



From the desk of Dr. Michelle Borek-Stine, DVM  
November 1st, 2016

Fall is officially here, time for cider, football playoffs and beef herd management. Many of you are familiar with vaccinating your beef herd in the fall but what else do you need to do to insure your herd is up to date? Whether you have 2 or 2000 animals, it is important to prepare them properly for winter.

The following is a checklist in which you may want to consider: Deworming, Pregnancy checking, Fall Vaccinating, Delousing, Nutrition, Body condition scoring and Johnes testing.

**Deworming:** Pasture animals have increased exposure to internal parasites (worms and flukes). After the long, hot and often times wet summer we expect the parasite exposure to be increased. Over winter parasites can cause anemia, weight loss, poor hair coat, liver disease, decreased vaccine response, etc. Checking fecal samples (bring in a sample of manure) is a way to measure and determine what parasites you should deworm for. We can run those in the clinic and have results the same day. If you have always dewormed with the same product, be advised there is increased resistance to anti-parasitics. This means that you may put on the medicine but the worms will not die. Some producers will rotate medications. A fecal exam will tell you if your treatment was successful. Usually we will check a sample 2-3 weeks post application of product. Deworm after the second killing frost or later. One other note, generic ivermectins do not have the same efficacy as the name brands. This can affect your results.

**Pregnancy checking:** Although corn is currently cheap, the cost of having an open brood cow or a non fertile bull is not \$0. She is taking up space if moved inside and eating his/her share of the feed. Aside from knowing if she is pregnant or not, knowing the time she is due is important for time of calving purposes. Having clean available space in your calving area during peak season is important. Abortions can occur at any time. If you know who was pregnant, then you know who should calve. If you have cows that do not calve, you can determine an abortion rate. Vaccines can prevent some types of abortions.

**Fall Vaccinating:** We recommend a killed vaccine against the viruses and bacteria that can cause respiratory disease, abortion and diarrhea. **Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDv), Parainfluenza III (PI III), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial virus** and the various **Leptospira** are the core vaccines that we recommend. Other additional options for respiratory protection for bacterial pneumonia such as **Mannheimia** or **Pastuerella** may be warranted depending on your operation. The various **Clostridial** diseases such as Black Leg that cause sudden death can be vaccinated for as well.

**Delousing:** Housing animals together in a closed area is like sending kids to play baseball and sharing helmets. Applying a louse treatment to kill lice is essential. If your cattle have a "licked" look to them, they likely have lice. Lice, like in humans, itch. Cattle can have a scrubby

appearance and poor haircoat, they also decrease their daily gain. For those of you trying to finish or grow cattle, lice although topical can dramatically decrease your growth rates.

**Nutrition and Body condition scoring:** No matter what your diet is for your herd, body condition is a simple way to determine if your diet plan is effective. You will need to physically touch the animals as hair coats can hide the truth. See the Body Condition Score Chart on back.

**Johnes Testing:** Johnes is a disease that causes diarrhea, weight loss and production loss. These animals shed the bacteria in their colostrum and feces. A Johnes positive animal should not calve in your maternity pen and her colostrum not used for her calf. A blood sample can be drawn at time of pregnancy check to test for this disease.

As always, if you have any questions or need help making your Fall herd plan, give your veterinarian a call. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are very thankful to have serviced you for yet another season!

#### **VFD. HELP US HELP YOU!**

Does your veterinarian know what you feed that contains antibiotic? Do you know what you feed that contains antibiotic?

At TVS we are establishing our protocols as we near the January 1st deadline for implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive. One item that will be needed from our clients is the contact information of your feed mill/distributor. (name, address, phone, fax, email). We will also need an email address for you to send your copy of the VFD to. Those that do not have an email address will either have to pick up the VFD or wait for it to arrive in the mail. If we have this information in place prior to 1/1/17 it will speed up the requests for a VFD.

### **Mobile Parlor Training with Dr. Roger Thompson brought to you by Merck Animal Health**

Send your employees that "fix" things in the parlor. This is a hands on training dealing with parlor mechanical issues.

Save the date: 12/7/16 1:30 or 5:00 pm

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