



New York **Simmental** Assn. Newsletter

VOL 4

NYSA@NewYorkSimmental.com 607-423-4888

September - October 2020

www.NewYorkSimmental.com

COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Oct 3 - NYSA picnic meeting Noon –Bring a dish to pass - Matt Wilkes, Roads End Farm, Warren Center, PA at Fire Hall, 3039 Warren Ctr Rd, Warren Center, PA

Unwilling to accept canceled shows, we provided our own shows for the juniors. And our grand finale:

2020 CATTLE BATTLE Junior Show

Held at

Fonda Fairgrounds

"I am promoting to move the Fall Festival from Cobleskill to Fonda. The facilities are great." Jeanne

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THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

Robert Groom, Jeanne White, Philip Paradis, and Nicole Tommell were unwilling to give up on a Fall Festival for our juniors. Needing at least 2 days to be able to have Challenge competitions, we had to have a fairgrounds. Fonda Fairgrounds was willing to rent their beautiful fairground buildings to us....but....we needed insurance. Unable to get it through the Beef Producers, the NY Simmental Assn. was able to provide it at a cost of \$17. SEVENTEEN dollars. We almost were unable to provide this great show for a mere \$17.

We called it: 2020 CATTLE BATTLE

It was a big commitment. Signing contracts costing \$2300 that we didn't have. Thanks to great people in our industry, we raised

\$17,000

A A J N O S O



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Going from a summer where there would be no shows, no opportunities for youth exhibitors, and no incentive to keep working with their projects to a summer where 4 independent youth cattle shows have been organized and put into place. This has been an incredible privilege to be part of, however it would have been impossible without the phenomenal generosity from all areas of our ag community.

Well over \$20,000 has been contributed towards funding these shows, in addition to physical donations such as chairs, banners, trophies, buckles, apparel, bedding etc. Many have also contributed their time and efforts to ensure the smooth running of the shows. We are humbled and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for our youth. We thank you for stepping up and demonstrating your commitment and leadership to the next generation of agriculturalists!

Robert Groom

Nicole Tommell

Jeanne White



Supreme Champion Female & Champion Simmental Bram/Lusk Beautiful F509 - Riley Mahaffey



Champion Prospect BPF Iceman H01 Molly SanEmeterio



Reserve Champion Simmental Hilb/Sher No Peeking G411 Molly SanEmeterio



Day 1, we had great participation in the challenge portion of the weekend, Skillathon, Team Marketing, and Beef Cattle Judging. Overall Challenge Champion was **Annika Donlick**.

2020 CATTLE BATTLE JUNIOR SHOW Fonda Fairgrounds



Champion SimSolution/ Sim-Angus Ruby NFF Rhythm Dylan Bozeman



Res Champion SimSol/ Sim-Angus Donation heifer from Mike Sinon Shown by Kaitlyn Broughton

Day 2 of the 2020 Cattle Battle was team fitting, awards and breeding cattle/ steer show. See photo captions for individual info. If anyone wants photos please message me (Robert Groom) and I will either message or email them to you.

There was good competition in all breeds and divisions with excellent quality throughout.

Supreme female went to Riley Mahaffey of Amenia, NY with her Simmental senior yearling heifer. Reserve went to Kaitlyn Broughton with her many time champion Shorthorn yearling.

In the prospect bull/steer division it was Molly SanEmeterio's Simmental bull calf entry that took champion honors. Reserve went to Amelia Hintz Strub with her heavyweight feeder steer.

In the market steer division the champion came from Summer Gill with Lucky Star, Reserve Champion went to Chase Gerhardt with Buddy Jr. These 2 went on to be Supreme male champion and Reserve Supreme overall.

Huge thanks goes out to all our sponsors, all the people who stepped up to help run the show, parents, friends, fairgrounds staff, without you this wouldn't have been possible. Posted by Robert Groom

On the following page are the results for all the challenges. Thanks to Christel Donlick for all her work in assembling the scores and having them ready to present on Sunday morning, a mammoth task!

SKILL-A-THON

Overall Placings

1st: Haley Ann Lych
2nd: Lily Dias
3rd(tie): Riley Mahaffee
3rd(tie): Tiffany Shults
5th: James Hicks

Pee-Wees:

1st: Tiffany Shults
2nd: Johnny Gill
3rd: Travis Clark
4th: Mariah Miller
5th: Whitlow Cheney

Juniors:

1st: Riley Mahaffee
2nd: Sally Brown
3rd: Evan Kingdon
4th: Riley Lynch
5th: Harlee Ando

Intermediates:

1st: Haley Ann Lynch
2nd: Lily Dias
3rd: Aubrey Gerhardt
4th: Annika Donlick
5th: Sara Stierly

Seniors:

1st: James Hicks
2nd: Brooke Gerhardt
3rd: Chase Gerhardt
4th(tie): Kassie Diehl
4th(tie): Cara Ando

Sp Adobe Spark

JUDGING

Overall Placings:

1st: Anna King
2nd: Chase Gerhardt
3rd: Evie Groom
4th: Amelia Hintz-Strub
5th: Annika Donlick

Pee-Wees:

1st: Ethan Broughton
2nd: Johnny Gill
3rd: Travis Clark
4th: Isabella Basinait
5th: Addy Rae Bozeman

Juniors:

1st: Riley Mahaffee
2nd (tie):Evan Kingdon
2nd (tie):Riley Lynch
4th: Sally Brown
5th:Natalie Goldstien

Intermediates:

1st: Evie Groom
2nd: Amelia Hintz-Strub
3rd: Annika Donlick
4th (tie): Adeline Tommell
4th (tie): Lily Dias

Seniors:

1st: Anna King
2nd Chase Gerhardt
3rd: Kassie Diehl
4th: Nathan Hay
5th Cara Ando

Sp Adobe Spark

TEAM MARKETING

Junior Teams:

1st: Addie Rae Bozeman, Travis Clark, Owen Grefrath

Intermediate Teams:

1st: Annika Donlick, Elsie Donlick, Eli Donlick
2nd: Natalie Goldstein, Adeline Tommell, Evie Groom, Kaitlyn Broughton
3rd: Sally Brown, Kyleen Stierly, Shannon Brown, Sara Stierly

Senior Teams:

1st: Morgan Griffin, Allison McNamara, Aubrey Gerhardt, Brooke Gerhardt

Sp Adobe Spark

Overall standings in all Challenges

Top 5 Overall scores in all age divisions

1st: Annika Donlick
2nd: Aubrey Gerhardt
3rd (tie): Elsie Donlick
3rd (tie): Allison McNamara
5th: Evie Groom



2020 SUMMER CATTLE BATTLE

Pee-Wees:

1st: Travis Clark
2nd: Addy Rae Bozeman
3rd: Johnny Gill
4th: Ethan Broughton
5th: Tiffany Shults

Juniors:

1st: Sally Brown
2nd: Eli Donlick
3rd: Natalie Goldstein
4th: Riley Mahaffee
5th: Evan Kingdon

Intermediates:

1st: Annika Donlick
2nd: Aubrey Gerhardt
3rd(tie):Elsie Donlick
3rd(tie):Allison McNamara
5th: Evie Groom

Seniors:

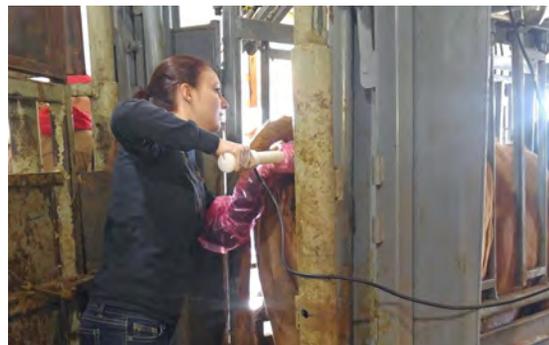
1st: Brooke Gerhardt
2nd: Chase Gerhardt
3rd: Anna King
4th: Kassie Diehl
5th: Cara Ando

Sp Adobe Spark

Choosing a Method for Pregnancy Diagnosis

Rick Funston, Nebraska Extension Beef Cattle Reproductive Physiologist, SEPT 1, 2020

Previous research has shown the benefit of pregnancy diagnosis and how it adds to a producer's bottom line. Keeping one cow over winter can cost \$100-\$200 in feed and supplements so removing open cows can help decrease winter feed costs. Pregnancy diagnosis is a very valuable tool in the beef industry and it is grossly underutilized. Only about 20% of producers employ some sort of a pregnancy diagnosis in their herd. Producers have options for pregnancy determination that vary in price and difficulty- transrectal palpation, transrectal ultrasound, and a blood test. All three options require a cow to be contained in a chute or alley for an examination or blood collection. Rectal palpation and ultrasound can determine pregnancy immediately while the blood test has a waiting period as the blood samples have to be shipped and processed at a lab.



IDEXX Laboratories has developed a test that utilizes the same principles as a laboratory test, but results can be acquired in 21 minutes. This still may not be practical to certain producers as it would require a holding pen or separate sort. Other blood tests are available using BioPryn (BioTracking Inc.) or DG29 (Conception Animal Reproduction Technologies). These tests can be done in labs located around the country. They can receive your shipped blood samples and have the results back to you in a 24 hour turnaround time.

The earlier a cow can be identified as pregnant or open the more beneficial it is in making a decision to keep, sell, re-breed, etc.. With experience, rectal palpation can determine pregnancy as early as 35-45 days pregnant. Ultrasonography can determine pregnancy even earlier from 25-30 days. Both of these methods can be very accurate, but the accuracy is highly correlated with the experience level of the technician. Blood tests will accurately (95-99%) determine pregnancy from as early as 28-32 days. For the blood tests to be accurate calving must have occurred at least 75 days prior so the hormones of the previous pregnancy have had time to disappear. It is important to realize that pregnancy diagnosis prior to 40-50 days bears risk of greater pregnancy loss due to the stress caused by the pregnancy diagnosis during the fragile stage of early pregnancy.

Prices can vary greatly between veterinarians and laboratories. Processed blood tests are generally \$2.40-\$3.75 per cow. This depends upon the volume of cows and cost of tubes/materials along with running the tests. The IDEXX tests are in that same price range depending upon how many cows you will be testing. Palpation and ultrasound will be very similar in price depending upon the hourly rate of the veterinarian and their rate of cows checked per hour. With a small number of cows expect a higher rate that can be upwards of \$4 per cow, but with larger numbers of cows you can expect that rates will be less.

Consulting your veterinarian and asking questions about cost, time, and what they prefer will help you make an informed decision as to what method will be the most cost effective and accurate to determine the pregnancy status of beef females in your herd.

**Identification of names of companies in this article is not intended to imply recommendation or endorsement of these products.*



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The Checkoff Ensures Beef's Inclusion in a Healthy Diet



Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to update and release the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (*Dietary Guidelines*.) Each edition of the *Dietary Guidelines* reflects the most current nutritional science and advises consumers on what to eat and drink for better health and reduced risk of chronic disease. The 2020 to 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee (DGAC) is comprised of 20 health and nutrition experts who are responsible for developing the recommendations for the USDA and HHS. The *Dietary Guidelines* provide a roadmap for healthy eating and serve as the foundation for federal nutrition programs; school, military, hospital and nursing home menus, and many other expert nutrition recommendations.

Because the *Dietary Guidelines* has a significant influence on consumer eating habits, the Beef Checkoff works diligently to ensure beef is well represented in this publication. For the most recent edition, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, submitted 21 sets of public comments and more than 100 research studies supporting beef's role in a healthy diet.

The comments submitted to the DGAC on behalf of the Beef Checkoff reviewed the scientific evidence on the following topics:

- Beef's critical role in growth and development, especially as a rich and high-quality source of iron for older infants, women and girls.
- The large body of high-quality evidence consistently showing that lean beef supports heart health as part of a healthy diet.
- The vital role beef plays as a source of high-quality protein and essential nutrition for the aging population.
- Dispelling the myth that Americans are overconsuming red meat, when in fact, Americans, on average, eat less than two ounces of beef each day ¹, which is in line with current DGA recommendations.
- The best scientific practices for evaluating beef-related research, including accurate meat definitions.
- Research reinforcing the importance of flexibility in choosing beef in a variety of healthy diets, including those low in carbohydrates and high in protein.

When the Beef Checkoff submits research to be considered in these guidelines, it is actively fighting for consumers to understand that beef is a reliable dietary choice for those wanting to live a healthy lifestyle. To

The Beef Checkoff program was established as part of the 1985 Farm Bill. The checkoff assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. States may retain up to 50 cents on the dollar and forward the other 50 cents per head to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the national checkoff program, subject to USDA approval.

view a list of the comments submitted to the DGAC by NCBA, on behalf of the Beef Checkoff, visit www.beefresearch.org

Also submitted were gold-standard research studies that further reinforce beef as an important source of high-quality protein for Americans of all ages. These studies included Checkoff-funded research demonstrating how lean beef can be the protein of choice in many healthy diets, including the popular Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet and Mediterranean Diet. Other submitted studies – like the BeefWise study – showed that low-carbohydrate and higher-protein diets including lean beef can help people lose weight while maintaining muscle mass and heart health.

One of the most recent studies, conducted by Kevin C. Maki, Ph.D., at Indiana University, was published in May by the *Journal of Nutrition*. Researchers studied 33 participants, 26 women and 7 men who were at risk for Type Two diabetes. They measured the participants' cardiometabolic risk factors at the end of each feeding phase and compared each individual's factors throughout the trial. Half of the participants followed the USDA healthy eating pattern of up to 1.2 ounces of red meat per day². The remaining participants began a similar pattern that contained an additional 5.3 ounces of lean, unprocessed beef per day in place of refined starches. The study's critical takeaway was that individuals have the flexibility to include up to about six ounces of lean, unprocessed beef in daily healthy diets without increasing risk factors for heart disease or diabetes.

This study proves beef can be a part of a healthy diet and gives consumers the flexibility to include more lean unprocessed beef in their daily diets. The Beef Checkoff will continue to support cutting-edge nutritional research with leading scientists at universities and research institutions to understand beef's role in health.

1. 2010 Lean beef contributes significant amounts of key nutrients to the diets of U.S. adults: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.
2. 2020 Substituting Lean Beef for Carbohydrate in a Healthy Dietary Pattern Does Not Adversely Affect the Cardiometabolic Risk Factor Profile in Men and Women at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes

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NYSA PICNIC MEETING

Oct 3, Matt Wilkes, Roads End Farm Meeting & Picnic to be held at Fire Hall 270 Nichols Rd, Warren Center, PA Afterwards, we will tour his farm and cattle, at 270 Nichols Rd, Warren Ctr, PA Directions will be emailed to members

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2020 JUNIOR BEEF SHOW – NEW PENN FARM/SIMME VALLEY

The 3rd of our hastily arranged junior shows took place on Saturday 18th July at Carl Hinkle's New Penn Farm in Truxton, NY. Jeanetta and Kevin Laudermilk had got the place in beautiful condition and set up for the event.

41 juniors and 51 head of cattle participated in showmanship, 3 breed shows, a commercial division and a steer show. All divisions demonstrated great depth of quality and competition, and were ably sorted through by our judge for the day Mike Sinon.

First up was showmanship with a class of 5 Pee Wee showmen who set the pace for the day, in a competitive class with no helpers at all they got their animals into position and around the ring for the Judge to evaluate. Champion Pee Wee was Tiffany Shults, Canajoharie and reserve was Jacob McCall, McGraw.

11 Junior showmen were split into two classes with the judge bringing back 3 from the first and 4 from the second class. Our Champion Sally Brown, Horseheads and Reserve Carter DerSarkissian, Gasport both came out of the second class.

17 intermediates split into perhaps the most competitive division of the day. In the first split 4 were placed to return for the final drive, in the second split another 4 separated themselves from the group to return. With 8 in the final drive it was Kaitlyn Broughton, Silver Springs who got the handshake for champion having won the second split, for reserve the winner of the 1st split Evie Groom was chosen. A final class of 8 senior showmen competed in a hard fought battle with them being placed and then reordered several times to get to a final placing. In the end Chase Gerhardt, E.Aurora took the senior title with Ben Kron, Alden taking reserve.

Into the final drive for master showman went our champions and reserves from the Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions. Emerging victorious was Kaitlyn Broughton with Chase Gerhardt as reserve. After photos everyone gathered to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then broke for lunch.

After lunch we went into our steer show. First in was a feeder calf class from which Jacob Brayman, Skaneateles emerged with the champion followed by Taylor Pallokat, Union Springs with reserve. Yet again we had a set of highly competitive steers that were broken into 3 weight divisions. In the lightweight class with steers weighing up to 1210lbs both the champion 'Nutter Butter' and the reserve 'Black Jack' came from Ben Kron, Alden.

In the medium weight division only 20lbs separated the 5 steers from 1250 to 1270lbs. Leading this division was Kaitlyn Broughton's 'Boomer' with Shannon Brown following for reserve with 'Rico.

In the heavyweight class were steers over 1300lbs. Another competitive class led off by Chase Gerhardt's 'Buddy Jr' followed closely by reserve 'Pookie' from Sally Brown, Horseheads.

The final drive was another hard fought affair with 'Boomer' from Kaitlyn Broughton getting the slap as champion. For the second time in this series of 3 shows Chase Gerhardt had to be content with reserve for his steer 'Buddy Jr'.

The breed show featured Angus, Simmental, AOB and Commercial sections.

Leading the Angus breed was Addy Tommell, Fonda with her powerful junior yearling heifer PVF Blackbird 9101. She followed this up with the reserve prize with a January junior yearling PVF Blackbird 9011.

In the Simmental breed it was Sierra Brown's senior yearling Simme Valley Flirty taking the champion trophy, reserve went to Annika Donlick with the cow/calf pair of Simme Valley French with her heifer calf SV Hi-Anna who had previously won a competitive junior calf class.

The AOB division had lower numbers but still excellent quality throughout. Once again it was Kaitlyn Broughton's Shorthorn junior yearling 'Hill Haven Pretty Rose' that caught the judges attention for Champion AOB. The SimSolution heifer Hartland Opal from Hayley Murphy, Little Marsh, PA got the call for reserve.

A smaller commercial division saw Aubrey Gerhardt's blue roan heifer 'Calypso' rise to the top with her sister Brooke Gerhardt getting the reserve spot with 'Tiki'

A high quality final drive once again and for the 3rd time in succession it was Kaitlyn Broughton's much admired Shorthorn heifer that carried all before her. Reserve Supreme went to Addy Tommell's Angus Champion.

Report by: Robert Groom

Congrats to all our junior exhibitors for supporting these shows, thanks to their parents and supporters for making the sacrifices and putting in the hard yards both financially and physically to support them. We want to sincerely thank all our generous donors and sponsors for supporting these shows, it would have been impossible without you.

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THANK YOU



Showmanship Champions
And Reserves



Master Showman & Supreme Female
Caitlyn Broughton w/ Hill Haven Pretty Rose



Champion Simmental:
Sierra Brown w/ Simme Valley Flirty

SIMMENTAL SHOW

Jr Heifer Calf:

1st – Elsie Donlick, Simme Valley Hi-Anna

2nd – Tucker St Peter – OEF Muy Frio

Sr Heifer Calf:

1st – Elsie Donlick – Simme Valley Gizelle

Jr Yearling Heifer

1st Bailey Wood – ESS Gabbie G17

2nd Bailey Wood – ERV Sazerac Grace G929

Sr Yearling:

1st – Sierra Brown – Simme Valley Flirty

2nd – Annika Donlick – Simme Valley Firebird

Cow/Calf: Annika Donlick

Champion - Sierra Brown w/ Flirty

Res Champion – Annika Donlick w/ Hi-Anna

Special THANK YOU to Mike Sinon, Judge



Res Champion Simmental
Annika Donlick w/ Simme Valley Hi-Anna



Res Champion AOB
Hayley Murphy w/ SimAngus Girly Girl

Helping A Newborn Calf Breathe

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University
Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist, 9-1-20

VBOVINE
VETERINARIAN Week in Review

The fall calving season is upon us. Fortunately fall calves are usually a few pounds lighter at birth than are genetically similar spring calves. However, despite our best efforts at bull selection and heifer development, cows or heifers occasionally need assistance at calving time. Every baby calf has a certain degree of respiratory acidosis. Acidosis is the result of the deprivation of oxygen and the accumulation of carbon dioxide that results from the passage of the calf through the birth canal.

The excess of carbon dioxide results in a build-up of lactic acid (therefore the acidosis.) In order to correct the lack of oxygen and the excess of carbon dioxide and its by-products, the healthy calf will pant vigorously shortly after birth. Some calves, however, may be sluggish and slow to begin this corrective process.

It is imperative that the newborn calf begins to breathe as soon as possible. To stimulate the initiation of the respiratory process, a few ideas may help. First, manually clear the mouth and nasal passages of fluids and mucus. Traditionally, compromised calves were held up by their hind legs to allow fluid to drain from the airways, but now many veterinarians and animal scientists don't recommend this. Most of the fluid that drains from an upside-down calf is stomach fluid, important to health. Holding the calf by its hind legs also puts pressure on the diaphragm from abdominal organs, interfering with normal breathing. It's better to use a suction bulb to clear the airways.

Hanging the calf over a fence also is NOT a recommended method for a sluggish newborn. The weight of the calf on the fence restricts the movement of the diaphragm muscle. The fence impairs the diaphragm's ability to contract and move. This diaphragm activity is necessary to expand the lungs to draw in air and needed oxygen.

A better method is to briskly tickle the inside of the nostrils of the calf with a straw. This will usually cause the calf to have a reflex action such as a "snort" or cough. The reflex cough or "snort" expands the lungs and allows air to enter. Expect the calf to pant rapidly for a few minutes after breathing is initiated. Panting is the natural response that increases oxygen intake and carbon dioxide release and will allow the calf to reach normal blood gas concentrations. Click on this link to watch a video (recorded in the spring) of this technique.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qws5FvuP0QU>



ASA Eastern Region members: We have the opportunity to get another good man into office to represent the grassroot working Simmental breeders. We supported and voted in Cliff Orley, now we need to back Doug Parke, Ky. He needs enough write-in votes to be on the ballot later this fall. Super easy – go to Simmental.org, log in to your account. There will be a VOTE button. Click on it. Fill out his name. Done. Here is some info about Doug:



Since 1976, I have had many roles in the Simmental breed. Starting as a herdsman to farm manager to consultant to now a sale manager, I have been able to see the change and progression of the Simmental breed. Though the cattle have changed over the years, the people of the Simmental breed have remained a constant. No matter what has changed over the years, the importance of our association both locally and nationally remains important. After years of voicing my opinion from the sideline, I feel as though it is time to take more of an active leadership role. I am asking for your support as I begin my journey to becoming a member of the American Simmental Association Board of Trustees; more specifically from the Eastern Region.

The first step in that process is to get the number of write in nominations to be placed on the ballot later this fall. Paper and electronic ballots were issued recently. This ballot is for the purpose of write in candidates only. It has nothing to do with voting for the actual individuals at this time. Paid members from the Eastern Region simply write in "Doug Parke, Paris, Ky" on your ballot.

I am a cheerleader for Simmental breeders no matter their years in business, number of head they raise, or origin of their genetics. My family is deeply rooted in the breed, and I feel it is time to remove myself from the sideline and into the conversation of how we continue to move our breed forward in the most transparent, member friendly ways possible. I appreciate your consideration and support as a write in candidate for the ASA Board.

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Challenges of Getting A Lepto Diagnosis

John Maday, February 14, 2018

Control of leptospirosis in cattle requires a comprehensive approach that includes reducing the risk of *Leptospira* exposure, vaccination, and selective antimicrobial treatment to clear carriers of serovar Hardjo when indicated (Photo: Drovers)

Less than half of abortions occurring in beef herds receive a diagnosis, either because producers don't submit samples or the sampling and handling methods were inappropriate, says W. Mark Hilton, DVM, technical consultant with Elanco technical services.

Producers should communicate with their veterinarians to understand strengths and weaknesses of lepto tests and to ensure they collect and submit the proper samples when abortions occur.

Since the introduction of vaccines that protect against the serovar Hardjo strain about a decade ago, cases of leptospirosis in cattle have declined, says , Dan Grooms, DVM, Michigan State University.

However, once a veterinarian has ruled out other causes of a reproductive problem, he encourages them to be persistent in pursuing a diagnosis. Submit samples from multiple abortions if possible, he says, noting it sometimes takes several to find a positive result.

In diagnosing reproduction problems, Grooms stresses veterinarians need to remember to look at the big picture first, then narrow down toward specific details, rather than vice-versa. Use all the tools available, including epidemiology, herd records and diagnostic testing.

Where lepto is diagnosed or strongly suspected, the veterinarian and client can look for sources of the pathogen, such as herd introductions or exposure to other animal carriers. Grooms cites a recent case where a high percentage of cows in a beef herd aborted at six to seven months of gestation. Diagnostic testing confirmed leptospirosis. The herd had not experienced problems in the past, and thus was not well vaccinated. Investigators found two weeks before the abortions began, the producer started feeding from a hay pile that was contaminated with raccoon feces and urine. Even in well-vaccinated herds, Grooms says, a high level of exposure can overcome the protection from vaccination.

Lepto take-home points

Iowa State University Veterinarian Vickie Cooper offers these key points on leptospirosis:

- The disease is zoonotic, meaning animals can transmit the pathogen to humans.
- In cattle, leptospirosis primarily causes abortions, stillbirths, infertility, loss of production, and less commonly, acute systemic infection in neonates.
- Cattle are maintenance hosts for *serovar Hardjo*. *Leptospira borgpetersenii serovar hardjo-bovis* is most common in North America.
- Transmission is most commonly due to direct urine, placental fluid, milk or venereal/trans-placenta contact.

Features of infection with *serovar Hardjo* include:

- Generally mild to no acute clinical signs.
- Persistent infection in the reproductive tract.
- Abortions, still births or weak born calves but typically only when a cow is infected for the first time when pregnant.
- Abortions due to *serovar Hardjo* tend to be sporadic.
- Most economically significant aspect is infertility.
- Diagnosis is dependent on clinical and vaccination history.

Control of leptospirosis in cattle requires a comprehensive approach that includes reducing the risk of *Leptospira* exposure, vaccination, and selective antimicrobial treatment to clear carriers of serovar Hardjo when indicated, Grooms says.

But when fertility problems crop up, don't jump to conclusions. Paraphrasing Kansas State University veterinarian Brad White, Hilton says reproductive problems usually result from an accumulation of errors. "Eliminate the common before focusing on more difficult issues such as lepto," Hilton says.

How to Manage Consumption of Loose Mineral

Posted: October 29th, 2019

Loose mineral has definite advantages in your cow-calf enterprise.

It is a cost-effective way to supplement your cow herd, ensuring they receive the nutrients they need. However, too few vitamins and minerals won't get the job done; and too much of a good thing will cost you, the producer, more than you budgeted for in your nutrition program. There are proper steps to take to regulate the mineral consumption, so your cows and your checkbook all have a positive outlook.



Know your Consumption Levels

Before you try to start regulating consumption levels with various management practices, read the label and know the expected consumption levels of the mineral you are feeding. For example, the VitaFerm® Concept•Aid® Protein Meal has a recommended feeding rate of 1 pound per head per day, whereas the VitaFerm Concept•Aid 5/S has a recommended feeding rate of only 4 oz. per head per day. That is a significant difference.

Once you know your consumption rate, calculate how many bags of mineral you will need to put out each week, based on the number of cows in your pasture. Let's assume that our pasture has 50 cows, and we will look at the Concept•Aid Protein Meal first with a rate of 1 pound per day.

50-lb. bag / 1 lb. per cow per day x 50 feedings/50 cows = 1 bag per day/50 cows x 7 days = 7 bags/week

Next, let's assume we have 50 cows and it is closer to calving, so we switch to Concept•Aid 5/S at a rate of 4 oz per day.

50-lb. bag / 4 oz per cow per day = 200 feedings/ 50 cows= 1 bag for 4 days/50 cows or less than 2 bags/wk

You can see there is a big difference in consumption just based on recommended intake, so if you have switched mineral programs, pay attention to the label, follow directions and closely watch intake the first few weeks, while your cows get acclimated to their new products.

Managing for Consumption Challenges

Overconsumption is a genuine concern for most producers because they are watching their expenses with every bag of mineral they pour into their feeder. However, from a nutrition and production standpoint, underconsumption should be a bigger concern.

"We are trying to eliminate a deficiency, so from a nutritionist's standpoint, underconsumption is a bigger concern because of its negative effects on the economics leading to open cows and decreased health. We really want to ensure the cows consume close to the recommended daily amount of mineral. I would recommend producers not to think about mineral consumption as a fixed number but more of an average over the course of a week," said Kevin Glaubius, Director of Nutrition at BioZyme® Inc.

To think about the consumption as an average, Glaubius said they will probably eat more than they should when they are first introduced to the mineral; then they will taper off and perhaps eat less later. So, they might get all their required nutrients in the first 4-5 days, and that is ok. However, he said it is not good if they empty out the mineral feeder after 1 or 2 days.

Regardless if overconsumption or underconsumption of your loose mineral is a concern, Glaubius offers three simple management strategies to level out mineral intake.

1. Evaluate location of the feeders.

If your cattle are under consuming mineral, chances are the cows haven't found the mineral feeders yet. Move the feeders to a location where cattle congregate on a regular basis – closer to their water sources, under the shade or along the pathways to water or shade.

Likewise, if the cattle are going through the mineral faster than you think they should, move the feeders

away from the beaten path. Put them further away from the water source or even an extra 100 feet off their routine path between water and shade, so they have to seek the feeders out.

2. Cows crave salt too.

Yes, cattle will actively seek out salt, and they typically prefer it to other flavors. If your mineral isn't getting consumed, and you have another salt source in your pasture, either a salt block or loose salt, remove it from the mix. Most VitaFerm mineral contains an adequate amount of salt to balance out the sodium content cattle need. Removing the other sources will cause cows to seek out the salt in the mineral.

If your mineral is overconsumed, then you need to consider adding additional salt to your mineral, Glaubius said. He recommends mixing 10 pounds of loose salt per 50 pounds of loose mineral by pouring the loose salt over the mineral in the feeder and mixing it by hand. He does not recommend a salt block as an adequate alternative, as cows can typically only get about .5 ounce of salt per day from a salt block, so it isn't very effective at controlling mineral intake.

"The thing producers need to be careful of is if you mix one ounce of salt in with four ounces of mineral, you are now up to five ounces of consumption and not four. Target consumption has to become five ounces, so they get their four ounces of mineral," he said.

3. Use Proper Feeders.

Most mineral feeders having a stocking rate of 30-50 head per feeder. Make sure you know how many your feeder can handle. If your cattle are under consuming, add a feeder, due to the cow pressure on existing feeder(s). If they are over consuming, remove a feeder.

Even the type of feeder can influence consumption. If you've moved cows from a pasture with an open feeder to one with a black rubber flap lid, that might deter the cows for a few days. Some producers will even remove the flaps until the cows are accustomed to the feeders. Remember, those black rubber flaps attract sunlight, which makes them hot, so consider putting that kind of feeder under a shade source or painting the lid a lighter color, so it doesn't attract and put off so much heat.

Having an adequate mineral program is one of the keys to your success in the cow-calf business. Regulating mineral intake is one way to make sure that your cow herd receives the nutrients they need, and you don't break the bank. Always read and follow label directions and follow these three easy steps to make sure your herd is on the right nutrition path to success.

A Three-Step Approach to Successful Weaning

Posted: August 22nd, 2019

Some of life's most challenging lessons come from young living beings. Think back to your young 'un waving good-bye to you on his or her first day of school from the partially-opened windows of a shiny, yellow school bus. Or, reflect on the weaning time,

and the sounds from crying pens of calves that are freshly weaned and missing their mamas during those first few days. Both scenarios remind us of the importance of a parent to a child, and when it comes to weaning those calves you want to provide as much comfort and as little stress as possible.

Weaning is a critical time in young calves' lives. Until weaning, your calves have a readily available food source by their side, that also acted as a protector and a face washer. As young calves often do, they mimicked the mama cows and started eating grass, drinking water and eating the mineral supplement that was out for the cows. Then one day, the producer gathers pairs and sorts the cows from the calves, and at just 6 or 7-months of age, the calves are weaned and have to learn survival on their own.



At weaning, calves are faced with several immediate changes: environment, herd groups and nutritional intake, all while being separated from their mother. And while weaning can be very stressful to the calves, the same period can also be stressful on the producer who strives to keep the calves healthy, eating and growing during this time of transition and setting them up for future potential growth.

John Ridder, Falling Timber Farm, Marthasville, Mo., is a registered Polled Hereford Breeder, whose family has been in the cattle business for more than a century. He said keeping his calves eating and healthy are his two biggest priorities and about seven years ago, his family changed its weaning protocol. He has noticed a big difference since switching their routine. He said the biggest factors are stress reduction, consistency and nutrition.

Reducing Stress With calves already feeling the stress of weaning, Ridder sets up a vaccination schedule, so his calves aren't compounded by stress with vaccinations on the actual weaning day. He said he typically administers a round of vaccinations when the calves are about 4-months old. Then, he gives another round of shots 2-3 weeks post-weaning, once the calves are accustomed to being separated from the cows. "I want healthy cattle before I put added stress into them. I don't like to double up on stress too much, so we don't give vaccinations at weaning. We do it prior and after they are weaned. We've had great luck with keeping them healthy. We have a lot less sickness doing it this way than we previously did," Ridder said.

Any cattle that Ridder sends to the feed yard will receive an additional two rounds of vaccinations, as he feels that transition requires cattle to be in peak health.

Keeping Life Consistent When Ridder and his family wean their calves, they only bring the calves out of the pasture and leave the cows out. But even more exclusive to the operation is that the calves are left in the same groups for 2-3 weeks in the dry-lot area they are weaned in before being sorted and commingled with other calves from the farm. "I know that is very unique but that is what we do, and it works pretty well," he said.

In an added effort to provide as little disruption to the calves as possible, the creep feeders that are put out with the calves about 45-days pre-weaning, are moved into each lot, so the calves have that consistent nutrition source from a feeder they are used to eating from while they also transition to a bunk.

"They wean on the same ration as they have been eating on and don't transition to a silage ration for a couple weeks, so that reduces their stress, too. Any way you can reduce stress and keep them healthy seems logical to us," Ridder explained.

Vitamins, Minerals and Amaferm® Ridder is sure to provide his calves with Vita Charge® Stress Tubs for the first two weeks that they are weaned to help give them a jump-start on their feed and water intake while helping them recover from stress. The Stress Tubs contain Amaferm, a precision prebiotic research-proven to increase intake, digestion and absorption while supporting the animal's immune system. The Stress Tubs also contain MOS, to trap and expel pathogens, limiting their ability to do harm, organic Zinc, the antioxidant Vitamin E and B vitamins. "When we use Stress Tubs, the calves lick on those and keep on going. We also put the Stress Tubs out anytime we break with sickness and it will help clear up problems," Ridder said.

In addition to the Stress Tubs, Falling Timber Farm also feeds the VitaFerm® Gain Smart® Stocker mineral to its weaned calves to make sure they receive a complete vitamin and mineral package while still getting the Amaferm advantage.

The Ridders wean a majority of their herd in the fall, as two-thirds of the cows are spring-calvers. However, regardless of weaning season, they follow the same protocol to make sure their calves stay healthy, keep eating and experience as little stress as possible.

"This is the only way we wean now. It's a routine," Ridder said. Raising kids and calves is a lot of trial and error; neither come with an instruction manual. However, for a progressive cattle producer like Falling Timber Farm that has been in the business for more than 100 years, trying new techniques to keep their calves healthy and performing has helped them find success at weaning time.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVENIENCE TRAITS IN BEEF CATTLE



By : F. David Kirkpatrick, Professor Animal Science Department University of Tennessee

Convenience traits are those cattle traits that contribute directly to savings in time, facilities, drugs and labor in a cow-calf enterprise. Some examples of these traits would be temperament, polledness, structural and udder soundness, disease and pest resistance, heat tolerance, doing or “fleshing” ability, mothering ability and calving ease. Many of these traits of convenience are not highly heritable but contribute to the ease of participating in and enjoyment of the beef cattle industry.

Temperament : Temperament is a measure of the relative docility, wildness or aggression of an animal toward unfamiliar situations, human handlers or management interventions. Temperament reflects the ease with which animals respond to handling, treatment and routine management. Animals with bad disposition problems are a safety risk to handlers, themselves and other animals within the herd. Disposition affects handling equipment requirements, operation liability exposure, beef quality assurance, carcass quality and performance.

Wild, hard to handle cattle are a danger to themselves and the people working with them. They are the ones that create handling and gathering problems. Once they are confined, they are the gate and fence crashers. They are “wild eyed” upon leaving the chute and exit the headgate on the run. They may look for something to hit and when extremely agitated may look for a human being and charge.

In addition those wild, unmanageable animals do not perform as well as calmer cattle in the feedlot. Research from Iowa State University has shown that these type of cattle gain nearly onehalf pound per day less than quiet easily managed cattle and returned \$61 less profit. Also easily excited cattle tend to produce carcasses that have a higher incidence of dark cutters which are heavily discounted in market price in the packing industry.

Results of a survey of Tennessee cow-calf producers, conducted during three performance tested bull sales, revealed that temperament was rated 4.13 out of 5.0 as being important in sire selection. Cow-calf producers do not want a bull with a bad attitude. Heritability of temperament is moderately high and directional change can be made by selection and culling. The North American Limousin Foundation have developed their own breed EPD for docility or temperament which aids in making directional change in their breed for disposition.

Dr. Temple Grandin, who is participating in the field day found that location of the hair whorl on the forehead in cattle is associated with temperament. Cattle with hair whorls above the midpoint of the eyes are more susceptible to excitement than cattle with hair whorls below the midpoint of the eyes. Excitability is measured when the cattle are in the chute by temperament scores assigned to them according to their response to restraint.

Udder Soundness : One of the most important functional traits of a beef cow is udder and teat conformation. Beef producers are less likely to consider udder shape and characteristics as would dairy producers, but these attributes affect cow productivity and longevity and should be considered in a beef cowcalf operation. Udder and teat quality are important functional traits and appear to be heritable. Their soundness should be an important concern because of their relationship to injury and mastitis and calf performance affected by reduction of milk flow.

Oversized teats provide difficulty for newborn calves to nurse and receive adequate colostrum which could lead to a higher incidence of scours or decreased immunity levels in the newborn calf.

Research at the New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station in Canada examined factors related to the transfer of antibodies from the dam to her calf during the first four hours post-calving. Measurements were recorded for maternal behavior, calf vigor, calf time to first standing after birth, calf time to first suckling after birth and physical structure of the cow’s udder. Cows with higher (more desirable) maternal behavior scores had calves with higher calf vigor scores. Calf vigor scores were highly related to time to first standing of the newborn calf

and time to first suckling for the newborn. Also, time to first suckling for the newborn was related to teat size score in which cows with more desirable teat scores had calves that nursed sooner after birth.

Usually teat circumference will cause problems much more often than teat length. Short to medium length teats are preferred over long teats. Sound well attached udders are less susceptible to injury than very pendulous poor attached udders. The teats should be placed squarely under each quarter. When viewing the udder from the side view, the udder should display a level udder floor without any quartering. The median suspensory ligament is the support that ties the udder to the cow's body wall. A weak suspensory ligament allows the udder to hang down too far from the body and subject the udder to serious problems.

Structural Soundness : Sound feet and legs are essential in order for a bulls to cover many acres of pasture for mating with cows and obtaining adequate nutrition. Structural soundness is not an all or none situation but expressed in various degrees. Inspect prospective sires in a systematic manner. Inspect the bull's feet, toes, heels, pasterns, knees, hocks and sheath. When viewed from the front, the feet should point straight ahead, both when the bull is standing and walking, The feet should be large and round with a deep heel and with toes that are similar in size. When viewing from the rear, the legs should be equally far apart at the hocks and pasterns and then toe out slightly from the pasterns to the ground. The bull should move freely with each hoof striking the ground evenly. When on the walk, a structurally sound individual's hind feet will cover the footprints made by the front feet. Short, choppy strides are usually the result of the hind leg being too straight (post legged) and/or not enough angulation to the shoulder. Bad feet, pigeon toes, excessively straight or sickle hocks and loose pendulous sheaths are examples of the more common structural problems.

Replacement females should remain functionally sound to advanced ages. Proper foot, leg and udder structure is important in the beef cow or replacement heifer to insure longevity. A cow's udder should be well attached, level across the bottom and have small to moderate sized teats that are not excessively long or excessively large in circumference. Soundness of the udder will generally deteriorate with age. Cows with impaired mobility, unsound mouths, pendulous udders or excessively large or "balloon teats" are candidates for culling.

Polledness : De-horning is a labor intense management practice that requires additional health attention. Polled cattle are less troublesome when working them the possibility of injury to both producer and animal is reduced. Cattle without horns require less time and labor. De-horning can be accomplished by selection of a polled bull since the polled gene is dominant to the horned gene.

Calving Ease : Assistance at calving is labor intense and can be greatly reduced by selecting herd sires that have below breed average birth weight EPDs or an excellent EPD for calving ease. Also, stress incurred by the cow and calf at birth can lower the resistance of the newborn calf and make it more susceptible to disease and health problems. In addition, stress incurred by the cow during a difficult birth may delay her return to estrus following calving and lengthen the following year's calving season.

Disease and Heat Resistance : There are breed differences in cattle for heat tolerance and disease resistance. The Bos Indicus (Brahman based) cattle are known to be more heat and disease resistant than the British and continental breeds other than the Senepol breed.

"Doing Ability" : Doing ability or fleshing ability is a measure of the adaptability of the cattle with their given resources on which to produce. "Hard doers" are those that do not adapt to their given set of resources and require extra attention or feed to produce. It also affects the longevity of the animal in question. The Red Angus Association has developed a Stayability EPD which measures the likelihood that an individual will stay in the herd past six years of age.

The cow-calf industry is composed of many part-time operations that are maintained to supplement other farm enterprises or off-farm income. Labor is a limiting resource in many of these operations and there is a trend in selecting for improvement in convenience traits while maintaining optimum performance. Many of these convenience traits are not highly heritable, but by selecting for them and culling those that do not fit the producer's objectives, improvement can be realized and enjoyment increased.

Posted in Cow/Calf Corner

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Ed Koss

Newsletter

Do you have something to sell? Or are you raising beef for fun? You can't afford **NOT** to advertise! Also, we need interesting articles.

Newsletter:

January-February Issue
News in by – Jan 15

April-May Issue
News in by – Apr 1

July- August Issue
News in by – July 15

September-October
News in by – Sept 15

November-December
News in by Nov 15



Classified Ads - \$4.00
For up to 20 words

Business Card Ad \$6.00

¼ Page Ad \$12.00
½ Page Ad \$20.00
Full Page Ad \$40.00

Send your ads or news to:
Jeanne White
6493 Stauber Road
Groton, NY 13073
Jeanne@SimmeValley.com

NEXT MEETING:

Oct 3, 2020 – Noon – Picnic – Bring a dish to pass
Matt Wilkes, Roads End Farm, at Fire House,
3039 Warren Ctr Rd., Warren Center, PA
Please RSVP – Jeanne@SimmeValley.com

NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSN.
Jeanne White – Simme Valley
6493 Stauber Rd, Groton, NY 13073-9430