



# New York **Simmental** Association Newsletter

VOL 4  
NewYorkSimmental@gmail.com

September-October, 2024  
www.NewYorkSimmental.com

## COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Oct 4-6 – Junior Fall Festival, Cobleskill

Oct 10-13 – Harvest Classic, Hamburg

Oct 25-26 – Stockmanship & Stewardship

Jan 1 - Membership due \$25

Jan 10 – Membership late fee \$30

Jan - TBA **NYSA Annual Meeting**

Jan 19-20 – NYBPA Annual Conference

Feb 20 - Semen Order Due

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# New York State Fair



Supreme & Grand Ch Cow/Calf  
Clarks Farm – Travis Clark  
H201 Trippys Bliss, by Relentless

**SEE ALL OUR WINNERS**  
On Page **12 – 13 – 14**

## JUNIORS – OUT & ABOUT

### ASA Nationals

Photography competition: **Riley Mahaffey** 1st place general agricultural winner

Cattle show: **Riley Mahaffey** - Reserve Grand Champion Bred and Owned Simmental steer, and 3rd overall owned Simmental steer.

**Angelina Otero** - 9th overall owned Simmental steer.

Competitions - **Riley Mahaffey** - 18th overall intermediate cattlemen's quiz.

State booth - participant Harper Preciado - novice participant.

All kids got the chance to partake in regional meetings with trustees, as well as fitting competitions, a volleyball tournament, a fun night with water slides, dunk tanks, and pizza, an annual hat exchange, and many competitions. Competitions consisted of Sales Talk, Judging competition, public speaking, cattlemen's quiz, and genetic evaluation quiz. We also got the pleasure to be able to DNA test our animals for free thanks to ASA. Members also attended the Sullivan supply clinic and got the opportunity to listen to the judges evaluate cattle and cheer on fellow members! Everyone got very good feedback within public speaking and sales talk! All heifers placed very well in these classes, top end of classes for many kids!

### NYSF SALES TALK

Junior Advisor, Bryan Stocks put together a Sales Talk competition at NYSF for Juniors.

#### PEE WEE:

1. Laramie Pyra
2. Henry Stocks
3. Harvey & Charlie Stocks

#### JUNIOR:

1. Sarah Wilson
2. Kylie Murphy
3. Jeffrey Wilson

#### SENIOR:

1. Elsie Donlick
2. Isabella Haley
3. Serenity Conklin

**Plan to enter next year!!**

## HERD DISPERSAL

Selling 15-20 Angus cows with or without calves Spring 2025. This is 40 years of Simm-Angus AI and 10 years of Robert Groom Angus bulls. 2024-2025 calving mid December. Breeding back to Angus 2/25 or your bull.

The farm history is a 40 year freezer trade. Breeding focus is conformation, performance, and meat quality.

The farmer needs to retire.

Contact

[deerrunfarmangus@gmail.com](mailto:deerrunfarmangus@gmail.com)

phone 607 898 3821

David Tregaskis, Groton, NY

SHOUT OUT TO:  
BLAKE MAHAFFEY & JOSE  
OTERO for putting together the  
junior trip to the Nationals.

At the Juniors meeting, they  
voted to pay \$250 travel money  
to juniors attending the Regional  
or National Shows to  
ACTIVELY INVOLVED  
JUNIORS.

**This means you must be  
IN OUR NEXT DIRECTORY.**

**Get your \$5**  
**membership paid**  
**NOW.**

# MINUTES of the 9-2-24 NYSF NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION

1. President Darryl Bunal called the meeting to order at Noon.
  2. Phil Paradis made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last newsletter. Darrell Bunal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed
  3. Shawn Murphy gave a Treasurer's Report. We have \$8946 in the checking account and \$4663 in the junior checking account. Bryan Karen Clark made a motion to accept the report, John Bozeman 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.
  4. Committee Reports:
    - A. NYSF – John Bozeman is our breed rep. The fair needs to allocate more passes. Discussed the poor lighting and the need for drop down curtains. Judges' names for next year have been given to Superintendants Glenisters. Camping – no receipt from ShoWorks. Previously, if you had camped at NYSF, we got 5 day pre-notice. - Pigeons are a bad problem. The new lights outside are much better. Jeremy Bear reported we need 15 head and 4 breeders to commit for us to have another % Simmental Show. Jeremy will check requirements some more.
    - B. Nomination Chair Person is Art Reynolds – Expiring terms – Directors: Phil Paradis, Lonny Schaefer & John Bozeman – Phil & John agreed to renew. We will check with Lonny.
    - C. NYJSA Advisors – Bryan Stocks and Karen Clark reported they had purchased Banners and pedigree signs. One juniors went to Regional and 4 went to the National. They ordered T-Shirts to sell, and broke even. **Jr members must “earn” the right to receive the \$250 travel money by being ACTIVE members (printed membership in DIRECTORY)** and 1 stipulation the **junior has to give us a report on trip and picture/s**. The juniors provided a Pizza Party for the barn on Friday after their All Breed Showmanship show – serving 20 boxes of Pizza.
  5. Correspondence/Announcements – received a Thank You note from multiple juniors attending the NYJBPA Spring Preview Show.
  6. Old Business:
    - A. NYSF Fun auction for Juniors – Sold \$4000 worth of donated items.
  7. New Business:
    - A. NYSF – Awards? - same except different brand/style of “tall chaires”.
    - B. NYSF Donations – great support. Received \$1215 which covered all expenses for our awards.
    - C. NYSA web site – Taylor Hoelscher maintains & makes changes as needed.
    - D. **JUNIORS** – the adult association needs to approve financial decisions made by the juniors. Juniors need to make proposals to NYSA by Annual Meeting.
    - D. Next Meeting Annual – Darryl Bunal will check Theodores Restaurant, same as last year.
    - E. Adjourn – Karen Clark made a motion to adjourn, Julie Murphy 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.
- Respectfully Submitted by: Jeanne White, Secretary

**JUNIORS – PLEASE READ**

# Bovine Leukemia Virus



Animal & Plant Health  
Inspection Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

Bovine leukemia virus causes a blood-borne infection in cattle. The virus survives in the white blood cells (lymphocytes), resulting in chronic infection. Most cattle never show symptoms, but a small percentage develop malignant lymphoma and Lymphosarcoma.

The virus is endemic in the United States and affects cattle in many other parts of the world as well.

While common and often benign, having this virus in a herd is costly. Economic losses include reduced milk production, premature culling, cattle deaths (from lymphosarcoma), increased replacement and veterinary costs, and trade restrictions on infected animals and germplasm.



## **What To Look For**

Most infected animals (about two-thirds) show no outward signs of disease, especially younger animals (under 2 years). Less than 5 percent develop lymphosarcoma (most common in 4- to 8-year-old animals). The remainder develop persistent lymphocytosis.

When animals do show signs, they vary and may include:

- \*Swollen lymph nodes
- \*Labored breathing (dyspnea)
- \*Bloating
- \*Jugular vein distention
- \*Increased heart rate (tachycardia)
- \*Brisket edema
- \*Weight loss
- \*Decreased milk production
- \*Fever
- \*Loss of appetite
- \*Infertility
- \*Rear limb weakness or paralysis
- \*Protruding eyeball (exophthalmia)
- \*Gastrointestinal obstructions and/or ulcers with digested blood (melena)
- \*Increased blood lymphocyte counts

## **How To Prevent This Disease**

Bovine leukemia virus spreads when uninfected animals come into contact with blood, saliva, semen, or milk from infected animals. This usually happens during routine farm practices (for example, tattooing, dehorning, rectal palpation, injections, blood collection).

The virus can also spread from an infected female to her fetus or immediately after birth when the newborn calf ingests infected colostrum. Insect vectors such as *Tabanid spp.* and other large biting flies may also transmit the virus.

## **Here's what you can do:**

- \*Use cautery or other bloodless methods of dehorning.
- \*Clean and disinfect all equipment between animals for procedures, such as castration, tattooing, and

ear tagging.

\*Never reuse needles between animals for blood collection or injections.

\*Keep handling facilities clean.

\*Control biting flies to lower your animals' risk of exposure.

\*Test animals regularly for the virus to detect infections early and eliminate them from the herd.

There's no vaccine for bovine leukemia virus. Preventing its spread is the best way to protect your herd.

### **How It Is Treated**

There's no treatment for bovine leukemia virus or for lymphosarcoma in cattle.

Only management practices can eliminate the virus from a herd. Options include:

1. Identify infected cattle and slaughter positive reactors.
2. Detect and isolate infected cattle, and then manage infected and non-infected cattle in separate herds.
3. Test animals for the virus and take appropriate biosafety and management measures to minimize exposure for non-infected animals.

### **Report Signs of Animal Disease**

Producers or owners who suspect an animal disease should contact their veterinarian to evaluate the animal or herd. *Find an accredited veterinarian.*

Animal health professionals (veterinarians; diagnostic laboratories; public health, zoo, or wildlife personnel; and others) report diagnosed or suspected cases of nationally listed reportable animal diseases to APHIS Area Veterinarians in Charge and to the State animal health official as applicable under State reporting regulations.

## **Controlling Bovine Leukemia Virus**

### **Current Status**

Bovine leukemia virus is a common disease in U.S. dairies. Its prevalence in beef cattle is increasing. Previous national studies showed that 89 percent of U.S. Dairy herds and 38 percent of U.S. beef herds had infected animals.



A  
PROGRAM  
OF



Bassett Healthcare Network  
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Better safe than sorry.

How often do you come across an unsafe situation on your farm and vow to fix it some day?

What if we could help?

The John May Farm Safety Fund provides matching funds to small and mid-sized farm operations for repairs and upgrades that make for a safer workplace. You pay half. We pay half, up to \$5,000.

### **Who Can Apply?**

We know how complex grant applications can be, so we've kept ours simple.

You only need to meet three criteria. If you are...

1 An active farmer, part-time or full-time, and...

2 A New York State resident, and...

3 Grossing an annual farm income of \$10,000 to \$999,999, or, if a dairy farm, there is no limit ...then this program is meant for you.





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# Study: Organic Mineral Sources can Improve Health & Performance of Stressed Beef Calves



# The Beef Site

By: Kansas State Research and Extension – April 17, 2024



Calves are stressed during weaning and shipping which elevates cortisol levels and results in immunosuppression.

Weaning, shipping, and commingling are some of the greatest stressors for calves during the beef production chain. Feedlots and stocker operations know all too well the impact these stressors have on animal health and performance. Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) complex is strongly associated with these stressors leading to increased morbidity and decreased feed intake and growth.

Stress and the ensuing increase in the stress hormone cortisol have negative effects on immune function and the ability of calves to combat BRD pathogens. Calves undergoing stress during weaning and shipping to a new location have elevated cortisol levels resulting in immunosuppression.

The immune system requires energy, protein, vitamins, and minerals to function properly, but newly arrived calves usually have depressed feed intake resulting in less than adequate consumption of nutrients. Less is known about the mineral requirements of stressed beef calves and the impact of previous mineral nutrition and current mineral status have on the response of the immune system to BRD pathogens. Minerals naturally found in feeds are part of the feed matrix and generally complexed with organic molecules such as proteins.

Mineral supplementation is generally in the form of oxides, sulfates, and chlorides termed inorganic minerals, which generally have lower bioavailability than organic minerals. In the last 30 years,



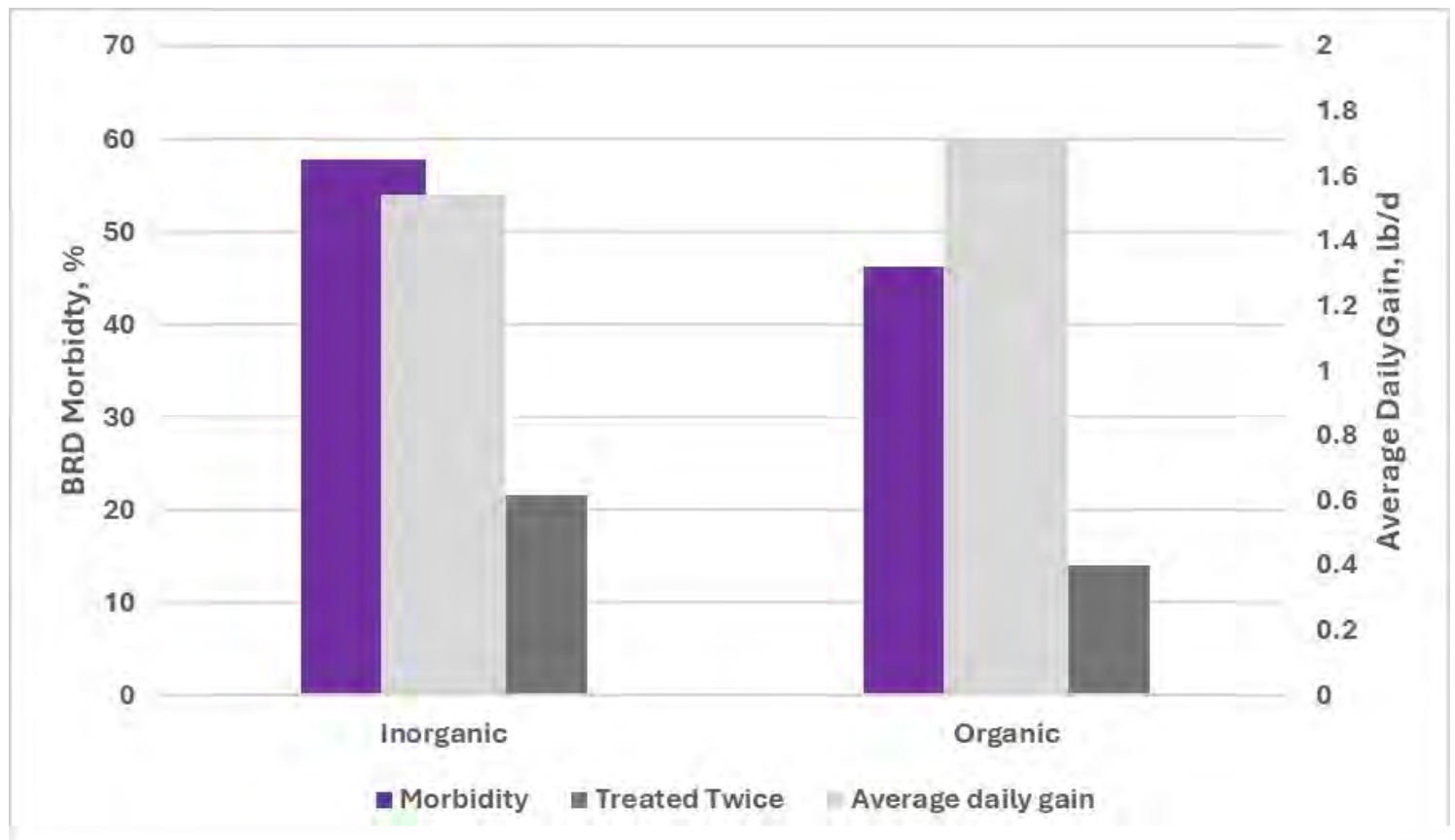
supplements with minerals complexed to an organic molecule, often an amino acid, have become commercially available. These organic minerals may enhance health and performance of cattle by increasing availability and functionality of the mineral in the animal's body.

A recent study evaluated the use of organic versus inorganic minerals in a diet for stressed calves. The organic mineral diet contained zinc, copper, manganese, and cobalt complexed with an amino acid whereas the inorganic mineral diet contained sulfate forms of these minerals. Heifers were sourced from several sale barns over a 3-day period and commingled, and considered to be high-risk for BRD. Calves were fed bermuda grass hay free choice and a grain supplement at 3 lb/hd/day. The overall morbidity was 52% with heifers fed the organic mineral at 46% compared with 58% for the inorganic mineral. There was no difference between forms of mineral in the number of cattle retreated for BRD. Additionally, heifers fed the organic mineral gained 1.72 lb/d compared with 1.54 lb/d for the inorganic mineral.

This level of improvement in health and performance is not always evident in research studies comparing organic and inorganic mineral sources. A couple of important factors are the level of BRD morbidity overall and the mineral status of calves at arrival to the feedlot or stocker operation.

In the study discussed above, the level of morbidity was quite high with over 50% of the heifers being treated for BRD at least once, and 18% of the heifers were treated at least twice. Additionally, liver biopsies indicated that heifers were marginally deficient in copper, zinc and manganese at arrival.

Although it is difficult to determine mineral status at arrival and the level of BRD morbidity cannot be predicted, the use of organic minerals may be warranted in such situations, but the added expense of organic minerals is not always warranted.



# Veterinary Viewpoints: Resuscitation Basics

by Dr. Melanie Boileau Jan 9, 2024



Calf resuscitation refers to the process of reviving a newborn calf that is experiencing difficulty breathing or is unresponsive after birth. It is a critical procedure that aims to provide the calf with immediate care to improve chances of survival.

A calf resuscitation kit typically includes essential tools and supplies needed for reviving and providing immediate care to a newborn calf. Having this kit on hand can potentially be the difference between a live or dead newborn calf. Some common items found in a calf resuscitation kit are:

- 1. Resuscitator bag:** A bag valve mask or a resuscitator bag is used to provide artificial ventilation to the calf. It consists of a bag, a mask or nozzle, and a valve system that allows for controlled inflation of the calf's lungs.
- 2. Airway clearing tools:** A suction bulb helps in clearing mucus from the calf's airway.
- 3. Towels or blankets:** Clean towels or blankets are useful for drying the calf, stimulating circulation and providing warmth during resuscitation.
- 4. Navel dipping solution.** Common options include iodine-based solutions or chlorhexidine. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution if necessary.
- 5. Rectal thermometer.**

## **General steps involved in calf resuscitation:**

**1. Position:** Immediately after birth, place the calf on its chest and pull its hind limbs forward on either side of the body (similar to a dog sitting position). This position promotes proper drainage of fluids from the calf's airways, helps facilitate breathing and prevents the calf from flopping around and falling back on its side. Avoid hanging the calf over a gate or by its hind limbs. This position usually allows for fluid to drain from the stomach rather than the lungs and, because of gravity, the abdominal content pushes on the diaphragm which can make the calf's first breath very challenging, especially if the calf is not vigorous from the get-go.

**2. Airways:** Stimulate breathing. Clear mucus from the mouth and nose manually by using a finger swipe or with suction. Rub the calf vigorously to stimulate and encourage breathing. You can place a finger in its ears or nose, splash cold water over the head or squirt a small amount (1 oz) in the ears.

These stimulation tips help to trigger the calf's natural instinct to breathe.

a. If the calf is not breathing well or not breathing on its own, you may need to perform artificial respiration. This can be done by using a resuscitator bag or a resuscitator kit specifically designed for calves such as the "McCullough calf resuscitator". Mouth-to-mouth and mouth-to-nose resuscitation is not effective at helping the calf to breathe and it increases the risk of contracting zoonotic diseases (those that can be transferred from animals to humans).

b. If a calf resuscitator bag or kit is not available, consider stimulating the acupuncture resuscitation point called "Governing Vessel 26". This can be done by inserting a needle, tip of a pen or even a finger nail in the middle of the calf's muzzle, lined up with the bottom of the nostrils. Stimulating this acupuncture point helps release epinephrine naturally and can improve calf circulation (increased heart rate), respiration and overall oxygenation of the body.

c. If the calf is not breathing and does not have a heartbeat, it is likely not viable. If the calf fails to breathe adequately after several attempts but still has a heartbeat, it is crucial to seek immediate veterinary assistance. Your veterinarian can provide further assessment, oxygen therapy or other

necessary interventions to support resuscitation efforts.

When assessing the vital signs of a newborn calf after birth, there are several key indicators to monitor.

**Normal vital signs to consider:**

1. Heart rate: The normal heart rate for a newborn calf can range from 100 to 120 beats per minute.
2. Respiratory rate: The normal respiratory rate for a newborn calf is typically between 30 and 40 breaths per minute. The calf's chest should rise and fall evenly with each breath.
3. Body temperature: A newborn calf's body temperature should be around 101.5 to 103 degrees Fahrenheit. Hypothermia or hyperthermia can indicate health issues and require immediate attention.
4. Capillary refill time: Assess the capillary refill time by pressing gently on the calf's gums or inside the lower eyelid. In a healthy calf, the pink color should return to the area within two seconds after releasing pressure.
5. Activity and responsiveness: Observe the calf's level of activity and responsiveness. A healthy calf should show signs of alertness, be able to stand and walk within a short period and have a strong suckling reflex.

Umbilical dipping is a common practice in calf management aimed at preventing infections and promoting the healing of the calf's umbilical cord stump.

**How to dip the umbilical cord stump:**

1. Prepare the disinfectant solution: Use an appropriate disinfectant recommended by your veterinarian.
2. Dip the umbilical stump: Dip the entire umbilical cord stump into the disinfectant solution up to the base. Ensure the solution fully covers the stump. Hold it in the solution for the recommended duration, usually around 30 seconds to one minute. After dipping, let the umbilical stump air dry naturally.

Keeping a newborn calf warm is crucial for its well-being, especially during the first few hours after birth when its body temperature regulation is still developing.

**Tips to help keep a calf warm:**

1. Dry the calf: Use clean towels or cloths to dry the calf thoroughly immediately after birth. Removing moisture from its body helps prevent heat loss.
2. Provide a warm environment: Place the calf in a draft-free and well-insulated area, such as a clean and dry pen for calf warming. If necessary, you can use heat lamps or infrared heaters to provide supplemental warmth. Ensure the heat source is positioned in a way that allows the calf to move away from it if it becomes too warm.
3. Provide bedding: Use clean and dry straw or bedding material to provide insulation from the cold ground. A thick layer of bedding helps maintain warmth.
4. Consider calf jackets: In colder climates, or when temperatures are particularly low, consider using specially designed calf jackets or blankets to provide additional insulation and warmth. These can help retain the calf's body heat and promote thermal comfort.

For successful resuscitation of at-risk calves, herd staff should practice good calving supervision, prompt calf viability evaluation and early aggressive intervention (i.e., active management of calving and calf resuscitation). Please consult with your veterinarian if you need assistance with developing a good calf resuscitation standard operating procedure tailored to your farm.



# New York State Fair



## SIMMENTAL SHOW

### FEMALE DIVISION:

#### Champion Aged Cow, Grand Champ Cow/Calf and Supreme Female:

H201Trippy Bliss

Travis Clark

#### Res Grand Champion C/C and Champion 2-yr old Cow/Calf:

Simme Valley Kaboom

Simme Valley/Elsie Donlick

#### Heifer Calf Champion and Res Grand Champion Heifer:

Simme Valley Monicque

Simme Valley/Eli Donlick

Res. Heifer Calf Champion

Miss Monique

Bozeman Farm/ Addy Rae

Senior Calf Champion

Simme Valley Sexy Lady

Simme Valley

Res. Sr. Calf Champion

Winslow's Red Penny

Heavenly Acres

Intermediate Champion

RWFC Queen of Heart

Serenity Conklin

#### Junior Champion Hfr & Grand Champion Female & Reserve Supreme Female:

HCH Tuckaway Lucy

Tuckaway Farm - Stocks

Res. Jr. Heifer Champion

Susie Q

Bozeman Farm/Addy Rae

Senior Heifer Champion

Bunal's Pointed Flame

Bunal Farm

Res. Sr. Heifer Champ

LKF Karnation Rose

Ledge Knoll Farm

### BULL DIVISION:

Jr. Bull Calf Champion

Simme Valley Macchiato

Simme Valley

Res. Bull Calf Champion

BPF Pack A Punch

Premier Farm

#### Champion Senior Bull Calf & Res Grand Champion:

BPF Iceman 13L

Premier Farm

### STEER Div CHAMPION:

TWC Mike

Travis Clark

### GROUP CLASSES:

**Bozeman Farm** won Get of Sire; **Ledge Knoll Farm** won Pair of Yearlings; **Premier Farm** won Best 5 Head; **Simme Valley** won Breeders Herd, Best 4 Head, & NY Special. - Judge was Ryan Rathmann, Tx

**PREMIER BREEDER was SIMME VALLEY - PREMIER EXHIBITOR was SIMME VALLEY**

***NYSF Youth Show and All Breeds Showmanship:*** **Travis Clark** was Master Showman in 4H and won Supreme Female with his C/C pair, Trippys Bliss. **Addy Rae Bozeman** was Res. Master Showman in the 4H Show and took 1<sup>st</sup> in class in the All Breeds. **Josephine Tommell** won Champion Simmental Heifer and Res. Supreme Female and stood 1<sup>st</sup> in Class of the 4H Showmanship and the All Breeds Showmanship. We had 21 head of Simmental cattle in the junior/4H show. Additional Junior Simmental members participating: **Gavin Murphy, Kylie Murphy, Robert Murphy, Eli Donlick, Mason Findlay, Serenity Conklin** and **Isabelle Schuler**. In the All Breed Showmanship, additional NYJSA juniors: **Henry, Harvey & Charlie Stocks**.

**Robert Groom** judged the All Breeds Showmanship and **Mr Wize** from PA judged the 4H Youth.

### SPONSORS for both Youth Shows:

**Fun Auction, Sunrise Farms and Twist of Fate**

### AOB Show FEMALE DIVISION – NYSA members:

Grand Ch Cow/Calf

Maple Lawn Karen

Maple Lawn Farm

Res. Grand Ch Female

JSUL Rollin Honey

Wood Farm

Res. Jr Champ Calf

Maple Lawn Malibu

Maple Lawn Farm

Ch. Sr. Calf

Miss CCF Turning Page

Bozeman Farm

Res. Sr. Yearling

Mountain Dolly

Serenity Conklin



Supreme & Grand Ch Cow/Calf  
 Clarks Farm – Travis Clark  
 H201 Trippys Bliss, by Relentless



Res. Supreme and Grand Champion  
 Tuckaway Farm – Stocks family  
 HCH Tuckaway Lucy by Copacetic



Res. Grand Champion Cow/calf  
 Simme Valley with  
 Simme Valley Kaboom by Epic - w/ Monicque



Res. Grand Champion Simm Heifer  
 Simme Valley with  
 Simme Valley Monicque, by Woodford



Res. Grand Champion Bull  
 Premier Farm with  
 BPF Iceman 13L, by BPF Iceman



Res Grand Champion AOB Heifer  
 Wood Farm with  
 JSUL Rollin Honey, by Bankroll



AOB Grand Champion Cow/Calf and Res  
 Calf Champion- Maple Lawn Farm  
 Maple Lawn Karen w/ Maple Lawn Malibu



AOB – Champion SR Heifer  
 Bozeman Farm – Addy Rae Bozeman  
 Miss CCF Turning Page



# THANK YOU to our NEW YORK STATE FAIR SPONSORS

SIMMENTAL SHOW	SPONSOR	AWARD
Supreme	Premier Farm -Bear Family	Tall Chair
Reserve Supreme	Bozeman Farm	Tall Chair
Grand Champion Heifer	Preciado Show Cattle	Belt Buckle
Res Grand Heifer	Clark's Family Farm	Belt Buckle
Grand Champion Cow/Calf	The Bunal's Farm	Belt Buckle
Res Grand Cow/Calf	McHoy Farms – McDonald Family	Belt Buckle
Grand Champion Bull	McHoy Farms – McDonald Family	Belt Buckle
Res Grand Bull	Hatesaul Farm	Belt Buckle
Pair of Calves	Bozeman Farm	Knives
Pair of Yearlings	Simme Valley Feed – Phil Paradis	Knives
Produce of Dam	Simme Valley Feed – Phil Paradis	Knives
Get of Sire	Simme Valley Feed – Phil Paradis	Knives
Breeders Herd	The Bunal's Farm	Knives
Best 4 Head	Bozeman Farms	Knives
NY Special	Thorpe Farms	Knives



Above: AOB - Reserve Junior Champion  
Serenity Conklin with Mountain Dolly

Right: AOB – Reserve Jr Heifer Champion  
Maple Lawn Farm – Bryce Schuster with:  
Maple Lawn Malibu





# Elm Side Farm

**Registered Simmental Cattle**

**Also Registered SimAngus Genetics**



## THE REYNOLDS FAMILY

Art Reynolds,  
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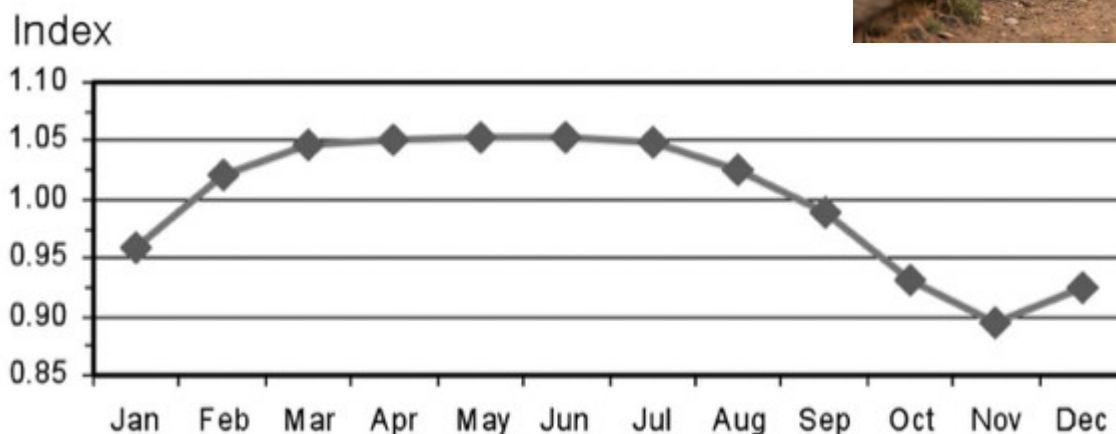
**ESS Farrah F21 – Remington Secret Weapon x Lazy H She's Too Cool**

# Financial Opportunities for Cull Cow Marketing

By Mark Z. Johnson September 25, 2024



It's typical for cow-calf producers to focus most of their marketing efforts on calves. Accordingly, little marketing effort is put into cull cows and bulls. While pregnancy and culling rates vary between operations; over time, the sale of cull breeding stock accounts for roughly 20 percent of gross revenue in a cow-calf production system. The ebb and flow of the cull cow market has proven to be extremely consistent (and predictable) over time, as shown in the graph below.



Seasonal Price Index, Utility Cows, Southern Plains, 1997-2006. (OSU)

The seasonal pattern has been consistent for decades. The 20-year average break from the highs of summer to the low in November is 15 percent. Cull prices typically move higher in the early spring before peaking in the summer when strong seasonal grilling activity drives the demand for ground beef. This demand starts to soften in September and is followed by a large supply of spring calving cull cows hitting the market (after weaning and fall pregnancy checks), in October and November resulting in the fall lows. While many spring calving operations simply choose to dispose of culls as quickly and easily as possible, there is considerable potential to increase the salvage value of culls by 25 – 45 percent with some additional effort devoted to marketing and management. Additional value can be gained through added weight, improving the quality classification, and taking advantage of the seasonal price patterns. The summer of 2024 has seen cull cow values reach record high prices. On the supply side, a decline in beef cow slaughter numbers reflects the current cowherd stabilization. Year-to-date, commercial beef cow slaughter is down 16 percent from 2023. From a demand standpoint, consumer preference for ground beef products has been robust even at current prices.

For fall calving herds, the seasonal pattern suggests the most profitable option is to market cull cows at the time of weaning/culling in the spring. There is little reason to expect anything different next year as the decreasing cowherd, and small supply of designated replacement heifers this past January, supports strong slaughter cow demand in 2025.

For spring calving operations, this fall represents an opportunity to increase the value of cull cows from the fall lows by retaining ownership into the new year. Improved cull cow marketing offers some of the most reliable return for producers in the uncertain world of cow-calf production. That being said, the cost, moisture conditions and risk of holding onto culls into 2025 must be weighed against the potential of capturing additional value.



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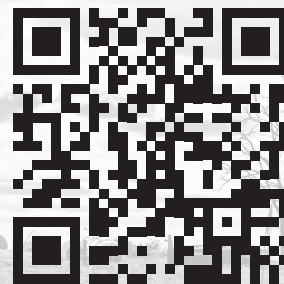
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# Reducing Stress On Arrival

By Callie Hanson Mar 19, 2024 Updated Mar 26, 2024

**V**BOVINE  
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Stress management at the feed yard and in the preconditioning phase involves comprehensive management strategies. As new products hit the market promising miracles in stress management, having multiple tools and strategies in place is critical for comprehensive stress management in the feed yard.

One of the more stressful periods in the cycle of beef cattle, the preconditioning and feed yard environment contains a number of stressors for cattle they may not have experienced on the ranch. The very act of transporting cattle from the ranch to the yard can be a highly stressful event. Justin W. Waggoner, Ph.D., P.A.S. is a professor and extension beef cattle specialist at Kansas State University. Waggoner notes though every yard has a different protocol, the environment handlers provide is crucial to minimizing stress on calves.

“When we talk about receiving calves this time of year where the conditions are wet and cold, we want to make sure they have a dry place to lie down. That is going to be one of the first things they are looking for when they arrive.”

Regardless of where they came from initially and how long they spent on the truck, Waggoner notes getting cattle on feed as soon as possible is critical. Depending on the length of transportation and origin, managers may use different diets and management protocols to acclimate cattle.

“We get some instances where it may be better to delay initial processing and get them into a receiving pen to rest for a period of time before processing,” Waggoner says. “Getting them acclimated to a new environment and providing rest is one of the big management things we can do to reduce stress.” Waggoner notes Kansas in particular has been especially cold and wet this winter posing a number of issues for feedlot operators to get cattle going in the right direction.

While a lot of these foundational management strategies may seem like common sense, the implications of not addressing stressors may worsen the situation and have long term consequences.

“Some of these cattle coming into the yard are on the truck for a number of hours. That isn’t the case for all of them, but if we don’t make a conscious effort to acclimate these cattle upon arrival, the risk of sickness and death loss inevitably increases,” he says. Waggoner notes the short of it is, cattle who don’t eat get sick and don’t gain weight, which directly cuts into the bottom line.

“In some instances this will impact the calf for the rest of their life from their feedlot performance to their carcass quality. There are certainly downstream impacts to not setting them up for success. Some of them may bounce back but management matters and if we don’t manage appropriately from the time they arrive, there are consequences.”

As cattle producers look to decrease stress, Waggoner notes new technology should be viewed as tools in the management tool box instead of fix-all solutions.

“As we evolve as an industry we are always evaluating management protocols, new technologies and products to address challenges and making informed decisions on whether or not to add those tools to the tool box is critical.”

One such product that has become increasingly popular across multiple levels of the cattle sector is FerAppease. Unlike other products, FerAppease is a topical product that aids in lowering cattle’s perceived threats in their environment. By lowering their perceived threats, the product claims to reduce flight zones and lower inflammation, cortisol levels, substance-P levels, inflammation, morbidity and mortality.

# Fetal Development: Realizing the WHAT to Accomplish the WHY Feb, 2023

Chris Cassady, Ph.D., BioZyme® Inc.,  
Beef Technical Sales Manager



When constructing a home or putting up a building, ideally, you'd engineer something that can last a lifetime. A well-assembled structure begins with setting a foundation crafted to be stable, durable, and supportive. Your cow-calf operation is no different, and the long-term successful outcomes of each calf start all the way back to when the bull bred the dam. The challenge for producers is that a calf's foundation is built internally, without any visual of its vigor until far into its postnatal life. Understanding WHAT is going on can help producers understand WHY annual premium nutrition is always worth it.

Typically, we tend to focus on nutrition during the last 60 days of gestation, when two-thirds of the fetal growth occurs in utero. Obviously, this is important, as a 90-pound calf at birth is growing nearly a pound a day during the end of gestation, and it takes a high plane of nutrition to support this requirement. Try not to put the cart in front of the horse, because while this exponential growth is important for the calf, there are many vital systems established in early gestation, such as placental growth, organogenesis, and muscle fiber development. Just like a poorly built foundation, the "cracks" in these systems may not be able to support the calf down the road if nutrition is restricted.

Just like a building inspector, let's look at the foundation or the developing systems that take place after fertilization. After conception, the developing embryo divides and multiplies and enters the uterus around day 4. The critical period of maternal pregnancy recognition occurs simultaneously with the formation of the placenta between days 15 and 18. The effective vascular exchange of oxygen and nutrients from the dam to the fetus obviously relies on proper placental development. A heartbeat can be recognized as early as day 22, and vital organs like the lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, and brain begin development as early as day 25. Think about what would happen if nutrition were restricted during these developmental milestones. Research findings have suggested that early-gestation nutrient restriction can alter pancreatic and lung function, exposing the calf to glucose intolerance and impaired lung function. This obviously would have an impact on growing cattle efficiency and susceptibility to Bovine respiratory disease (BRD).

Fast forward to mid-gestation, where historically we associate nutritional requirements to be lowest throughout the year. While this is true for the cow, the developing fetus has established vital organs and is now partitioning nutrients toward muscle fiber development. At the end of the beef production cycle, we get paid for pounds of marketable product, so maximizing muscle mass is imperative. Nutrient restriction affects myogenesis, so fewer muscle fibers will be generated if requirements aren't met. Terminal traits like ribeye area are highly heritable genetic traits, and without the proper nutrition provided, cattle producers won't get the most out of the genetics they feed out or retain.

Without a visual, it's hard to know exactly WHAT is going on in there during the critical stages of fetal development. But knowing the time points, and WHY nutrition matters well before that last trimester can give you and your calves the best chance possible to thrive in their respective system. Products like AO-Biotics® Amaferm® assist with nutrient utilization by improving the digestibility of critical nutrients like energy and protein. The extra nutrition unlocked and made available by Amaferm can be partitioned beyond maintenance for the cow and onto her developing fetus. Collectively, providing premium nutrition year-round will pay dividends to any operation by giving that calf a sturdy, well-engineered foundation for its productive lifespan.

Start with a solid foundation, and don't skimp on nutrition just because your cows aren't in their last trimester. Give them the nutrition their calves deserve early on, and you will see the returns once that growthy, efficient calf is weaned.

# Best Deworming Practices for Cattle

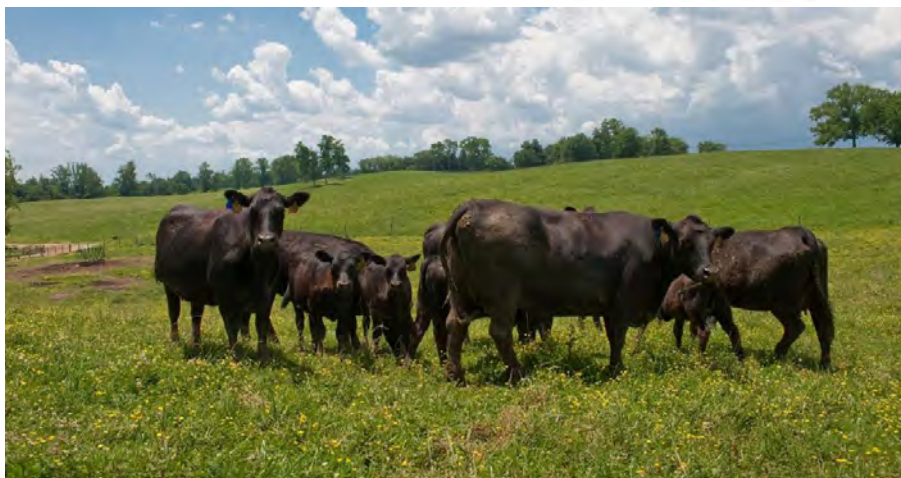
 [extension.umd.edu/resource/best-deworming-practices-cattle](https://extension.umd.edu/resource/best-deworming-practices-cattle)

Updated December, 2022

Many producers are aware that gastrointestinal parasites can reduce cattle performance, and accordingly, take measures to protect their animals. Gastrointestinal parasites are typically controlled through application of drugs called anthelmintics (dewormers).

There are three major dewormer categories available to livestock producers: benzimidazoles, macrocyclic lactones, and imidazothiazoles. Dewormers in the

benzimidazole and macrocyclic lactone classes are the most widely utilized for cattle. Macrocyclic lactones are available as in pour-on or injectable forms, while benzimidazoles are typically administered orally.



## Classification of Dewormers Used for Cattle

Drug Class	Drug Name	Commercial Names
<b>Benzimidazoles</b>	fenbendazole	Safe-Guard®, Panacur®
	oxfendazole	Synanthic®
	albendazole	Valbazen®
<b>Macrocyclic Lactones</b>	ivermectin	Ivermectin®, Bimectin®, Noromectin®, ivomec®
	eprinomectin	Eprinex®, Eprizero™, LongRange®
	doramectin	Dectomax®
	moxidectin	Cydectin®
<b>Imidazothiazoles</b>	levamisole	LevaMed™, Prohibit®

Although cattle producers have the best intentions when it comes to treating their animals for intestinal parasites, routine and frequent anthelmintic treatment is likely contributing to resistance. Similar to antibiotic resistance, continued overuse of dewormers inadvertently selects for drug-resistant parasites. Dewormer resistance has been well-documented in small ruminant production systems and those producers have had to adopt strategies to cope with significantly reduced efficacy of dewormer treatment. Data from cattle herds in the southeast U.S. as well as those in other countries suggest that economically important parasites to the cattle industry are also developing resistance to available dewormers.



With the current practices of routine administration of dewormer to all animals on the farm multiple times per year, it is likely that cattle producers are 1) administering dewormer to animals that do not actually need to be dewormed; or 2) administering a product with poor efficacy in their herd. Both situations represent an economic loss to the producer and contribute to the development of dewormer resistance. In order to mitigate the development of dewormer resistance in cattle production systems, producers should take measures to evaluate and adjust their parasite control program.


Producers can determine if their current program is working by conducting a fecal egg count reduction test on a group of cattle. The premise of the fecal egg count reduction test is to determine dewormer efficacy by measuring how many parasite eggs are present in the manure before dewormer treatment and how many are present after treatment. A dewormer is considered effective if there is at least a 95% reduction. Producers who are interested in conducting a fecal egg count reduction test should contact their veterinarian or local extension agent for additional details and instruction.

If producers find that their current program is not effective according to results obtained using a fecal egg count reduction test, they should consider the following practices:

1. Only deworm “high risk” animals. These animals include younger cattle (<16 months), especially calves. Older cattle generally develop a tolerance to gastrointestinal parasites and are better able to cope with their presence than younger animals.
2. Do not deworm by the calendar. Cattle should only be dewormed when they need it, not simply because of the season or time of year. A single composite fecal egg count can be performed for a group of cattle to evaluate current parasite load.
3. Perform selective non-treatment. This practice ensures that there are sufficient parasite numbers that are unexposed to an anthelmintic which will help maintain a population of susceptible parasites (referred to as “refugia”). To implement this strategy, producers should deworm all animals in their high risk groups except for the top 10 to 15% heaviest/best performers.
4. Utilize combination treatments. This strategy involves simultaneous treatment with at least two drugs in different classes (e.g., one benzimidazole and one macrocyclic lactone; levamisole and one benzimidazole, etc.). With this approach, any parasites resistant to one drug class will likely be susceptible to the other class, which would greatly reduce selection pressure for resistance to either drug. This method is much more effective in controlling the development of resistance than rotating between drug classes.
5. Avoid under-dosing. Under-dosing commonly occurs when animals are not weighed prior to treatment such that a lower dose is used than is required for maximum effect. This is a serious problem that certainly contributes to the selection of resistance. To avoid under-dosing, be sure weigh animals to determine proper dosage. Ideally, a set of scales is used for this; however, if scales are unavailable, use of an appropriate weigh tape is better than nothing.
6. Examine grazing practices. Short forages resulting from overstocking and overgrazing pastures forces animals to graze closer to manure piles and increases the risk of parasite exposure. Implementing rotational grazing and giving paddocks adequate rest (4-5 weeks) can also help break the parasite life cycle and reduce risk of exposure.
7. Continue to evaluate the program to ensure efficacy. This can be accomplished by performing a fecal egg count reduction test every few years.

References for further reading:

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