New York Simmental Assn. Newsletter

VOL 5 November - December 2020

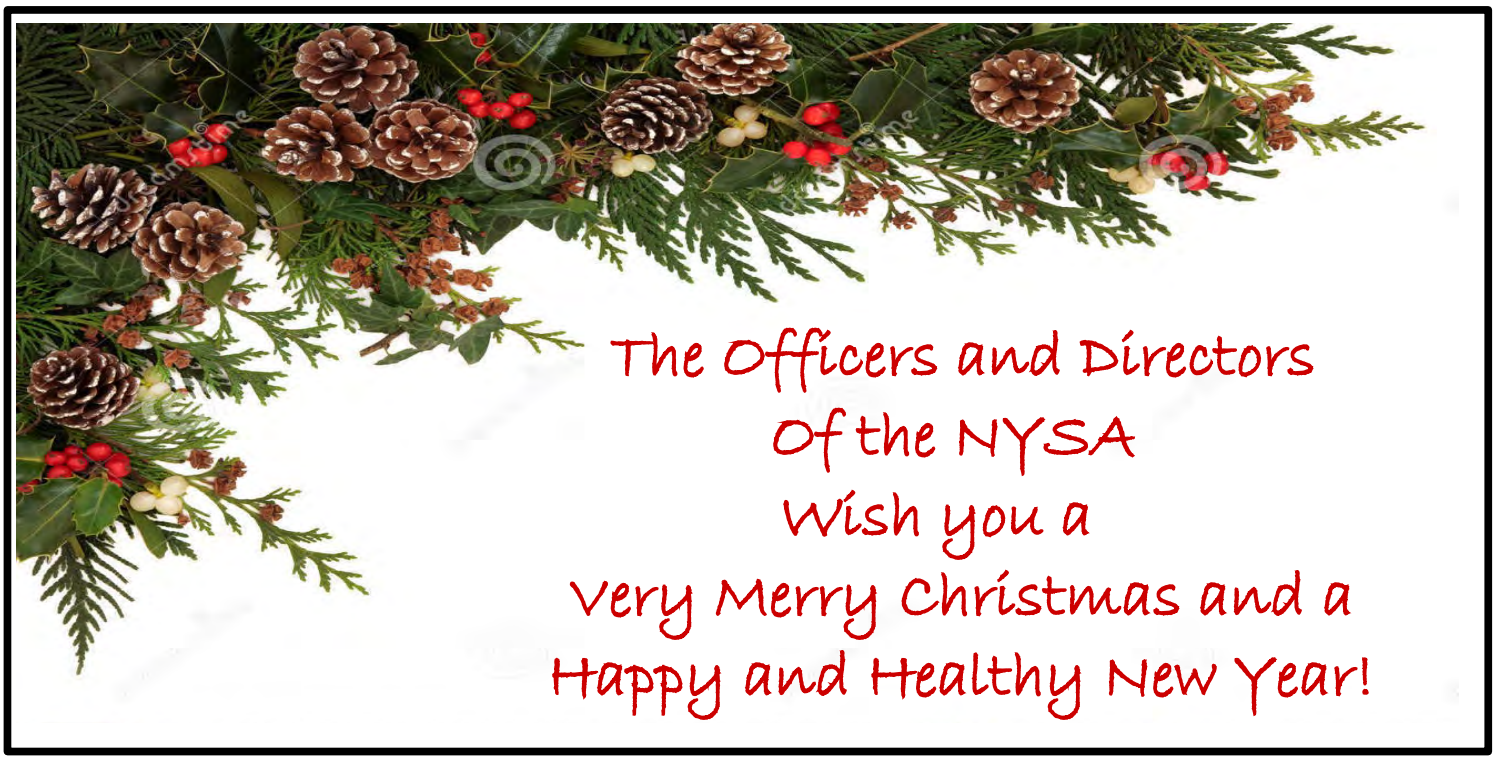
NYSA@NewYorkSimmental.com 607-423-4888 www.NewYorkSimmental.com

COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Sadly, most everything is canceled. We are planning our annual meeting for Jan. 9, 2021 at Theodores in Canastota. Please see page 13 for details.

Don't forget to RSVP!

INDEX



JOHNE'S INFORMATION CENTER
University of Wisconsin - Madison
School of Veterinary Medicine

The story of Johne's disease for non-experts

Michael T. Collins, DVM, PhD, DACVM

In the early 1900s, Pennsylvania was home to a good proportion of all U.S. dairy cows, and it was there that this strange phenomenon of diarrhea and weigh loss was first recognized. In 1908, replicating what had been observed earlier in Germany, a farmer noticed a cow that was very thin and suffering from diarrhea. Seeking a diagnosis, the farmer sent this cow to the state veterinary school for examination by pathologists. Dr. Leonard Pearson, who was serving as Dean at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School, examined this cow and became the first to publish a U.S.-based report of what we now call Johne's (Yo-nees) disease. Today the disease also goes by the name paratuberculosis.

The clinical signs of paratuberculosis - diarrhea and weight loss - are a bit vague, resembling those of many other cattle diseases.

Despite the seriousness of the disease and the cogency of the scientific warnings, it took another seventy years before any country developed systematic programs to stop the spread of paratuberculosis among cattle herds.

The dairy industry in the U.S. and many other countries continued growing. In order to increase efficiency, dairy herds became larger. Cattle were purchased and traded without regard for whether they were infected with M. paratuberculosis or whether they came from an infected herd. What was once a rare disease of dairy cattle soon became common-place.

Insidious and ignored

Johne's disease typically shows up as a curious combination of weight loss and decreasing milk production in cows with a healthy appetite and no fever. Other than being thinner than their herd-mates, these cows typically don't look or act sick. Of course, a dairy cow that's not giving her fair share of milk is not destined to stay around long. Most farmers simply send her to slaughter and replace her with another, better-producing cow.

Johne's disease has continued spreading among herds, between states and regions, and between countries for a multitude of reasons. First, the cattle industry failed to heed the warnings of veterinarians from the 1920s. Second, the disease spreads insidiously and the clinical signs are rather subtle, hence easily overlooked or ignored. Third, national and international veterinary regulations have either been too lax or too often ignored. Fourth, the economic impact of the disease is subtle and not readily apparent until a high proportion of the cows in a herd are infected.

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easily overlooked or ignored. Third, national and international veterinary regulations have either been too lax or too often ignored. Fourth, the economic impact of the disease is subtle and not readily apparent until a high proportion of the cows in a herd are infected.

As a consequence, over 50% of dairy herds in most major dairy producing countries are now MAP-infected. The official estimate in the U.S. from a survey conducted in 2007 and published in 2013 is that 91% of U.S. dairy herds are infected. This is up from USDA's 1996 estimate that 21.6% of U.S. dairy herds have paratuberculosis. The infection has spilled over into a variety of other animal species, including but not limited to; beef cattle, sheep, goats, bison, deer, elk, llamas, alpacas, camels, antelope and other exotic ruminants that can be found in zoos. There are also two reports of nonhuman primates having paratuberculosis, one in Rhesus macaques and the other in a Mandrill baboon. Multiple species of wildlife also have been found to be infected but in most instances these animals do not develop progressive disease or pass the MAP organisms in their feces and so are considered a "dead-end" host. This link takes you to a page on this website describing the many non-ruminant animals that have been found to be MAP-infected.

The natural history of Johne's disease

The natural host for MAP is ruminants, meaning animals with a four-chambered stomach that chew their cud as they digest their diet of grass and hay. A natural host is one in which the relationship between host and microbe is relatively well-balanced. The host does not mount an immune response that ejects the microbe from the body and the microbe does not kill the host – at least not for a long time. The causes of TB in humans and cattle, and the cause of Johne's disease, M. paratuberculosis (MAP), are excellent examples of this balanced host-pathogen relationship. These situations allow MAP to silently multiply and leave one host via milk and manure to set up residence in another host, usually a newborn, after being consumed.

Owners accidently introduce MAP to their herds or flocks by mistakenly buying an infected animal. This happens because they do not know much about Johne's disease or because they can't find herds proven to be free of MAP infection, or simply don't do their microbial homework. For more than a decade, the USDA has had a system for certifying herds with the least risk of being MAP-infected, but few herd owners see a sound economic reason for participating.

Newborn animals are most susceptible to MAP infection, which they get by ingesting the organism. Shortly after its birth, the newborn calf will try to stand and find its mother's teat for its first crucial drink of colostrum, rich in antibodies and nutrients. Its efforts are not always on target and the first few efforts to suckle may be on mom's back leg or some other part of the cow. Eventually, the calf will successfully find the teat to which it latches and begins to suckle, just like a newborn baby. Of course, the teat surface – not to mention the mother cow's hind leg - has in contact with the bedding in the maternity pen and thus well may have also been in contact with manure from any of the cows in the pen that day. So, in these first few hours after being born, a calf has multiple opportunities to swallow a bit of MAP-laden manure.

Ingestion of MAP-contaminated manure is probably the most common means of exposure and infection for newborn calves. However, in cows that are in the more advanced stages of infection, the MAP bacteria escape from the infected intestinal wall and local lymph node, and are carried throughout the cow's blood stream. The cow's natural defenses will try to clear these bacteria from the blood, causing them to concentrate in the liver and spleen, organs that filter blood to remove microbes and aging red blood cells. But MAP will be found not only in the liver and spleen. It also will cross into the udder and then be found in the milk. And, if that cow is pregnant, the MAP bacteria in the blood will cross the placenta and infect the fetus resulting in a calf that is MAP-infected even before birth. Indeed, there is a strong association between the MAP infectious status of a cow and her calves. This is truer in animal husbandry systems such as for beef cattle, where a calf stays at its mother's side nursing until it is six months old or more.

n cattle, the time lag between initial infection as a fetus or neonate until clinical signs of Johne's disease and death can be as short as 2 years or as long as 12, or even more. We don't really know how long cattle could survive with Johne's disease because farmers simply send them to slaughter when they start going downhill, before they die a "natural" death. The speed with which the infection progresses is governed mostly by the dose of MAP to which the calf was exposed. It may also be affected by the age of exposure or the genetics of the animal. Geneticists have found evidence that some cattle are more

resistant to the infection than others. None are totally resistant, however. For most of this prolonged incubation period, before an animal shows visible signs of Johne's disease, MAP will be found in the wall of the intestine, in manure and in milk, although the abundance in milk is much lower than in manure. The MAP bacteria has lost the ability to replicate outside animals. It is obligated to a life inside the cells of its host; it is therefore called an obligate intracellular parasite.

Once MAP leaves its warm, nutritious intracellular home, it must wait patiently (it has no in dependent means of moving) until it is eaten by a susceptible host animal. Then, the infection and replication process begins again. Since this wait can be a very long one (imagine MAP sitting patiently, biding its time in a cow pie out in the middle of a pasture), MAP has evolved strategies for resistance to environmental conditions like heat, freezing, drying, and sunlight: factors that effectively kill most microbes. Under adverse conditions, MAP changes into a resting, or dormant form of bacterial cell called a spore. Bacterial spores are notoriously resistant to both physical and chemical factors that kill ordinary bacteria.

Why not treat animals with Johne's disease?

Treatment of Johne's disease in cattle has been attempted, but without much success. Although it may be theoretically possible to cure this infection, the antibiotics required are not legal for use in food-producing animals. Hence all the meat and milk from animals treated with such drugs would have to be discarded, not eaten. Recently, some investigators have claimed to be able to prevent or even cure Johne's disease with live cultures of a bacterium known as Deitzia – a "yogurt-like" probiotic approach. This work, while promising and potentially helpful to humans with Crohn's disease, has yet to be reproduced in a carefully controlled trial by scientists independent of the company selling the product.

Then what CAN be done?

For more specifics about prevention and control of Johne's disease in specific kinds of animals look under "Animal Type" for information regarding beef cattle, goats, sheep, deer and elk, bison, water buffalo, wild ruminants, zoo ruminants, and other non-ruminant animals.

ASA MEMBER FOCUSED SERVICES

ASA members represent a diverse group of cattle operations.

From the traditional Simmental and SimGenetic seed-Stock breeders, to seedstock operations of a different breed, to progressive commercial cattle operations, ASA offers services to meet all their needs. ASA provides tools and information tailored to the varied requirements of our members and their customers.

ASA Membership Perks

* Open herdbook, ASA welcomes all breed compositions to help members produce more profitable beef cattle.
* Online access to Herdbook Services 24 hours / 7 days a week registration, transfers, and payments.
* *the Register* and *SimTalk* magazines, *Sire Source*, e-newsletter, and eBlasts.
* Rights and privileges to elect Trustees and vote on changes to Rules and Bylaws.
* Be a part of the world's largest multi-breed beef cattle genetic evaluation.

Herdbook Services

A primary function of ASA is maintaining cattle performance records, pedigrees, ownership, and other genetic information in the database. Herdbook Services gives current members electronic access to their own herd data. EPDs, dollar indexes, genetic traits and conditions, pedigree, and adjusted performance information on all animals in the database are available to the public on ASA's website. Check out www.herdbook.org for more information.

Using Your Data

Herdbook has many useful reports and summaries available to download.

* Dam averages (calving intervals, BW averages, WW averages, etc.)
* Calf crop summaries
* Herd and Animal EPDs, data, and ratios
* DNA summaries
* Genetic trait conditions
* Custom built herd reports

Active Herd

A *free* and *easy* cattle management software to create and maintain informal records that can be directly imported to Herdbook for the most current EPDs.

Track your management data and import Herdbook data when you're ready:

* Weaning & yearling weights and measuremets
* Herd health treatments
* Breeding, pregnancy, calving
* Inventory active pastures

Herdbook Services Tools

Registrations

A structured way to report, register, or update animal records 24 hours / 7 days a week.

Transfers

Transferring the registration certificate from one owner to another keeps member inventories current, brings the new owners into the Simmental community trhrough *SimTalk* subscriptions, and adds marketing opportunity with buyers.

* The first transfer is free.

Animal Lookup

The main animal page includes EPDs, indexes, and pedigree for any animal with a known registration number, name, or tattoo.

Planned Mating

An easy-to-navigate tool for EPD estimates on calves resulting from specific matings(s).

EPD Search

A user-friendly search to generate a list of animals tailored to meet your needs – members may specify thresholds for dollar indexes, EPDs, and/or accuracies as well as coat color and horned/polled reference.

Total Herd Enrollment

A whole cow herd reporting program designed to gather production, longevity, and fertility data.

DNA Services

From basic trait testing to genomically-enhanced EPD's, ASA offers a full suite of DNA options.

* Approve an AI sire of donor dam (required for registrations).
* Test and track animals at risk for a genetic condition or trait.
* Parent-verify a purchased embryo (required for registration).
* Increase the accuracy of EPDs through uLD, LD, and HD genomic testing.

IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation

powered by BOLT

The IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation and collective partners continued to "make hay" during 2019, included the following improvements:

- IGS welcomed a new partner in 2019, Neogen Inc., a partnership rich with promise for continued genetic selection technology improvements.
- American Salers Association, Salers Association of Canada, and the North American South Devon Association started testing their data in the IGS beta test system.
- IGS and researchers at Colorado State University, University of Nebraska, and USDA Meat Animal Research Center made sizable progress on two novel EPDs, the Pulmonary Arterial Pressure (PAP) and Days to Finish (DtF) EPDs and continue to work on Heifer Pregnancy and Feed Intake predictions. The genetic evaluation made improvements to the imputation, carcass weight and ribeye area predictions, and added Australian Shorthorn Association data to the production run.
- The IGS Science team undertook a large scale scrub of growth trait predictions in the genetic evaluation and is testing a number of areas to improve growth genetic prediction.

Did You Know?

- SAV Final Answer is the most heavily used bull in the IGS database with progeny in 12 different breed associations.
- Nearly ⅓ of animal records in the IGS evaluation have sires from more than one association.

Did You Know?

- There is no cost to use the IGS Feeder Profit Calculator™ to value your calves.
- 72% of IGS Feeder Profit Calculator users sought steps to add value to their next calf crop after receiving a certificate on their current feeder calves.

IGS Feeder Profit Calculator™ (FPC)

The IGS Feeder Profit Calculator (FPC) had a direct impact on the marketing and management decisions of numerous operations in 2019. We continue to see those who are committed to using independent, fact-based tools to gain knowledge, however and wherever they can, taking more meaningful steps in their program. In the last year, 170 certificates have been generated that represent over 11,500 individual head of cattle. Forty-three percent of the certificates represent single-sexed lots, and the average weight of calves is 655 lbs. These certificates are highlighted at various yards throughout the country, through Superior Livestock Auctions (SLA), and often used as on-ranch benchmarking for the producer.

Feeder Profit CALCULATOR™

The interaction between users of the FPC and staff continues to be the most rewarding component of the program. Producers get feedback on different aspects of their operation's approach and have the chance to query independent voices about how that operation can continue to improve. This level of guidance would not happen without the agnostic approach offered through the FPC. This has, and will likely continue to be, the most important and long lasting result of the FPC.

Also, 2019 brought about the creation of the SLA/IGS Rep Rewards program which is an incentive program for SLA regional representatives that highlight their customer's efforts toward serious genetics, responsible crossbreeding, and savvy management through the FPC. The top two SLA users of the FPC highlighted nearly 3,000 cattle through SLA in 2019 with FPC third party certificates of total relative value. We anticipate this to grow in 2020.

MEMBER FOCUSED SERVICES

Did You Know?

* In 2019, the ASA issued 73,245 registration certificates.
* In 2019, 76 data-driven breeders were recognized as Performance Advocates.

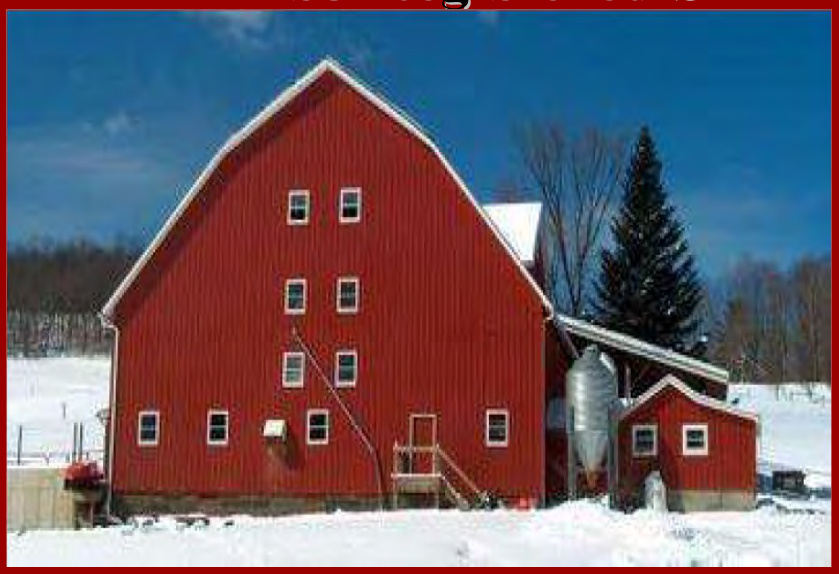
Did You Know?

* ASA's customer service team handled over 54,000 calls in 2019.

Elm Side Farm

Registered Simmental Cattle

Also Registered SimAngus Genetics



THE REYNOLDS FAMILY

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Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Bloat Prevention With Cattle Grazing Alfalfa

This past summer a grazing research trial at the University of Guelph's New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station examined the effects of supplementation on pastured animals' growth performance, carcass traits, fatty acid profile and palatability traits. While research trials happen here year round, this trial was special in that the 39 Angus and Angus cross steers were grazing 80% alfalfa, and didn't have one case of bloat! How was this possible?Well, like any good producer knows, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To know how to prevent bloat we first must know how it works and when bloat is most likely to occur.

How Bloat Works

There are two forms of bloat; free gas and frothy. Free gas bloat is caused when there is a build up of gas in the rumen because the animal is unable to eructate (burp). This can be caused by several things, including an obstruction in the esophagus or pressure on the vagal nerve. The second type of bloat is frothy bloat. Frothy bloat is more common and occurs in feedlot cattle and cattle grazing lush pasture. The cause of frothy bloat is complex and not 100% understood yet. What we do know is that frothy bloat is a build-up of gas bubbles that become trapped in the rumen in a stable foam made from soluble proteins. It has often been thought that soluble protein level in the plant is the main cause for frothy bloat; however research has shown that soluble protein, while a contributing factor, is not the sole cause of frothy bloat as researchers were not able to correlate the amount of protein in ruminal fluid to incidences of bloati. It has been suggested that chloroplasts that have been broken by chewing also play a part in the production of foam, as researchers were able to correlate the amount of chlorophyll in rumen fluid to the incidences of bloati.

The Plant

Legumes are generally considered bloat inducing plants, but young cereals and even lush grass can also cause frothy bloat. However, some legumes such as birdsfoot trefoil are considered bloat safe because they contain condensed tannins. Condensed tannins are considered to be anti-nutritional as they interact with proteins in feed, saliva and microbial cells which alters the digestive process and keeps the soluble protein in the plant from interacting to the same degree in the rumen, therefore preventing bloatii.

This article will focus on bloat with alfalfa. Alfalfa is easily broken down in the digestive tract, leading to a high passage rate through the animal. While a high passage rate is good for getting more feed into the animal, it is not good in terms of bloating risk. Plants that have a fast rate of break down lead to bloat because the microbes in the rumen can rapidly break down the cell walls of the plant, releasing the soluble proteins and chloroplasts faster. Alfalfa varieties that have a slower digestion rate are being developed to lower the bloating risk in cattle, however early research into these varieties has shown mixed results in their ability to reduce rates of bloatingiii. It is important to keep in mind that these "bloat safe" varieties of alfalfa are still being developed and improved, as we are in the early stages of breeding and development.

Grazing alfalfa in spring usually has producers extremely worried about bloat -this is because the vegetative stage of the young alfalfa plant is especially bloat provocative. Alfalfa that is in an early vegetative state, such as pre-bloom or early bloom, is considered to be the most dangerous for inducing bloat but as the plant matures the incidence of bloat decreasesii. Young plants are the easiest to digest as the stalks have not yet developed much lignin
(lignin is the reason that plants become "stemmy"). Lack of lignin makes the whole plant, rather than just the leaves, easily digestible.

You may have heard that once a killing frost has hit alfalfa it is safe to turn cattle out into it. This is a myth. One killing frost will cause plant cells in the alfalfa to rupture while the plant is still intact, which actually increases the bloating risk. To be safe to graze after a killing frost, there must be at least a week of -9°C temperatures for the alfalfa to dry down before the risk of bloat is reduced . Remember that if the plant is still green there is a bloat risk!

Animal Management

How producers manage their animals on alfalfa and other bloat inducing forages is also important. When first introducing animals to alfalfa, make sure the animals are full of other slower digested feeds such as grass hay. This will limit the amount of fresh pasture they can gorge on and help reduce the immediate bloat risk. Once animals are on alfalfa it is also important to keep them on it rather than removing them and re-introducing it. This is easier on their digestive systems as the rumen microbes adapt to the diet the animals are consuming. The amount of precipitation alfalfa receives is also important to consider. Moving cattle in the rain is far less dangerous than 1-3 days after a rain when plants will be rapidly growingiv. The same goes for when weather turns from mild to warm. The increase in temperature will kick start the plant's growth mechanisms causing it to grow rapidly which results in lush plants. If you are using alfalfa in a rotational pasture setting it is advisable to move the animals after the morning dew has burned off. This is because soluble protein levels may change during the day, with the highest levels occurring in the morning . By moving the animals to a fresh pasture in the afternoon, the levels of soluble protein are going to be at the lowest level for a plant of that growth stage.

Pharmaceutical Bloat Preventatives

Even when practicing good grazing management on alfalfa, it is still a good idea to use a pharmaceutical method of bloat prevention. This is an added cost, but losing animals to bloat is also costly to a producer. There are two main pharmaceutical methods on the market to control bloat and they come in a variety of delivery methods. A common feed additive for controlling bloat is monensin. Monensin works by changing the microbial populations in the rumen and can reduce the incidence of alfalfa bloat by up to 80%iv. Elanco markets monensin as Rumensin™ and sells it in the form of a bolus (Fig. 2). Rumensin in bolus form is convenient, as once it is inserted into the rumen producers have coverage against bloat, but there are a few factors that need to be considered before opting for this route, including the type of animal. For example, you wouldn't want to use rumensin boluses on cows year after year as the plastic casing which houses the monensin stays in the rumen & doesn't break down. However, boluses are a good choice for backgrounding or finishing animals as the number of times they have be retreated is minimal. Another thing to be aware of when using a Rumensin bolus is that you can't see when it is running out of active ingredient. There have been cases of the bolus running out before it should. This did lead to the manufacturer reducing the stated time the bolus is active for, but it is still a good thing to keep in the back of your mind. Monensin can also be added by feed mills into pellets, so if you are supplementing on pasture it is possible to feed monensin daily. A down side to feeding your bloat control is that some animals may get pushed out of the grain before consuming their needed amount of drug, or in some cases animals may choose not to eat grain at all.

The other compound used for bloat control is poloxalene, which acts as a surfactant in the rumen. Surfactants lessen the surface tension in liquid, so when used in bloating cattle, it lessens the surface tension of the foam allowing the foam to fall back into a liquid and releasing the gas, enabling the animal to expel itvi.

Phibro Animal Health has a top dress poloxalene product available in Canada which is marketed as Bloat Guard™. Producers simply top dress grain or mix it into a loose mineral supplement. An advantage to using this method is that it is easy to use, but like feeding Rumensin some animals may not consume enough of it to be effective. When it is consumed in the correct minimum dosage, the risk for bloat is lower using poloxalene than Rumensin. In addition, Rafter 8 sells a liquid poloxalene called Alfasure™. This product is measured into the water source using a dose-a-tron (Fig. 3). An advantage for this is since every animal has to drink, you can be sure that they are all getting a minimum dosage of poloxalene. The disadvantage is that it takes a little more work. Producers have to make sure that the cattle have no other access to water in any form, and water lines and troughs need to be checked for leaks and overflows to avoid using up the Alfasure. Using Alfasure also allows the producer to adjust the amount of poloxalene the animals are getting to reflect the bloat risk levels. It is also dyed red, allowing producers to easily see if it has mixed with the water. New Liskeard Trial

During the alfalfa trial in New Liskeard the researchers used several bloat management strategies. The steers were moved to a new section of alfalfa after lunch, which allowed the soluble protein levels in the plants to come down a bit. The steers were also on two forms of bloat control, as they were research animals and even one case of bloat would have been detrimental to the study. Each steer was given a Rumensin bolus and Alfasure was also used in the water. Alfasure was chosen over Bloat Guard to ensure each animal was consuming it. The study also called for 13 of the steers to just receive pasture, which would have made it harder for the researchers to get Bloat Guard into these animals. Even in the groups of steers that were

supplemented with corn, top dressing would have been a poor option as there were steers that would not come and eat grain.

There are many advantages to grazing alfalfa that outweigh the risks of bloat (like an ADG of 1.9 lbs on straight pasture!), however each situation is different. Producers must look at their own operations and choose the method of bloat control will work the best for them and their cattle. With a little effort grazing alfalfa is something that can be done safely with large returns coming back to the producer.However each situation is different and producers must access which method of bloat control will work best for them.

How **to Vote When You Can't** Attend the **Annual Meeting**

Are you interested in the issues to be considered at the January Annual NYSA Membership Meeting? Would you like to have a voice in determining the direction of the Association? But, do you find it difficult or impossible to attend in person? If your answer to each of these is *yes* then you may be a candidate for the Proxy voting option.

The proxy form shown is the official form used by NYSA to provide active members a vote at Annual Meetings in their absence. To use this proxy, you must fill it out, sign it, have it notarized & give it to someone who is attending the meeting.

A few precautions should be taken when using this form:

.

An authorized representative for the membership must sign.

• The bearer of the proxy is the person who will present your proxy at the meeting as if you were present. Any instructions about voting on specific issues should be between you and the person to whom you give your proxy

• Only an active membership can cast a vote at the annual meeting either in person or by proxy.

Proxy forms can be solicited by any member of the Association. Since you are giving your right to vote to someone else, obviously, you want to be cautious about how you are being represented. Officers, Directors, or anyone else you know and respect can be a potential proxy bearer.

A time & place can be reserved at each annual Meeting for the registering and validation of proxies. They are checked for active status, authorized membership signature and proper form. The bearer is then given a verification of the numbers of authentic proxy votes they are entitled to cast at the Annual Membership Meeting. Generally, proxies are only used on controversial issues or when a close vote tally occurs.

If you are interested in holding an office, you should know their duties (This is a brief description)

President - shall be the principal executive officer and shall supervise and control all of the business & affairs of NYSA He shall preside at all meetings. He shall perform all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.

Vice-President - In the absence of the president or in event of his inability to act, the vice-president shall perform the duties of the president, & when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the president, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.

Secretary/Treasurer - shall keep the minutes, see that all notices are duly given, keep a register of the post-office address of each member; handle correspondence. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds & securities, receive & give receipts for moneys due & payable, & deposit all such moneys. The Secretary/Treasurer's *position is subsidized.* Other duties are a newsletter 5 times/yr, annual directory, volume purchases, order NYSF awards, handle NYSF Premium monies, maintain web site, and other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.

Proxy Ballot

The undersigned, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby constitute and appoint _____agent for me, and in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy at any membership meeting of the New York Simmental Assn. to be held between the date of this proxy and , unless sooner revoked, with full power to cast my vote as if I were then personally present, and authorize_____ to act for me and in my name and stead as fully as I could act if I were present.

In witness whereof, I have executed this proxy on this day of _____

BY:_____

On this day of _____ , before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of _____, personally appeared _____and acknowledged to me that _____executed the above instrument for the purpose therein stated.

_____

Notary Public in & for the State of_____

(SEAL)

Residing at_____

My commission expires: _____

NEW YORK Simmental ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

January 9, 2021 Saturday 11:00 AM

THEODORE'S - 315-697-7929

3231 Seneca Turnpike, Canastota

AGENDA

Election of:
Directors
(Either by ballot or proxy)
Prime Pages Auction
Committee Reports
Budget
Yearly Events

Directions: Thruway Exit 34, Rt 13 S to Rt 13/ Rt 5 West (total about 2 miles.)

Slate of Directors

Russell Bunal
Ed Koss
Shawn Murphy

Appointed Positions

Promotion: Ed Koss
Assistant Newsletter Editor: Sheila Bunal
Assistant Directory Editor: Rachel Bunal:

NY Simmental Association Sharing Cost of Lunch

Roast Beef, Meatballs & Sausage +Ziti + Potatoes + Rolls + Salad
Member cost $10/person (no tax or gratuity)

GUEST SPEAKER - TBD

Please RSVP by December 28, 2020

Jeanne White 607-423-4888 –Jeanne@SimmeValley.com

CONGRATULATIONS

NY Junior Member, Tracer Howland

Local FFA Advisor: Vanessa Merrill
(607) 865-4116, vmerrill@waltoncsd.org

Local FFA Member Awarded National American FFA Degree

INDIANAPOLIS (28/10/2020 National FFA Organization) – Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
The American FFA Degree is bestowed upon a select group of students in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year 4,136 American Degrees were awarded.

Tracer Howland, a member of the Walton FFA chapter in Walton, NY was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo Oct. 27-29, held virtually. Sponsored by Case IH, Elanco Animal Health and Syngenta, the award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs.
To be eligible, FFA members must have earned and productively invested $10,000 through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business or hold a professional position as an employee. Recipients must also complete 50 hours community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through completion of a long list of FFA and community activities. Less than one percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.
Each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate after being recognized at the national convention.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 760,000 student members as part of 8,700 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Herd Health

Can You Recognize These Seven Common Cattle Ailments?

By, Victoria G Myers 10/12/20
Progressive Farmer Senior Editor

Sometimes in the cattle business it pays to keep things simple. Most herd health problems, for example, aren't going to be the result of a rare disease or a genetic defect. They are more likely about management and prevention of ailments everyone's already heard of.

Veterinarian Ken McMillan, is a large animal practitioner out of Cropwell, Alabama, and a Hereford cattle producer. After more than 30 years in the business, McMillan won't say he's seen it all, but he admits he's seen a lot.

He says the single most important thing most cattle producers can do to improve their herds, is to have an annual visit with their local veterinarian. It's a good chance to discuss concerns and ask your local professional who has seen lots of operations, how yours might be improved.

That said, there are any number of ways producers can treat and prevent some of today's most common health issues.

ANAPLASMOSIS

What it is. This infectious disease destroys red blood cells and can lead to death if not treated. It is transmitted animal to animal through blood-sucking insects, as well as on contaminated needles or surgical instruments, like castrators.

Visible signs. Weakness and a refusal to drink water or eat often signal an infection. As it progresses skin around eyes, lips and teats becomes pale. Rapid weight loss is common. Animals may fall and not be able to get up.

Treatment. After the first signs of anaplasmosis cattle will either begin to recover in about 4 days, or they will die. This disease is best not treated once it's past the early stages. Cattle that recover can be carriers for the rest of their lives. A blood test can identify carriers. A year-round control program using antibiotics to keep outbreaks from occurring is not uncommon. Your veterinarian will have to show there is anaplasmosis in the herd to be able to write a prescription for a medicated feed or mineral containing chlortetracycline. Other treatment options include vaccinations for non-carriers, or oxytetracycline to t**emporarily clear up the disease in carriers.**

COMMON MISTAKES. McMillan says one of the biggest issues with anaplasmosis is that a lot of producers don't think it affects them. "No matter where they are in the U.S. cattle can be affected by this," he says. "It is a ubiquitous disease. Cattle move so much and there are so many ways it can spread, that it can become an issue quickly. If it's not on a producer's radar they may never realize what they're dealing with."

He says the cases that tend to get producers' attention are those with clinical symptoms. But he notes subclinical cases are stealing from producers every day.

"It's an anemia and it effects cattle more than most producers realize," he notes. "It's really important to trace this back so you how it got in your herd. This may help you avoid it moving forward."

BLOAT

What It Is. A buildup of gas doesn't sound so serious, but in a cow it can mean death in as little as one hour. Bloat can occur when cattle graze lush forage, low in fiber and highly digestible. It's most common on immature legume pastures, including clover and alfalfa.

Visible Signs. Things can go wrong as little as 15 minutes after turnout to a bloat-producing pasture. The cow's rumen becomes distended (left side), she urinates and defecates frequently, bellows and staggers. Death results from restricted breathing and heart failure.

Treatment. As soon as signs of bloat are evident, remove animals from the pasture and offer dry hay.

Force bloated animals to walk to cause belching. Move calmly, remember breathing is already impaired.

If the cow continues in distress, stomach tubing to release the gas may be necessary. Other options may include a dose of vegetable or mineral oil to rupture foamy gas bubbles (10 to 12 ounces per 1,000 pounds); or use of a trocar, as a last result. This is best done by a veterinarian.

COMMON MISTAKES. "Don't let creep feeders run out," says McMillan. He notes this is often the first step to

bloat. Really any change in diet can cause a problem. "Feeding on an infrequent basis, puttin out too much food at one time or feeding the wrong things. . .these can all result in digestive upset," he says. "The key is a balanced ration. People feed cattle things they get for free all the time, and they have to be aware this can cause some real problems."

Beyond this, McMillan notes it's important to think before turning a bunch of hungry cattle out into lush pastures. "Try to fill them up on some feed, or hay, before you turn them in. Free choice feeding, especially on legumes that have dew on them in the morning, can be a recipe for disaster. Instead, wait till the dew dries and limit-graze them. Make sure you have bloat blocks, a mineral or a salt ionophore out too. And even with precautions, watch them until you're sure there isn't a problem."

FOOT ROT

WHAT IT IS. A common ailment, foot rot is an infectious disease, often due to the bacterium F. necrophorum. Once infected, animals spread the bacteria in their environment. It is an issue in high heat and humidity, where the ground is hard or covered with rocks or even stubble. Standing in mud or water can further spread the disease.

VISIBLE SIGNS. Look for decaying, swelling and lameness in the interdigital skin. Foot rot can cause fever, weight loss, decreased milk production and a reluctance to breed.

TREATMENT. Clean and examine the foot and apply a topical treatment for mild cases. Most cases will need antimicrobial therapy, and an anti- inflammatory may help with pain. Keep affected animals in a dry area until healed. If there's no improvement in three to four days, a re-evaluation is called for. Some animals will need to be culled.

COMMON MISTAKES. Think about foot rot and mineral nutrition isn't likely the first thing that comes to mind, but McMillan says it is critical. "With foot rot you have to make sure you have adequate zinc in your feed or your minerals. Copper and selenium are also very important," he explains.

In addition, McMillan says it's critical to consider sanitation in areas where cattle congregate. Letting them stand in mud can soften their feet and provide the perfect habitat for bacteria to live and reproduce. Rotate pastures, and avoid these wet, muddy messes as much as possible. Another issue with foot rot, is with any injury that opens the foot up and allows bacteria in. Be especially cautious putting cattle in a pasture with stubble; on cutover timber land; in rocky areas; or on hard, icy frozen ground.

HARDWARE DISEASE

WHAT IT IS. The name sounds like your cow just ate a bag of nails, and the reality isn't that far off. Old tires, often used to hold feed or water, are a common source of this ailment. Some tires contain wire and as they erode and rot, cattle ingest that wire. Cattle will also pick up any number of odds and ends around the farm, so it's important to be vigilant about keeping metal scraps picked up.

VISIBLE SIGNS. Wire can get trapped in the cow's reticulum. If it punctures the wall, the contents of the cow's stomach leak through and cause peritonitis. This leads to infections and overall poor health. Sudden death can occur if the foreign matter pierces areas around the heart.

TREATMENT. Prevention is the key here. Keep feeders and feeding areas free of any exposed wire or metal. Consider using magnets in feed mixers to pull out any hazardous material.

COMMON MISTAKES. On the whole, McMillan says he's seeing less hardware disease as the years progress. "I do think we are probably doing a better job of keeping places clean, with less hardware around, but it still happens." He recalls baling wire being a horrible problem at one time, and notes he's pulled thin electric fencing wire and nails out of dead cows.

"Hardware disease is something people don't tend to think of when they have a cow that isn't doing well," he notes. "They want to treat her for worms and see her get better, but she just never does. Maybe she's losing weight, is walking stiffly or appears sore or cramped up. Hardware disease can be a severe and quick end; or something that is chronic and goes on for a long time."

PINKEYE

WHAT IT IS. Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK) is one of the most common diseases in beef cattle. It's contagious and spreads from animal to animal, often by flies. Tall weeds or grasses that rub the eyes can be a source as well, along with dust. Some breeds are more sensitive to the condition.

VISIBLE SIGNS. Early in the course of the disease, look for tearing and light sensitivity. As pain increases,

cattle will tend to eat less and seek shade more. Look for an ulcer in the center of the cornea, it appears as a small, white spot. The eye will look cloudy. The disease continues to progress to the point that this ulcer extends completely through the cornea.

TREATMENT. Treat pinkeye early and adopt preventive management practices. Tetracyclines are often effective early in the progression. With regards to management, keep fly populations down, keep pastures cut and try to have enough feeders so there is less crowding together.

COMMON MISTAKES. Environmental control and vector control are places McMillan says producers tend to miss the boat on when it comes to pinkeye management. In addition, he stresses the need for biosecurity when bringing new animals onto the premises.

"First, keep pastures cut, so cattle aren't getting hit in the eyes with seed-heads as they graze. That is a common problem. Next, it's all about the flies. They carry the infection from animal to animal."

He notes that even in animals with no signs of pinkeye, they can still be carriers. "That's why we really need to be isolating new animals for a few weeks, so we can be sure they aren't going to expose the rest of the herd to something like pinkeye. Biosecurity often overlooked, and it could prevent a lot of problems for the average producer."

SCOURS

WHAT IT IS. Scours is diarrhea, caused by viruses, parasites or bacteria. Young calves are most susceptible. Changes in feed, or even quantity, can lead to this condition.

VISIBLE SIGNS. Watery stools in calves under a month old are a warning sign. Scours is most common within the first 15 days of life. The loss of water and electrolytes is serious for these young animals. Look for weight loss, depression and weakness, to the point the calf does not having the strength to nurse. Calves may even stagger. Death, without treatment, is not uncommon in less than 24 hours.

TREATMENT. Start with prevention, keeping calving areas clean and dry. Be aware that calf boxes, common in cold climates, can be breeding grounds for the bacteria and viruses that cause scours. Isolate scouring calves and dams if possible. Replace fluids and electrolytes as soon as there is a problem. If scours is caused by a bacterial infection, an antibiotic may help. Most important, make absolutely sure all newborn calves receive adequate colostrum from their dams. If that doesn't happen, administer replacement colostrum to the calf shortly after birth.

COMMON MISTAKES. We may be talking about calf scours, but it starts with the cow. McMillan says the passive transfer of immunity, given through that first milk (colostrum) is critical to keeping scours out of the calf herd.

"She should be in good body condition, have excellent nutrition, minerals, be current on vaccinations," says the veterinarian. "Anything we can do to make that dam stronger, and her colostrum better, is worth it if you're worried about scours."

He advocates use of a calving system that relies on the basic tenets of what is commonly called "the Sandhills System". "This is basically about trying to make sure calves are born into a clean environment," he says. "In this system cows are moved through a system of pastures, so that calving areas remain clean for each group."

TOXICOSIS, FESCUE

WHAT IT IS. There are a lot of positives about Kentucky 31, but this common forage also has a dark side. At certain times the endophyte in this grass produces a toxin that can effect grazing cattle in several negative ways.

VISIBLE SIGNS. This toxicosis has a long list of signs. Some of the more troubling include heat stress, lameness (fescue foot), losing the tips of tails or ears, rough hair coats, poor growth and reduced calving rates.

TREATMENT. Forage management comes first. Some producers replace endophyte infected fescue pastures with other forages; others dilute the effects with other types of feed. Manage the problem by not letting the fescue develop seed heads, which is where the toxins are at their highest levels. If the forage gets ahead of the herd's ability to keep it grazed down, consider haying some of the area.

COMMON MISTAKES. If you've got toxic fescue, you already know it. So plan ahead. "The most toxic parts are the seed-heads, so keep those clipped," says McMillan. "In the Southeast these toxins can be compounded by low temperatures and we can see fescue foot or fescue tails."

The key to managing around toxic fescue is dilution. "So inter-seed with other forages and feed hay," says McMillan. "In some cases producers have transitioned over toxic fescue pastures to endophyte-free pastures."

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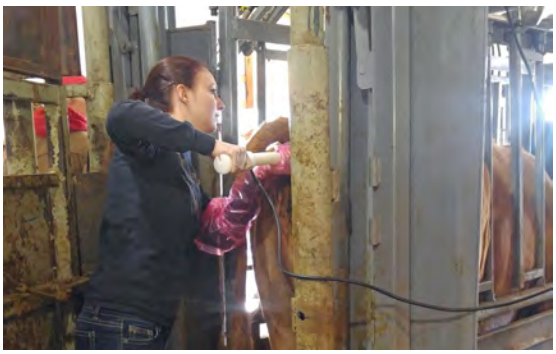
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources UNL BEEF

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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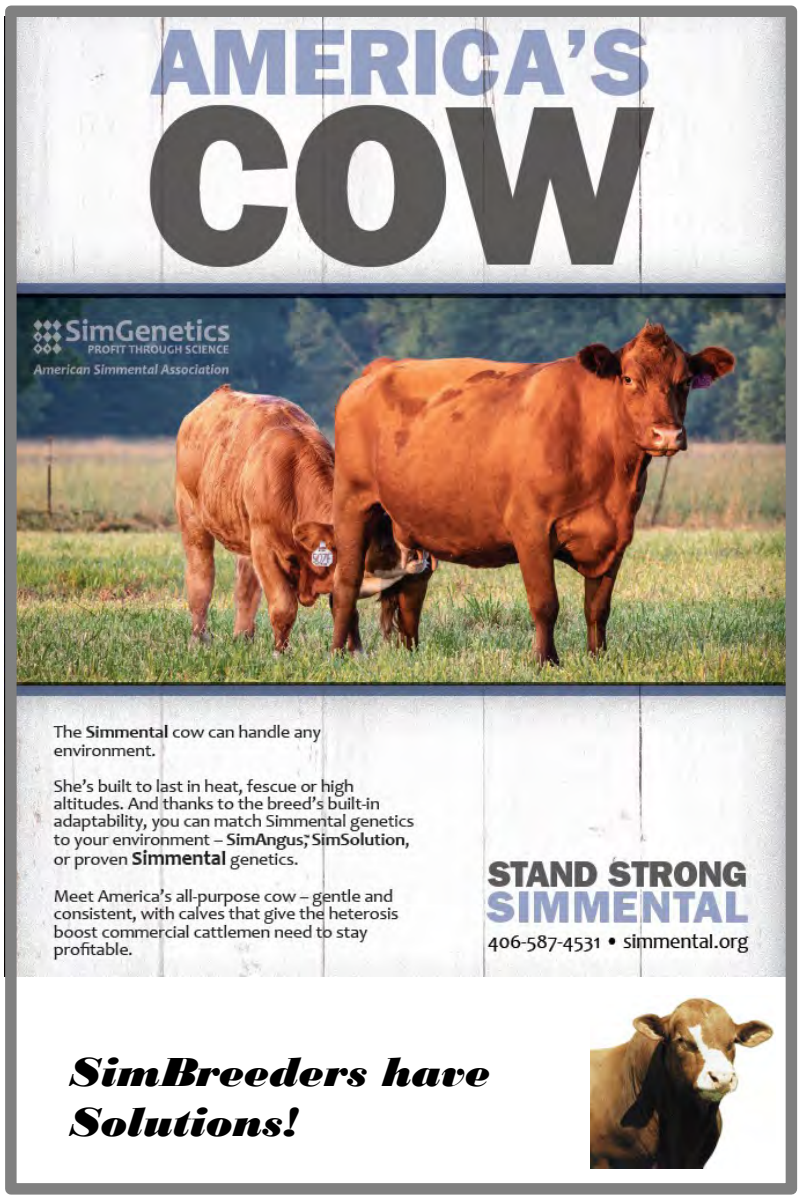

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