



From the desk of Dr. Chuck Roberts

January 1st, 2018

Seasons greetings. Hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the afterglow of a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Years celebration. As always, my article is a month late to prepare for winter, but hopefully keeps you thinking and preparing for cold weather issues. It looks like we will be enduring another cold winter. With that comes extra responsibility in the welfare and care given to the animals we provide for. Cold weather requires extra energy from the animal to maintain body heat, therefore energy is not available for growth and production. Extra energy is provided both by additional intake of feed, but also by decreasing loss of energy through heat. Depending on the feed source and quality, the animal cannot always eat enough more to compensate for the energy loss. Make sure everything is being considered, do not forget the farm dogs and cats, family chickens or goat. All need ample food and available water, not ice or snow. Make sure they have a clean, dry place protected from wind and snow with clean and appropriate bedding at all times. This can be a particularly difficult thing to provide for small herds of cattle or other livestock. Make sure there is adequate space for all the animals with protection from the wind and a clean space to rest, this does not have to be barns, but there must be wind protection and clean, dry ground to bed on. Sometimes barns and enclosures can be a bigger problem when not adequately bedded and cleaned. Availability to water is essential.

Larger herds and confinement style operations can present different problems. Make sure walk ways, especially where animals make turns, are free from ice and have sand or other grit provided for traction to prevent slip and falls that are notably deadlier this time

of the year. Manure removal from housing areas becomes more difficult, but stay diligent. Frozen manure buildup presents many problems both with management and animals. Foot rot, hair heel warts and injuries are the biggest problems. Milk quality and production will also be affected. It is our responsibility to provide safe housing and adequate feed and water to all animals we care for. Cold weather makes everything more difficult, but I am proud to work with some of the best animal caregivers around. So, keep up the good work and don't hesitate to ask when help is needed. We are all so blessed to live in an incredibly supportive community.

Leadership and Teamwork Workshop

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

1:30 PM or 5 PM

The focus of this meeting is to help team leaders create effective teams and increase employee engagement.

Key points

- Personality Styles
- Learning Styles
- Basis of a good team



To RSVP, or for more information, please call (810)376-2425

If there is interest this can be a series of sessions. We can schedule these according to the participants' schedule.



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*60 E. Miller Rd.
Sandusky, MI 48471*