

The FARM program is in full swing and those who do not have a protocol book (which has your veterinary – client –patient- relationship (VCRP) form) from your veterinarian, please mention it to us at your next appointment. I will be trying to contact as many of you as I can and set appointments up to finish your books. If a protocol book was completed last year we need to update the book with a new validation page indicating that everything is current and correct.

Another item of business that will be right around the corner is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD's) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The VFD is a written statement (so we will not be able to call them in for you, we can fax them) that will be issued by a licensed veterinarian for the use of any VFD drugs / combinations. So over the counter drugs such as Penicillin or any feed/ water antibiotics will require a VFD from your veterinarian. Ionophores, coccidiostats and bacitracin products will not require a VFD unless they are being used in combination with antibiotics. These VFD's that we can write will only apply for up to a 6 month period so we will be in close contact. A copy of the VFD must be kept by the veterinarian, producer, and feed supplier for 2 years. So when will this all start coming into play you ask? By October 2016, we should have a complete list of antibiotics and starting in December 2016 to purchase any of these products you will need a written VFD in hand.

This past spring I had the opportunity to attend Western Veterinary Conference so I will leave you will some interesting facts that were brought up:

DAIRY COWS

- Approximately 10 % of all clinical mastitis occurs within the 1st week after calving.
- Once she has her 1st case of mastitis that girl is 5 x's more likely to develop future mastitis cases.
- So to minimize these environmental mastitis-> Great management of the Dry and Fresh Cows is Key!!!
- Talking about the Dry Cows.... Dry cows require at bare. bare. bare. minimum 100ft of DRY lying space per cow-> Identify **effective dry** lying space... Not just area available. The older ladies will get the good spots, putting us younger ladies at risk.
- Another good way it was put at the conference was " Don't calve cows in areas that you would not feel comfortable to lay down and roll around "
- Timing of mastitis & reproductive performance done by Dr. Schrick at the University of Tennessee

	Days to 1 st service	Service/ Conception
Controls (no mastitis)	- 68	- 1.6
Mastitis before AI	- 75	- 2.0
Mastitis after AI before pregnancy confirmed	- 75	- 3.1

BEEF COWS

- The animals with no mastitis also had a lower cull rate at 8% and abortion rate of 6% compared the animals with mastitis at a 25% cull rate and 12% abortion rate.
- Pain management has become a large welfare issue and Kansas State University study showed that morbidity was reduced by 49% in castrated bulls by administering oral meloxicam 24 hours prior to the procedure. Dose 1 mg/kg orally
- Iowa had a study on the effects of disposition of the animal (they had 47,500 animals in the study) categorizing into docile, restless, and aggressive on feedlot performance. The results in Feedlot ADG, lb follows: Docile 3.22 Restless 3.15 and aggressive 3.01. Mortality rate %: docile 0.95, restless 1.06, and aggressive 1.69. Profit/ head as follows docile \$46.63, restless \$26.16 and aggressive \$7.62. So this study showed that not only do our docile animals gain better, less likely by nearly half the aggressive to have mortality issues, and they bring us \$ 39.01 profit per head higher than the aggressive guys.

CALVING

- Last food for thought... We had tons of questions this spring on inducing calves... Here is the results on a study in which heifers were induced 0-15 days ahead of due date: birth weight was 7.1% less ** but the incidence of assistance was the same in both groups**, retained placenta rate 40.5%, weaning weight was 22 lbs less, and preg rate was 8.4% less induced group.

As with anything if you want to discuss or have any questions on any of these topics just give us a call. I hope everyone had a great start to the summer this Memorial Day weekend and great growing season ahead of us.



In this busy time of the year we want to remind you to stay safe!