st and November 30th will win a new saddle donated by Ag Insurance. The winner will be announced during the Annual Convention. Members joining now will be valid through December 2010.

Baker County Cattlemen's pose an eminent threat! In fact, they have begun a competitive campaign and have challenged each of their current members to recruit one new member! We can't let them win without a fight!

If you need membership forms or brochures, contact the Extension Office.



Oregon Feedlot Futurity

If you are looking for an opportunity to feed out your calves while maintaining ownership, this program may be for you! Contact the Extension Office for more details. Entry forms are due November 13th, 2009.

2009 Oregon Sheep Growers Association Convention

December 3-5, 2009 in Pendleton

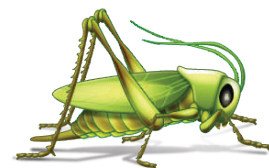
Contact OSGA Office for registration materials. (503) 364-5462 www.sheeporegon.com

Come help celebrate the 100th Birthday of the Pendleton Woolen Mills!



Pesticide Core Training

OSU Extension will present a core training on Tuesday, December 8th from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. This training is necessary to renew your private pesticide applicators license. The cost is \$10.00 per participant and seating is limited. Please call the Extension Office to RSVP. 541-881-1417



Continued from page 6

"It's critical for re-breeding and calf health that cows are in good condition at calving," Dr. Navarre says. "Parasites can cut appetite. Therefore, just because nutrition is available doesn't mean cattle will utilize it if they have a parasite infection."

Internal and external parasites should be targets for fall treatment. As temperatures cool in the fall, biting and sucking lice increase egg production and closely bunched cattle means easy transmission for whole-herd infestation.

"Fall is ideal for effective, strategic and convenient control of most parasites," Dr. Hawkins says. "Fall treatments help clear cattle of economically important parasites before winter, allowing cattle to make the most of sometimes scarce and expensive winter forage."



Eastern Oregon Dairymen's Meeting

Wednesday, November 4th

Vale Library

10:30 am

Special guest, Pete Kent, from the Oregon Dairy Products Commission will be on hand for a round table discussion with all producers. He is looking forward to meeting you, discussing your concerns and requests, and sharing what the Oregon Products Commission is doing.

In addition, there will be a board meeting at 11:30 am to discuss and plan the EODA annual meeting. All dairymen from Eastern Oregon are encouraged to attend.

Fall Parasite Control has Lasting Impacts on Production and Profitability

Excerpts from Merial VPS SHARE Newsletter, September 2008

Fall is a time of transition. Pasture nutrition is reduced and parasite loads can be magnified, making fall a critical time for sound parasite management.

"Fall is a lag time for cattle nutrition," says Dr. Christine Navarre, Louisiana State University Extension veterinarian. "In the Southeast, the fall is when summer annuals die off and winter forage has not yet developed. During these times, cattle are already struggling nutritionally, so parasite loads have even more of an impact than usual."

For spring-calving cows, the transition from summer to winter forage is important for their continued reproductive success. Carrying a parasite load can make that transition even more difficult. In a survey of cattle producers, 70 percent identified nutrition and parasites as their biggest challenge for reproduction. Both factors also can affect body condition scores (BCS).

"Parasites make maintaining body condition very difficult for cattle," says Dr. James Hawkins, Consultant, Merial Veterinary Services. "Controlling parasites in the fall can help cattle maintain condition through winter, more efficiently utilize available feed and help maintain good reproductive performance."

A low BCS, especially at calving, can have a negative effect on reproductive and overall performance, including number of days to estrus, calving intervals, percentage of open cows, milk production and weaning weight of calves. Cows with a low BCS at calving also have higher incidences of calving difficulty, weaker calves at birth and produce less colostrums, which leads to calves that are more susceptible to disease.

Dr. Hawkins says controlling parasites in young cattle also can impact fertility. In one study, heifers treated for gastrointestinal nematodes and liver flukes had higher pregnancy rates than untreated control heifers and heifers treated for nematodes only. They also had the highest BCS and weight gains. Additionally, these heifers treated for nematode infections had higher BCS than untreated heifers at breeding and maintained better condition through pregnancy.

Continued on page 5

MALHEUR COUNTY CATTLEMEN

Everyone, including non-members, are invited to attend!

Attention
Cattlemen!

Malheur County Cattlemen's Annual Fall Meeting

Wednesday, November
4th
Starting at 3:00 pm
Ontario Sizzler

Agenda:

BLM - GMA's, License Renewals

Cattle Theft - Brian Wolfe (Malheur
Sherriff's Department)

Predator Update - Greg Jones

"Stop Idaho Power" Update - Roger Findley

Legislative Issues- Rep. Cliff Bentz

Business Meeting

2008 Heifer Recipients - project updates

Award 2009 Beef Replacement Heifers



For information, contact:
Anna-Marie Chamberlain
Malheur County Extension Office
541-881-1417

No Host
Dinner at
6:00 pm

Guest Speaker- OCA
President- Bill Moore

Livestock News

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Anna-Marie Chamberlain, OSU Extension Agent

Media, for the Last Time, It's H1N1, Not Swine Flu!

Excerpt taken from BEEF Daily blog by Amanda Nolz

As I was driving to the Twin Cities this weekend to attend the Minnesota Beef Expo, the radio was nonstop news about a show pig that was infected with the H1N1 virus. Cheers to the one radio station that reminded consumers that 1) H1N1 has been incorrectly named the swine flu, even though it's a virus that originates from people, birds and pigs, and 2) You can not get H1N1 from eating pork. However, every other report I heard on the radio or the news referred to it as both H1N1 and the swine flu. I don't care if it's easier to say; continuing to repeat the incorrect name because it's convenient is absolutely destructive to the animal agriculture industry. My support goes out to America's pork producers. For the last time, media, it's H1N1, not swine flu. Thank you.

