



New York **Simmental** Assn. Newsletter

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www.NewYorkSimmental.com

COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Jan. 9-11 – Cattlemens Congress, OK
Jan. 15 – NYSA Annual Meeting 11:00
Jan. 15-19 – National Western Stock Show
Jan. 21-22 – NYBPA Annual Winter Meeting
Jan. 27-30 – Fort Worth Stock Show

Feb. 24-26 – NY Farm Show

June 8-11 – Eastern Regional Jr Show
June 24-30 – National Jr Classic

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THEODORE'S
RESTAURANT

LUNCH
DINNER
BANQUETS

315 • 697 • 7929

NYSA Annual Meeting
Jan. 15, 2022 11:00



*Happy
Holidays*

*From the officers and directors of the
New York Simmental Association*



Most female breeding cattle produce one calf per year. Embryo transfer (ET) allows a producer to quickly multiply the genetics of the top females in the herd. When artificially inseminated with semen from bulls with high genetic merit, these top females produce calves with superior genetics. Females in the herd with less desirable genetics can serve as recipients for the embryos, and the overall genetic quality of the herd may be drastically improved in a short amount of time.

The first calf from a transferred embryo was born in the early 1950s using a surgical procedure. Today, embryos can be collected and transferred without surgery, allowing this reproductive management tool to become more common, especially in the seedstock segment of the beef industry.

As of 2008, approximately 1.6 percent of beef cattle operations in the United States used embryo transfer. While the results of superovulation and embryo transfer vary, producers can take steps to increase the probability of success.

Embryo transfer requires two components: 1) generating and obtaining (flushing) the embryos from the donor female, and 2) transferring each embryo into a different female (recipient), which gestates and gives birth to that fetus. These two components do not necessarily have to be done by the same producer. Embryos can be produced and sold to other producers who transfer them into their own recipient females.

Selecting a Donor Female

Selection of each donor female is one of the most important decisions in ET. Donor females should be of superior genetic worth and marketability to justify ET costs. Mating decisions should be made considering the genetic worth and economic value of potential calves. The reproductive potential of a donor female must also be acceptable.

The ideal donor female has had regular estrous cycles beginning at a young age, routinely conceives with no more than two inseminations, maintains a 365-day or less calving interval, calves without difficulty, is free of reproductive abnormalities and disease, and has no conformational or known genetic defects. Good nutritional management of these females is critical for productivity as embryo donors. This involves managing body condition and providing proper nutrients, including minerals, important to reproductive function.

Superovulation

Donor females are superovulated, which allows them to ovulate more than one oocyte. Combinations of hormones are administered over a matter of days. Embryo transfer technicians often have their own preferred protocol, but an example of a superovulation protocol is depicted in Table 1.

If a group is to be superovulated, they need to be synchronized so that they are at the same stage of the estrous cycle. An estrous synchronization protocol, such as the Select Synch CIDR® protocol, is frequently used to synchronize the estrous cycle (Figure 1). This involves giving an injection of gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and inserting a CIDR® vaginal insert (Controlled Internal Drug Release device; Pfizer Animal Health, New York, NY). The GnRH synchronizes the next follicular wave, and the CIDR® releases progesterone which prevents ovulation from occurring while it is inserted.

Seven days later, the CIDR® is removed, and an injection of prostaglandin F2α (PGF2α) is given, which causes the corpus luteum (CL) on the ovary to regress and allows the cow to begin estrus. This estrus, called the “marker heat,” is indicative of her ability to ovulate and signals that she is properly synchronized. Only females showing this marker heat should continue in the protocol.

Nine to eleven days after the marker heat, a series of injections of decreasing amounts of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) are administered.

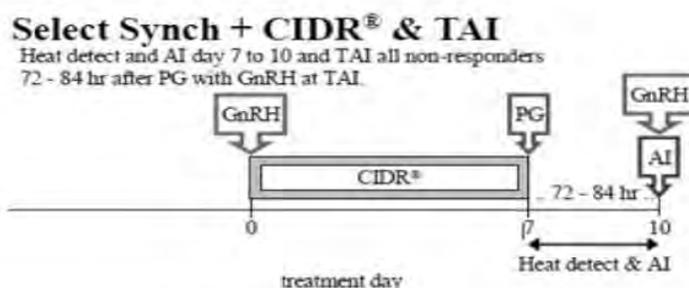


Figure 1. Select Synch + CIDR® is a synchronization protocol that can be used before the superovulation protocol or to synchronize a group of recipient females.

Day	Time	Amount/type of injection
1	AM	3.5 cc FSH
	PM	3.2 cc FSH
2	AM	2.8 cc FSH
	PM	2.4 cc FSH
3	AM	2.2 cc FSH
	PM	1.9 cc FSH
4	AM	1.7 cc FSH and 5 cc Prostaglandin F _{2α}
	PM	1.5 cc FSH and 5 cc Prostaglandin F _{2α}
5	AM	0.9 cc FSH
	PM	0.7 cc FSH
6	AM	Donor should display estrus; artificially inseminate
	PM	Artificially inseminate
7	AM	Artificially inseminate

Bovine Embryo Development Stages

Stage 1	unfertilized
Stage 2	2- to 12-cell
Stage 3	early morula
Stage 4	morula
Stage 5	early blastocyst
Stage 6	blastocyst
Stage 7	expanded blastocyst
Stage 8	hatched blastocyst
Stage 9	expanding hatched blastocyst

Bovine Embryo Grades

Grade 1	excellent or good
Grade 2	fair
Grade 3	poor
Grade 4	dead or degenerating

Figure 4 shows embryos with grades of 4-1, 4-3, and 6-1. The 4-1 embryo is very tightly compacted compared to the 4-3. The 4-3 has more cells and fragments outside the compacted morula, which is an indication of poorer quality. Embryo technicians are trained to detect slight differences in embryos and grade them accordingly.

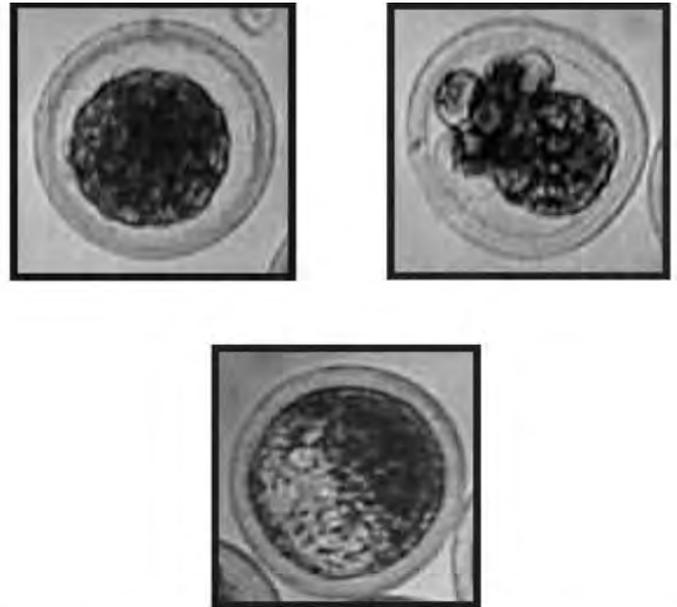


Figure 4. Clockwise from top left, embryos with grades of 4-1, 4-3, and 6-1 (International Embryo Transfer Society Manual, 4th edition).

Table 1. Example schedule for superovulation and insemination of a donor female.

Day	Time	Amount/type of injection
1	AM	3.5 cc FSH
	PM	3.2 cc FSH
2	AM	2.8 cc FSH
	PM	2.4 cc FSH
3	AM	2.2 cc FSH
	PM	1.9 cc FSH
4	AM	1.7 cc FSH and 5 cc Prostaglandin F _{2α}
	PM	1.5 cc FSH and 5 cc Prostaglandin F _{2α}
5	AM	0.9 cc FSH
	PM	0.7 cc FSH
6	AM	Donor should display estrus; artificially inseminate
	PM	Artificially inseminate
7	AM	Artificially inseminate

This encourages multiple follicles to grow, which leads to the ovulation of multiple oocytes. Following the FSH injections, two injections of PGF_{2α} are administered 12 hours apart. Estrus detection begins, and females are typically inseminated with one straw of semen at the initiation of estrus; two straws 12 hours later; and again with one straw 24 hours after the initiation of estrus (Figure 1). This provides an adequate number of live sperm to fertilize all oocytes shortly after ovulation. Embryos are flushed 7 days after estrus.

Embryo Collection

A series of steps are taken to collect embryos from a donor female. A technician first injects a numbing agent (usually Lidocaine) into the spinal cord, near the tailhead, to eliminate the muscular contractions that normally occur in the rectum. This allows the technician to more easily manipulate the uterus and flushing tubing in the reproductive tract. A catheter, which is placed over a metal stylette, is inserted

through the cervix, similar to passing a rod used for AI (Figure 2). Once the tip of the catheter is in the uterine body, a bubble, or cuff, is inflated to help keep the catheter in place and prevent fluid from leaking out of the uterine body.

The metal stylette is then removed, and tubing is attached to the catheter to connect it to the bag of flushing media (Figure 3). Flushing media is allowed to flow into the uterine body, where the technician will massage the uterus to allow the fluid to “pick up” any embryos present. The fluid is then allowed to flow out of the uterus and through a very fine filter that traps the embryos.

The technician repeats this process several times, sometimes focusing on one uterine horn and then the other. Once complete, the cuff on the end of the catheter is deflated, and the tubing and catheter are removed. An injection of PGF2 α is administered so that if any embryos are missed in the collection process, they will not develop a pregnancy in the donor cow.

Embryo Processing, Grading, and Freezing

The filter used to capture the embryos is rinsed to collect them in a dish. This dish is placed under a microscope so the technician can locate and retrieve each individual embryo. Once all embryos are found, each receives a two-number classification according to developmental stage and quality (grade). The first number designates the developmental stage the embryo has achieved and ranges from one (unfertilized oocyte) to nine (expanding hatched blastocyst). The second number designates the quality and ranges from one to four, with one being the best quality. Typically, embryos with a quality of one or two can be either transferred fresh or frozen for later use. Those with a quality of three are much less viable after freezing so are only transferred fresh. Embryos with a quality score of four are generally not transferred at all.

Figure 4 shows embryos with grades of 4-1, 4-3, and 6-1. The 4-1 embryo is very tightly compacted compared to the 4-3. The 4-3 has more cells and fragments outside the compacted morula, which is an indication of poorer quality. Embryo technicians are trained to detect slight differences in embryos and grade them accordingly.

Embryos are now ready to be transferred or frozen for later use. Around eight transferable or six freezable embryos per flush can be expected, on average. However, some females will produce fewer embryos and others can produce 30 or more quality embryos in one flush.

If embryos are to be frozen, they are washed and stored in a cryoprotectant. This fluid minimizes the damage done to an embryo when it is frozen. Ethylene glycol is used most often because it enables the direct transfer of embryos from the straw in which they were frozen. Occasionally, embryos stored and frozen in glycerol are encountered. These must be thawed by a trained embryologist using a microscope and thawing media.

Embryos are loaded into 0.25 cc plastic straws and labeled. The label for each embryo must include the technician’s code (assigned by the International Embryo Transfer Society), cow breed, dam and sire registration numbers, the number of embryos (more than one embryo can be stored in each straw), and the date.

The straws are then placed into a special freezer used for embryos. These particular freezers decrease the temperature in a slow, controlled fashion, which is necessary for embryo viability. Once frozen, the straws are placed in labeled goblets and canes (like those used to store semen) and plunged into liquid nitrogen in a storage tank. Embryos can be stored indefinitely as long as the tank and liquid nitrogen are carefully maintained.

Transferring Embryos

When embryos are to be transferred fresh, they are loaded directly into 0.25 cc plastic straws and transferred using a rod similar to an AI rod. Most AI rods are designed to use 0.5 cc straws, but those used to inseminate with sex-sorted semen are designed for 0.25 cc straws. To thaw frozen embryos, the straw should be removed carefully from the tank, held in the air for 10 seconds, and then placed in a water bath between 77 and 86 °F (25–30 °C), which is cooler than the temperature used to thaw semen. The straw should remain in the water bath until any ice has melted, approximately 30 seconds. The cap is removed from the straw and loaded into the transfer rod, and then a transfer sheath is

placed over it. The rod is passed through the cervix, and the embryo is deposited in the uterine horn on the same side that ovulation occurred, as determined by the presence of a CL on the ovary.

Recipient Females

In anticipation of having fresh embryos available for transfer, recipient females should be in good body condition and health, on a proper plane of nutrition, and on a sound herd health program. Synchronize them so that they are in the same place in their estrous cycle as the donor female. Use the Select Synch protocol (Figure 1) or any other protocol that is designed to allow for timed AI (refer to Mississippi State University Extension Service Publication 2614 Estrus Synchronization in Cattle). Time the start of the synchronization protocol so that both the donor and the recipients will be at day 7 of the estrous cycle when flushing occurs. This will allow the fresh embryos to be transferred directly to a recipient that has a uterus ready for the establishment of pregnancy. If a recipient does not have a CL at the time of transfer, she should not be used. Therefore, more females should be set up as recipients than the number of expected embryos to ensure there are enough good recipient candidates available. Pregnancy rates average approximately 65 percent when fresh embryos are transferred into recipients at the correct stage of the estrous cycle.

Another option is to freeze the embryos and transfer them into recipients at a more convenient time. This can be done when an insufficient number of recipient females are available at the time of flushing, if more embryos were collected than was expected, if the ideal calving date is not 9 months after embryo flushing, or if embryos are being sold or transported to another location. A recipient female can receive an embryo 7 days after she is detected in standing estrus, or a group of recipients can be synchronized and multiple embryos transferred at one time. The freezing process slightly reduces the viability of embryos. Therefore, pregnancy rates are approximately 55 percent when transferring frozen-thawed embryos.

Embryo Transfer Services

Because successful ET programs require highly trained technicians, be diligent when selecting people to perform these services. Embryos may not be marketable unless they have proper documentation, such as freeze codes. Some breed associations require reporting of embryo removal dates or other information on calves resulting from embryo transfer to be eligible for breed registration. Technicians should complete certificates of embryo recovery, freezing, or transfer as appropriate. Many technicians are members of the International Embryo Transfer Society. These embryologists develop reputations for proficiency among producers, so it is useful to visit with other producers using ET services to locate a desirable technician.

The cost of ET services is highly variable. There may not be a qualified technician available in the local area or at the particular time needed, so considerable travel may be required for an on-farm visit from a technician. Travel expense is often included in the bill to the producer. Some ET facilities allow donor females and/or recipient females to be delivered to the facilities for embryo collection and transfer services. It is wise to schedule embryo transfer services several months in advance.

Conclusion

Superovulation and embryo transfer are used to increase the number of offspring from genetically outstanding females as well as superior sires. The superovulation procedure causes more oocytes to be ovulated than is normally the case, and these oocytes are fertilized using AI. Seven days after insemination, embryos are collected from the donor by flushing the uterus, and these embryos are transferred into recipient females to gestate the embryos until birth. For more information on cattle reproduction or related topics, contact an office of the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

References U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2009. National Animal Health Monitoring System BEEF 2007-08. Washington, D.C.

The information given here is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products, trade names, or suppliers are made with the understanding that no endorsement is implied and that no discrimination against other products or suppliers is intended.

Publication 2681 (POD-09-19)

Three trimesters that last a lifetime: The story of your cow's pregnancy

Progressive Cattle

Ron Scott for Progressive Cattleman
Published on 24 August 2016

283 days. Nine months. Three trimesters. Those are the numbers we tend to think of when we think of a cow's pregnancy. But what if I told you there was a more important number? The number of "bad days" a cow has during her pregnancy.

A bad day is when a cow loses weight due to stressors like poor nutrition, disease challenges and harsh environment. Bad days lead to bad weeks, and bad weeks can result in bad months. Before you know it, a cow has had a long, stressful pregnancy. Those stressors occur externally, but they impact the cow's entire metabolism and how nutrients flow to the growing fetus.

Reducing the number of bad days or stressful events for a cow means we have a better chance of positively influencing fetal growth.

But what exactly does a bad day mean for the growing fetus? Why is it so important to keep stress low?

For those answers, we'll break down fetal growth by trimester:

First trimester: The foundation

You might be wondering, why is a little bitty fetus only an inch or two long such a big deal?

The first trimester is where you're building the foundation of life for a calf.

The placenta is formed and serves as both the hotel and room service for the fetus for the remainder of the pregnancy. The placenta is a direct connection between the dam and her developing calf and provides oxygen and nutrients to the fetus through blood flow.

If the placenta is not well developed because a cow is stressed, there can be reduced blood flow to the fetus. Reduced blood flow negatively impacts the nutrition the fetus receives throughout the entire gestation.

The first trimester is also when the fetus' brain, heart, liver and reproductive organs start to form.

We typically don't think about replacement heifer development until there's a living, breathing calf on the ground. But developing a successful replacement heifer begins in the first trimester when germ cells start forming the reproductive system.

It's hard enough to get a first-calf heifer re-bred. Now back up a few years and imagine her situation in utero. Was that heifer's dam going through unnecessary stress? Was her dam getting the nutrition she needed to feed her fetus and build reproductive organs?

Second trimester: Making muscles

The second trimester continues to build and grow organs, establishing internal systems that will impact how those organs function throughout life.

But cattle produce muscle that we sell in the form of weight, and muscle development begins during the second trimester. A stressed cow during this trimester can lead to reduced muscle fiber development, total muscling and ultimately, carcass weights for the developing calf. When you think about what we sell as an industry, the second trimester is vital.

Third trimester: Ready for departure

Rapid growth happens during the last trimester, but just as important are the things happening to get the growing calf ready for departure. The calf has (hopefully) been in an excellent environment in the placenta getting all of its nutrition and oxygen from the dam. Then the calf is born and has to learn how to breathe, making lung development during the third trimester critical.

Once that calf is born, it's also going to need a nutritious diet. Stress and nutrition for the cow during the third trimester also impacts colostrum quality and quantity. If compromised, calves may be at risk for health challenges or even death.

Which is most important?

Is there a most important trimester? That's like asking a parent to pick their favorite child. Each trimester is important in its own way.

Historically, the last trimester has been considered the most important because that's when over 75 percent of fetal growth occurs. Recently, more attention is being paid to the first trimester when the foundation of life is occurring.

Compromises during the first trimester are ones that last a lifetime for the calf. But the story of the first trimester is still developing. More research and evidence is being done to determine just how important this stage really is.

One thing is clear – every trimester plays a significant role in the future of that animal's performance down the road. To help make sure that calf is on the path to success it's important to provide consistent, daily nutrition to the dam during gestation. A consistent diet can help avoid the bad days where cows lose weight and shortchange their developing fetus.

Take out the guesswork

So what does that mean for your nutrition program? You don't want to overfeed because it means you're overspending and giving up some profitability. At the same time, feed is an investment, and having good, quality forage available is essential. It's especially important to have quality feed available during the times of the year during extreme heat or cold when energy intake is compromised.

Cattle nutrition needs change as the seasons change, and it can be a challenge to know what you should be providing your cows on any day of the week. One solution that can help take the guesswork out of cow nutrition requirements are supplements with intake control properties. Those supplements are designed so that cows only consume them when they need them, which allows your cows to get the nutrition they need without unnecessary guesswork.

Three trimesters and zero bad days. Take a look at your herd. See if there are ways you can reduce stress, provide more consistent cow nutrition and set your calves up for a bright future.

NYBPA Announcements:

2022 Annual Winter & Conference - Jan. 21 & 22, 2022

Ramada Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY

Annual Photo Contest - Contest rules and registration form can be found on the NYBPA website. Registration forms need to be submitted by Dec. 31, 2021.

NY Farm Show - Feb. 24, 25 & 26 at the NY State fairground in Syracuse. Help is needed serving beef sundaes. If you can help, contact Amanda at 716-432-9871.

Dispelling Cattle Mineral Supplementation Myths

by Matt Hersom | Nov 15, 2019 |

There are a number of myths, hearsay, and misinformation that surround mineral supplementation for the beef cow herd. In the following I've listed ten of my favorites and the ones I hear the most along with an explanation.

A mineral feeder with fresh loose trace mineral provided for the cow herd. (Okeechobee, FL, photo credit: Matt Hersom).



1. Cows know what minerals they need.

Cows, like people, have no inherent knowledge of their nutritional needs, particularly when it comes to minerals. Cows will seek salt, but that does not translate to an understanding of mineral requirements. Since cows can't read, they have no way of learning what their mineral requirements are during the production cycle, thus they depend upon us to provide appropriate mineral supplements. Likewise, offering cows a buffet of minerals to pick and choose what they want doesn't work. Multiple individual minerals set out for free choice consumption has never worked. In that scenario cows will select minerals based on palatability, not necessity; so, whichever mineral disappears is the one that had more salt and tasted best.

2. Cows don't need minerals all the time.

Granted, there are some minerals that can be stored in the body to supply future demand, but several important minerals are not stored long-term in sufficient amounts. The cow does not have a mineral gauge on her side letting us know when her mineral status is low and needing supplementation. Consider this, minerals are used every day in normal metabolism and several important processes; having a ready supply through regular consumption is important. So how do you know which days the cow does not need minerals? Additionally, transient mineral shortages can have some profound negative effects on offspring through fetal programming.

3. Cows will consume just the right amount of mineral supplement.

Cows can't read the mineral tag that informs what the expected and/or formulated consumption should be. If left to their own devices, cows will consume loose trace minerals supplements based on satisfying their salt craving/tolerance, liquid supplements based on intake controls, or hand-fed supplements based on accessibility. Relying on bovine self-control is a good way to spend too much on mineral supplements or have inadequate mineral intake.

4. Trace mineralized salt blocks are mineral supplements.

Look at the tag on the product, the primary ingredient is **97 – 99% salt**. Therefore, the amount of other minerals contained in the block is too little to matter. The color of the block; red, blue, yellow etc. is created to give the illusion that some mineral is included in a sufficient amount.

5. Mineral form doesn't matter.

Formulation does matter, because the different forms of minerals have different bioavailability. In general, mineral bioavailability from greatest to least is as follows: organic sources > hydroxyl, > chlorides > sulfates > carbonates > oxides. The specific order of bio-availability often depends on the specific mineral in question. The form of mineral affects mineral solubility, stability, absorption, interactions/antagonisms, and oxidation/reduction potential.

6. Grass provides all the minerals the cow needs.

Forages are often deficient in multiple mineral concentrations required by cattle. Various forages types

will have different mineral concentrations. Forage mineral concentrations do vary throughout the forage growing season. Soil fertility and fertilization programs can affect forage mineral concentrations. Regardless, forages in Florida are nearly always deficient in sodium, copper, zinc, selenium, cobalt, iodine, and phosphorus at certain times and locations.

7. You must have white salt in addition to the mineral.

If the mineral supplement contains salt, the addition of more white salt only serves to dilute the formulated mineral supplement, and will reduce the intake of these key minerals. In either case the salt displaces mineral consumption, which can lead to inadequate intake of key trace minerals. Many producers claim that if the cows consume the salt and not the mineral it is justification that the cow has adequate mineral status. Refer to myth #1, cows will consume salt to satisfy their salt craving, and will consume either source of salt, block or loose mineral supplement, to obtain salt. Salt mixed into loose trace mineral supplements is used to both encourage and limit mineral consumption, but additional salt is not warranted.

8. The higher the inclusion the better.

Putting more of a mineral in a supplement just to increase the concentration in the supplement does not always equate to a superior product. Greater inclusion rates without appropriate balancing of other minerals can lead to interactions and antagonisms that undermine the effectiveness of the mineral supplement. Also important is the form of the minerals included, see myth #5. A lot of a low-bioavailability mineral is just more product that will get excreted, not more mineral into the cow.

9. Mineral supplementation fixes everything.

Undoubtedly mineral supplements are crucial to optimal cow performance. However, even the best formulation, consistently offered, and adequately consumed mineral supplement can't fix everything. If the cows are deficient in dry matter, energy, or protein intake, are in poor health, or have inferior genetics, the productive output of these cows will be substandard.

10. There is a perfect mineral supplement out there.

Often producers are looking for their next mineral supplement, because they believe something better or cheaper is available. There are some well-formulated mineral supplements manufactured by any number of companies. However, just because a supplement is new, different, or the neighbor uses it does not mean that it will be the best option for your operation. Differences in forage base, supplemental feeds, cow breed, and stage of production all influence the appropriateness of the mineral supplement.

An additional guide for mineral supplement types can be found in the UF/IFAS publication: Methods of Trace Mineral Supplementation.

Basic Cattle Mineral

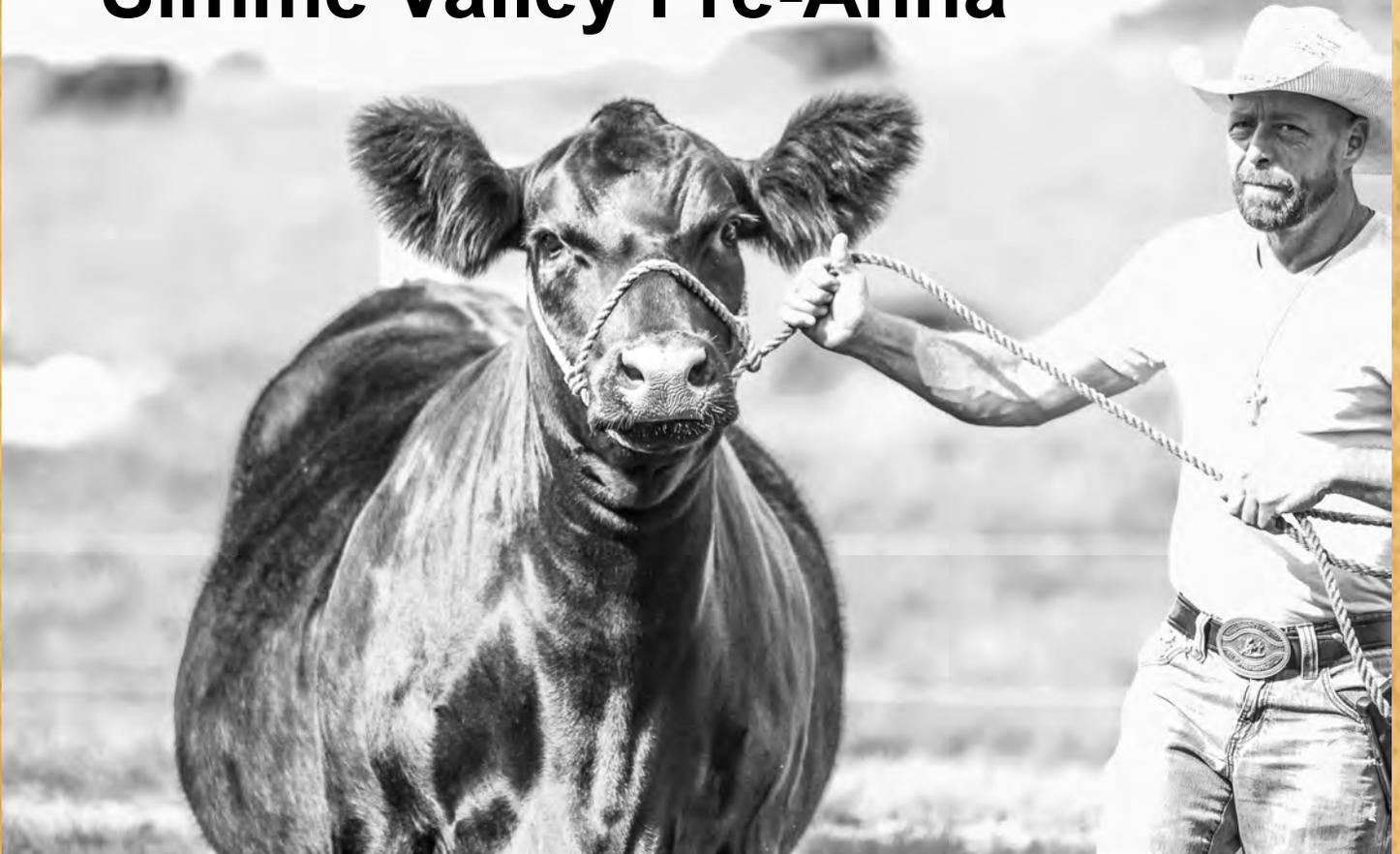
Average Consumption	2 oz./hd./day
Salt	25%
Calcium	14% – 18%
Phosphorous	8%
Zinc	0.4%
Iron	0.2%
Manganese	0.2%
Copper	0.15%
Iodine	0.016%
Cobalt	0.01%
Selenium	0.002%

A complete mineral supplement containing salt, calcium, phosphorus, and trace minerals is recommended to be provided free choice. Mineral consumption varies across pastures, seasons, and cattle. Source: EDIS SS-ANS-14

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Simme Valley **Jilli-Anna**

and full sib embryos will be consigned to
Stars & Stripes Sale May 7.



Jilli-Anna

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Groton, NY



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Test Don't Guess!

By DANA ZOOK - NORTHWEST OK EXTENSION
LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST October 29, 2021



This year has flown by and we are back to feeding and supplementation season in Oklahoma. By now most producers have begun the process of taking inventory of hay supplies, pricing supplements, and making feed purchases necessary to bridge the gap between the fall grazing season and springtime green-up. Within this process it is also a good idea to submit hay samples to determine their best use within a feeding plan.



Is hay use in your winter-feeding plan? Winter hay feeding is a reality for most producers and some use high quality hays such as alfalfa for supplementation. In both instances, a forage analysis is essential to cost effective and efficient use of the hay. Hay quality varies each year due to the stage of maturity at cutting, soil fertility, growing conditions, harvest circumstances, and storage methods. A real understanding of nutrient value of hay comes only from 1.) accurate sampling procedures and 2.) thorough analysis at the lab. Values obtained from previous years hay analysis or “book values” will work in a pinch but can lead to inaccurate feeding.

So, what makes a good hay sample? Forage samples must closely resemble the entire “lot” of forage. A “lot” of forage consists of forage harvested from one field within a 48-hour period. Each “lot” should be uniform in the forage it represents. For example, the type of plants, amount of weeds, field where it was cut, cutting date, storage conditions, and pest and disease damage should all be consistent in that lot. When these characteristics differ, separate samples should be obtained. Alfalfa producers may have 4 or 5 lots of hay per season from one field. Be sure to sample from each of these lots and keep the analysis separate.

How should the hay be sampled? Baled hay should be sampled after curing with a core sampler or hay probe. When sampling, the hay probe should penetrate at least 12-18 inches into the bale and have an internal diameter of no less than 3/8-in. It is recommended to take no less than 20 samples (1 sample/bale) or cores from a “lot” of hay. Lots greater than 200 tons will require around 40 samples. Large round bales should be sampled by pushing the hay probe straight in at the center of the curved side of the bale. This gives an accurate sample of the entire windrow rather than just a single point within the windrow. Combine the sub-samples within each lot in a bag or bucket, mix well, and then submit a composite sample. Most OSU county extension offices have core samplers that can be loaned out to producers for hay sampling.

What should forage samples be tested for? Hay sources should be analyzed for moisture, protein, and energy as they are all needed to correctly formulate supplemental diets. Producers may also want to test for minerals or for potential issues of nitrate toxicity. Forage samples can be sent to the OSU Soil, Water, and Forage Analytical Lab from your local county extension office. Costs vary depending on the specific test, but most range from \$14-20. Speak with your local county extension educator if you have questions about feed and forage testing or would like help interpreting the hay test results.

Accurately testing hay takes time and money. However, accurate results are extremely valuable when formulating cost effective supplements and winter-feeding programs. In a climate of high feed prices and low stocks of hay, it may be a good time for producers to sharpen pencils and evaluate the quality of the forage fed to cattle this winter.

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.

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 _____
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My commission expires: _____

NEW YORK **Simmental** ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING
January 15, 2022 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 Officers

President: Darryl Bunal
V-President: Jeremy Bear
Secr/Treas: Jeanne White

Slate of Directors

Philip Paradis
Lonny Schaefer
Matt Wilkes

Appointed Positions

Promotion: need volunteer
Assistant Newsletter Editor:
Sheila Bunal
Assistant Directory Editor:
Rachel Bunal:

NY Simmental Association Sharing Cost of Lunch
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Five Tips For Keeping Livestock Vaccines Viable On farm

By DROVERS NEWS SOURCE September, 2021



Vaccines are crucial to keeping livestock healthy and productive. While vaccines do not provide absolute protection, the “added insurance” helps stimulate the animal’s immune system and increases its ability to fight off an infection or lessen the impact of disease if it should occur.

However, with timing, labor constraints and the necessity for boosters, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Veterinarian and State Public Health Veterinarian Russ Daly says there are several factors to consider before implementing a vaccination program.

“Herd history, vaccine type, method of administration and age of animal all come into play, so it is critical for producers to work with their local veterinarian in developing a vaccination program,” Daly says. “They have experience with and knowledge of the many different vaccines, as well as the disease issues in area herds.”

Most vaccines are either modified-live virus (MLV) or inactivated “killed.” MLV vaccines contain whole germs that have been altered such that, while they are able to multiply within the body, their ability to cause disease has been taken away. Inactivated vaccines contain bacteria or viruses that have been inactivated by heat or chemicals.

Whether the producer/veterinarian team chooses an inactivated or MLV vaccination program, Daly says it’s important that the vaccines don’t go past their prime.

“Proteins are the major components of the organisms that make up both killed and MLV vaccines, and they disintegrate according to two major factors: time and temperature. As time passes, the proteins that make up the vaccine organisms break up into smaller parts. Eventually, given enough time, there will no longer be enough intact organisms to effectively stimulate an immune response,” Daly says. “Also, storage temperatures higher than label recommendations will result in a quicker rate of disintegration and will reduce the effectiveness of any vaccine, whether inactivated or MLV. At the other extreme, freezing temperatures will also adversely affect vaccines.”

In addition to time and temperature, common disinfectants and ultraviolet light can reduce the viability of modified-live organisms. “Modified-live vaccines will only remain viable for an hour or two following their rehydration, even if they are kept cool,” Daly says.

Daly recommends the following tips for handling, storing and using vaccines:

***Purchasing vaccines and equipment:** Observe expiration dates prior to purchase. Purchase the appropriate type and sufficient number of needles for the job. Plan on replacing needles when they become bent, dull or dirty, and before drawing up vaccine into the syringe.

***Transporting and storing vaccines:** Keep boxes and bottles cool and out of sunlight while in transport. Use frozen ice packs in an insulated box in the summer and prevent vaccines from freezing in the winter. Prior to use, store vaccines in a properly working refrigerator.

***Equipment and work area:** Use clean syringes, but not those that have had internal parts cleaned with soap or chemical disinfectants, including alcohol. Set up an area for syringes such that they are shaded and kept cool and dust-free while working.

***While working:** Keep vaccine bottles in a closed cooler with ice packs (summer) or hot packs (winter) until they are needed. When using MLV vaccines, rehydrate the vials either one at a time as they are needed or as many as you will use within an hour. Always use a brand-new needle to draw vaccine into the syringe. Protect syringes from heat, light and freezing while working. When using needle-free injection systems, or syringes that draw doses from a tube attached to the vaccine bottle, care should be taken to assure the bottle and tubing stay cool and shaded from sunlight.

***After the job is complete:** Discard any unused MLV vaccine that has been reconstituted. Discard any partial bottles of inactivated vaccine that have been contaminated by dirty needles. Return unmixed MLV and unused inactivated vaccines to a properly working refrigerator as soon as possible. Clean syringes, transfer needles and tubing. Follow the manufacturer’s directions on proper cleaning and maintenance of needle-free injection systems.

For more information on how vaccines work and proper storage and handling recommendations, visit the SDSU Extension website for this fact sheet on vaccine basics and tips to maintain vaccine viability.

It's a Uterine Prolapse. Now What?

By RHONDA BROOKS November 1, 2021

A client calls up and says he needs help — one of his best cows just calved and has “lady parts” hanging out her back end. Before you decide your next step, ask the client some questions to gain a better sense of what you need to do next, advises Dr. Keelan Lewis, owner of Salt Creek Veterinary Hospital, Olney, Texas.

“Ask if it’s the size of a cantaloupe, a basketball or a feed sack,” Lewis says. “If they say a cantaloupe or basketball, you might say put her in a pen, and I’ll get to her as soon as I can. If they say a feed sack, it’s likely a uterine prolapse, and you need to pack your GoBox.”

A uterine prolapse is a true medical emergency requiring quick intervention, adds Dr. Meredyth Jones, associate professor, Oklahoma State University and Large Animal Consulting and Education.

“It’s about the worst thing that can happen to a cow,” Jones says.

A prolonged delivery, a large calf, and even low blood calcium levels can contribute to a uterine prolapse, Jones says. Most occur immediately after birth and nearly always within 24 hours of delivery.

“When I was in practice, we actually had a chart taped to the wall by every single phone in the clinic,” she recalls. “That way, no matter who answered the phone, they could help the client determine the type of prolapse, because it’s so important.”

Following are some common tools and tips, along with a handful of do’s and don’ts, four practitioners shared with Bovine Veterinarian recently that they hope will help you and other practitioners, especially recent graduates, the next time you face this medical emergency.

KEEP HER ON THE FARM.

Unless the client is already halfway to the clinic, tell them to keep the cow calm and contained on the farm, says Dr. Lainie Kringen-Scholtz.

If the animal is on pasture, the client needs to either walk her slowly to a pen or figure out how to confine her to a smaller area in the field. Some producers use ropes or fence panels to create a small, temporary pen.

“The whole goal is to keep the cow from moving too much and snapping the uterine artery, hemorrhaging and dying. Those arteries are fragile, so it’s a real risk,” says Kringen-Scholtz, associate veterinarian at Twin Lakes Animal Clinic, Madison, S.D.

One caution, Jones adds, is to instruct the client to not put the animal in a head gate. “If she’s standing but weak you run the risk of her going down and choking,” she explains.

CONSIDER WHAT ‘TOOLS’ YOU MIGHT NEED ON-SITE.

A cow uterus weighs well over 50 lb., Kringen-Scholtz says, so either take an extra person or two along with you to help, or make sure the client is available to lend a hand once you’re on the farm.

As you head out, throw some beach towels and a box of large, heavy-duty garbage bags in your truck. Lewis uses the latter much like a washing machine. She envelops the uterus in the bag and then washes the uterus with warm water and a mild disinfectant. The bag also protects the uterus from potential contaminants.

Jones likes to use a garbage bag when the animal is recumbent on the ground in a “frog-legged” position. Once the cow is in place, Jones kneels behind the animal and lifts the uterus off the ground, while a helper slides one end of the bag under the uterus and over the top of the cow’s back legs.

If the animal is standing, Jones prefers to use a beach towel as a sling. “A towel won’t stretch as much from holding the weight as a garbage bag,” she explains.

Two people, one on each side of the cow, can hold the uterus off the ground with the towel while Jones works. “That allows me to focus on cleaning the uterus and pushing it back in, and it makes the process less tiring,” she says. “It’s really difficult to have to both pick up the uterus and simultaneously push it back in.”

Some veterinarians will pour sugar over the uterus to keep the tissues supple and reduce swelling, prior to trying to replace it. “Sugar removes water from the tissues, making it easier to push the uterus back into the pelvic canal,” says Dr. Shawn Clark, Redmond Veterinary Clinic, Redmond, Ore.

Jones advises against using oxytocin to try and shrink the uterus. “Oxytocin will turn the uterus into a brick and you won’t be able to replace it,” she says. “You want the uterus to stay big, floppy and pliable, so you can work with it.”

HANDLE WITH CARE.

Jones begins replacing the uterus by kneading and pushing it with the palm of her hand, starting at the cervical end nearest the vulva. Even with care, damage often occurs.



“Try not to use your fingertips, as they can punch through the uterine wall, but sometimes it is unavoidable,” she explains. “Some caruncles are likely to come off in your hand as you’re pushing,” Jones adds. “That can be really distressing, but don’t panic. You do the very best you can and realize that this is a tough situation, and there are a million things that can make a uterine prolapse go bad.” Kringen-Scholtz agrees fixing a uterine prolapse is often a challenge, even for seasoned practitioners to correct.

“If the animal has anything hanging out after the cleaning, we consider that a uterine prolapse and an emergency, no matter how much is hanging out,” she says, adding that sometimes you will lose the animal.

“I remember how hard that was as a young graduate, but you have to learn how to let it go and move forward,” she says.

YOU CAN DO THIS.

Once you have replaced the uterus, you need to make sure both horns are completely extended so a prolapse doesn’t reoccur, Jones says.

“Checking the uterine horns is relatively easy to do if you are tall and have long arms,” she says. “If not, you can use a pop bottle or wine bottle as an arm extension. What I do is stretch my arm and flap my hand up and down to see if I can shake that end loose,” she adds.

At this point you can decide if you’re going to lavage the uterus. Jones says she does not and considers it a personal choice.

Likewise, Jones says veterinarians have different opinions on whether to use a vulvar stitch. She favors using one.

“The only thing worse than putting a uterus in once is putting it in twice,” she says.

Jones administers oxytocin at this point to get the uterus to clamp down, which minimizes the chance of a prolapse reoccurring. Kringen-Scholtz’s adds her standard approach is to provide an antibiotic and prescribe a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, such as flunixin or meloxicam.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

The treatment of a uterine prolapse is understandably not always a straightforward undertaking, Jones says.

“Replacing the uterus into its proper position is more difficult than a vaginal prolapse,” she says. “If a uterine prolapse is severe enough, the option of amputation is sometimes best. This option gives the cow time to raise her calf, but she would need to be culled due to her lack of a reproductive tract.”

However, if you are able to replace the uterus and the cow survives in good condition, Jones says she wouldn’t automatically recommend the client cull the animal.

Kringen-Scholtz often does recommend culling. “It’s hard to know how much scarring is present,” she explains. “If the animal is really valuable, putting her in an embryo transfer program is another option to consider.”



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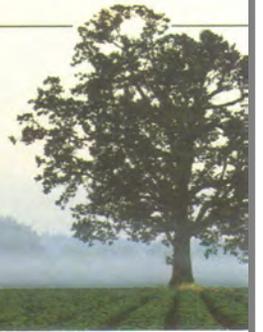
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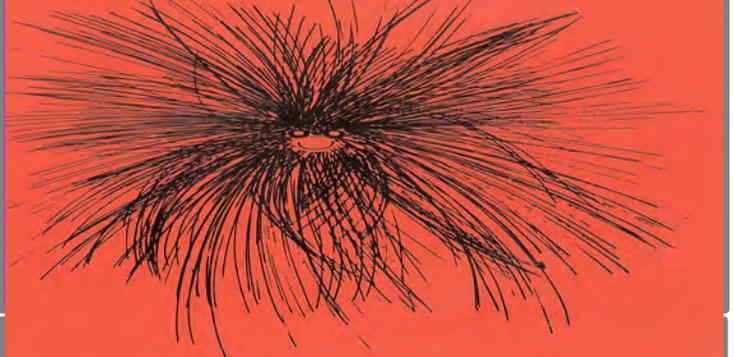
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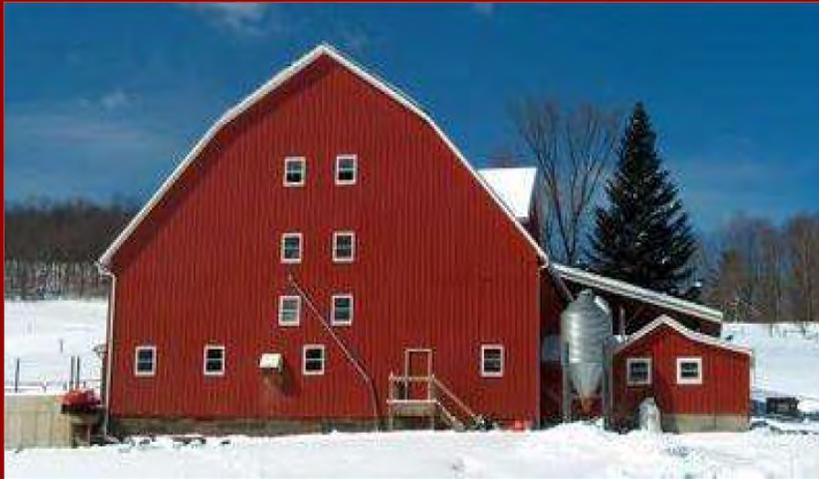
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- K -

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(Letters "I, O, Q, V" are not used)

NEW HIRES



Progressive Dairy would like you to meet:

Sarah Stocks, Ph.D.

U.S. Dairy Technical Services Director

Axiota

New Woodstock, New York
stocks@axiota.com

What education are you bringing with you to this position?

I studied animal science at Cornell University (class of 2006), where I participated in the Dairy Fellows program and worked in Dr. Tom Overton's dairy nutrition lab. Following this, I moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where I completed a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin (completed in 2008) under the guidance of Dr. Ric Grummer. At the UW, I researched rumen bacterial community adaptation through the transition period. I then moved to East Lansing, Michigan, to work with Dr. Mike Allen at Michigan State University. My Ph.D. research studied the control of feed intake in early lactation dairy cows.

Please describe your agricultural background.

I grew up showing horses in 4-H events and did not become interested in dairy cow nutrition until attending Cornell. I worked at several smaller dairy farms to gain industry experience while also working in a research lab.

What territory will you cover?

I will be covering the U.S.

What are your new responsibilities?

My responsibilities will include supporting the sales team across the U.S., as well as conducting research on existing products and engaging in new product development.

What previous positions have you held?

Prior to joining this team, I worked as a technical services manager for Papillon Agricultural Company primarily supporting their line of pre- and probiotic products. In the past, I worked as a dairy nutritionist with Barton, Kiefer, and Associates covering the northeast Ohio and west Michigan markets and as a technical specialist for Diamond V.

Who has made the biggest impact on your career?

Dr. Tom Overton has had the biggest impact on my career. He has always been a huge supporter and never hesitates to challenge me when I need it most. Overton opened my eyes to the possibilities that existed in the dairy industry during my time working in his lab at Cornell. He has been a mentor through all stages of my career. His commitment to practical research and effective communication has been an inspiration for me.

How will you be of most help to producers in your region or area of expertise?

My background lends itself toward assisting dairy producers managing their herds through the transition period, a time that is particularly challenging for animals to navigate. My research and on-farm nutrition background give me a unique perspective on best practices and strategies to optimize health and productivity while emphasizing rumen health.

Why did you choose this company?

This is a company focused on preparing animals to thrive during transition and stress using non-antibiotic strategies. This emphasis, and the excitement of the team, led me to join this company. I believe the current products have the potential to make large impacts on health and performance, and I am encouraged that I can make a difference in the dairy industry.

What goals would you like to accomplish while in this position?

This company is bringing together well-established products with the Lactipro and Multimin brands, and increasing the awareness of how these products can improve animal health and performance will be paramount. I will also work to expand basic and commercial research for the company to improve our understanding of best practices for herd profitability and success. 🐄

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DONLICK GIRLS adding more wins

Annika Donlick went to Kentucky with the NY Dairy Bowl Team. In the National Dairy Bowl, the team took 2nd place and Annika was awarded **FIRST** in individual points nationally.

Elsie Donlick won 1st place in the Junior Division of the 2021 Virtual Interview Contest of the Holstein Association USA! Junior members put their resume and cover letter writing to the test before being selected for a virtual interview with a panel of three industry professionals.



Elsie Donlick
New York

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News in by – Jan 15

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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



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Send your ads or news to:
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NEXT MEETING:
January 15, 2022, 11am
Theodore's Restaurant
Canastota, NY

NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSN.
Jeanne White – Simme Valley
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