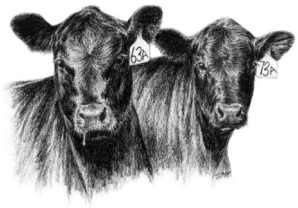

Regional Beef Notes
Winter 2013

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Montgomery County, 203 W Main St, Troy, NC 27371, 910.576.6011 montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu
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Spring Stocker Cattle Sale Now a Preconditioned Stocker Sale
Sale Date is March 21, 2013

At the 2013 Feeder Cattle Sale Planning Meeting it was voted and approved by producers to change our annual Spring Stocker sale to a weaned/ preconditioned sale. In the past the majority of our cattle at this sale were weaned and bunk-broke but we did not take advantage of marketing those cattle as "preconditioned". Our hope is that this change will attract new buyers therefore raising the prices our producers will get for marketing these calves in this way. We will also make truckloads from our sorted pens in every way that we can in order to optimize marketing value as well. All that is required is that the cattle be weaned 45 days and receive 2 doses of blackleg and 2 doses of modified-live respiratory vaccine. We would also like to tag these calves on the farm with pre -made eartags that will identify these calves for this marketing opportunity. This can be done during one of the workings where vaccination takes place so please contact us if you are interested. If you want to participate in this opportunity and need assistance please let us know by contacting Steve Lemons at (704)983-3987 or your local extension agent, Bruce Shankle at (704) 694-8686, or Marcus Harward at (704) 322-0840.

So, I Tested My Hay - Now What?
Jamie Warner, Extension Agent, Montgomery County Center

You had your hay tested to make sure it will meet the nutritional needs of your animals . . .now what? What do all those numbers mean? Hopefully this will help!
Dry Matter (DM) is the amount of dry matter in the forage. It should be at least 80% but 85% and above is preferable to prevent heating during storage, forage deterioration and combustion.
Crude Protein (CP) is the amount of Nitrogen. It varies depending on species, stage of maturity and fertilization but is generally between 15-23% for legumes and 8-18% for grasses.
Unavailable Protein is the portion of protein that is bound and therefore un-useable by the animal. Small percentages of unavailable protein are normal.
Adjusted Crude Protein is the value used to evaluate the forage and balance rations. It will usually be the same as the Crude Protein value, unless significant heat damage has occurred.
Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF) uses 2 of the fiber components of the cell wall - lignin and cellulose, to determine how well the animal will be able to digest the forage. The higher the ADF, the lower the digestibility will be.
Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) is the total cell wall – lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose and is used

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Educational Opportunity

February 26, 2013

Jay's Seafood Restaurant, 40439 Stony Gap Rd, Albemarle 28001

Cost: $5/person at door - Preregistration is required - Call 704-983-3987

Eat at 6 p.m.; Program at 7 p.m.

Speaker for the program is:

Irene Brown-Crowder, Ph.D., Territory Manager for Novartis Animal Health

Topic: **Vaccination Programs for Spring Herd Health**

Foot Rot in Cattle - A Messy Problem

Jessica Anderson, Extension Agent, Anson County Center

Typically, foot rot is a term that is loosely applied to any type of lameness in a bovine foot. True foot rot is described as an acute inflammation of the skin and adjacent soft tissue of the interdigital cleft or space. It is typically seen with swelling, degrees of lameness, and probably best recognized by a foul smelling lesion. Foot rot is associated as a frequent problem in beef and dairy cattle, especially around poorly drained, muddy areas. As we have some especially muddy, swampy areas as of late (think around gates, feed troughs, hay rings, water supplies) foot rot is something that we all may experience at some point.

Causes

Healthy skin on a cow's foot is resistant to bacterial organisms that cause foot rot. When skin is diseased or injured the foot becomes susceptible to infection. High rainfall combined with mud and feces can soften the skin on the foot, making it susceptible to injury. If a cow gets an injury from anything slightly sharp, it is open to infection. Examples of injury surfaces include sharp pieces of stone, metal, wood, stubble, thorns, or even frozen manure. Another factor that may encourage damage to the skin is the constant irritation of standing and moving in mud and manure.

Foot Rot can be a cause of economic loss in herds….

Clinical Signs

Photo courtesy of Virginia Coopera-

The most obvious sign of foot rot is lameness, which will increase with the severity of the disease. Once the organisms have entered into the foot, they cause inflammation and necrosis of the tissue, resulting in swelling of the foot and pain. The swelling is typically substantial enough to cause a separation of the digits, an obvious sign of foot rot.

Other signs of foot rot in cattle include holding or raising a foot, reluctance to move, impaired walking, loss of appetite, weight loss, low grade fever, and reduction in milk yield for lactating cows. Hind feet are infected more often and if left untreated lameness becomes increasingly more obvious with the infection spreading to the joints and other structures in the foot.

Treatment

The affected foot should be cleaned and inspected to rule out any other causes for swelling and lameness, such as an object lodged in the digits, arthritis, or wound caused by trauma. The treatment of choice is parenteral antibiotics given for three to five days. In commercial cows, when a large numbers of cattle with the disease are present, feed additives such as chlorotetracycline and oxytetracycline can be used. Although this method is convenient, there are no feed-grade antimicrobials labeled for control or treatment of foot rot. According to the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification, extralabel use of feed additives is prohibited in the United States. Seek advice from a veterinarian for specific recommendations.

Prevention

Of course, prevention is the easiest method to control foot rot. Measures should include removing sources of injury and keeping feet as dry and clean as possible. Lots should be well drained and manure should be removed if it tends to pile up in the winter months in one spot. Pouring a concrete pad around feed bunks and water troughs will help keep feet elevated and dry. Animals also can be walked through a foot bath containing copper sulfate or zinc sulfate. Footbaths are more commonly used in dairies, and may be impractical for some beef herds. But, if you are providing vaccinations, and working through a chute, it is definitely attainable for beef.

Foot rot can be a cause of economic loss in both beef and dairy herds. Early detection, treatment, control and prevention will help keep losses at a minimum.

Bio-Security on Beef Farms

Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña , Extension Agent, Agriculture, Anson County Center

Getting new cattle is always an exciting time for any farm! Unfortunately, many cattle farmers have put new animals in with the rest of their herd right away or put the new animals in a pasture next to the herd. They have found that this can be a costly mistake to their overall operation. Cattle herds are at risk for disease when new cattle are introduced directly to the herd. It's a good idea to adjust management practices such as vaccination schedules and quarantine procedures in order to minimize risk.

The goal of biosecurity is to prevent disease from spreading. Cattle can spread disease in their manure, urine, saliva, and mucous. It can be spread between animals, from animals to feed, and from animals to equipment that may directly or indirectly contact animals. Biosecurity management practices prevent the spread of disease by minimizing the movement of biologic organisms such as viruses, bacteria, rodents, flies, etc. Maintaining biosecurity may seem like a pain, but it is the cheapest, most effective means of disease control that we have available.

Infectious diseases can be spread by:

- the introduction of diseased cattle
- the introduction of healthy cattle who have recovered from disease but are now carrying it
- vehicles, equipment, clothing, and shoes of visitors or farm workers
- dead carcasses that have been disposed of improperly
- feed, dust, objects, or water that is contaminated

other animals such as birds, cats, dogs, horses, insects, rodents, and wildlife

Biosecurity has three major components. They are isolation, traffic control, and sanitation. Isolation prevents contact between animals. You should keep animals separate from the herd for at least 30 days. This will give any sign of disease a chance to show up before you move them with your other animals. Isolate sick cattle and return them to their pasture as soon as they are recovered. Prevent fence line contact between your isolated cattle and the rest of your herd. If they can touch noses, they can spread disease through mucus.

Traffic control includes traffic onto your operation and traffic patterns within your operation. It is important to understand traffic includes more than vehicles. You should also think about the movement of animals. Buying cattle from herds that have a quality vaccination program is also a good idea. It is also good to clean any vehicles before hauling cattle onto the farm. Traffic control can be thought of when you design the farm. This could mean placing cattle loading facilities on the edge of the operation. Also employees should work with younger animals before working with older animals. Young animals are more susceptible to diseases carried by older animals.

Sanitation involves disinfecting materials, people, and equipment entering the farm. All equipment that handles feed or is put into the mouth of cattle should be cleaned and disinfected before using. Loaders used for manure or moving dead cattle need to be cleaned thoroughly before using for feed, although it would be best to use different equipment altogether. If using tools when working cattle, you'll want to thoroughly clean and disinfect them between animals. It's best to store equipment in clean, dry areas. Keeping pathogens out of a herd improves production efficiency, lowers costs, and reduces risks to employees and family members. If you need help coming up with a biosecurity plan for your farm, please call your local Livestock Agent for help. This is a very simple management tool that can save you lots of money down the road.

2013 Feeder Cattle Sales Schedule

March 21
Spring Preconditioned Stocker Sale
July 11
Feeder Cattle Sale
July 18
Added Value BQA Feeder Cattle Sale
August 15
Feeder Cattle Sale
September 5
Added Value BQA Feeder Cattle Sale
September 12
Feeder Cattle Sale

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to determine how much dry matter the animal can eat. As NDF increases, the dry matter intake usually decreases. This could affect the ability of the equine to eat enough feed to meet the daily nutritional requirements.

Digestive Energy (DE) is just a hint of what the actual amount of energy the animal has available for use might be. It is the gross energy in the forage minus the energy that is lost in feces.

Total Digestive Nutrients (TDN) is the sum of the digestible portions of protein, fat, fiber and other nutrients and gives us an approximate energy value of a forage. The higher the TDN, the better quality forage.

Ash is the total mineral content of the forage. This includes the minerals inside the plant (internal) and those that are in the dirt picked up during the harvesting process (external). The average internal ash for legumes is around 8% and 6% for grasses, anything more would be from the external sources (dirt/soil accumulated during harvesting, raking and baling). The average ash content for all types of hay is between 9-10%.

Minerals are essential to the health and wellbeing of all animals. Most feed reports analyze forages for Calcium, Phosphorus, Sulfur, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium, Copper, Iron, Manganese and Zinc.

The daily recommended values of these minerals will change depending on age, weight and activity level so you should check with your veterinarian or local extension agent after receiving your results to see if your forage will meet these needs.

For more information about how to test your hay and interpret the report, contact your local livestock agent.

Upcoming Events

NC Cattlemen's Association Meeting , Hickory .....February 14-16, 2013
Pesticide "V" Credits- 2 hrs. Anson Co..... March 12, 2013
Stocker Sale ..... March 21, 2013
Anson County Cattlemen's Meeting ..... April 9, 2013

Persons with disability or persons with limited English proficiency can request accommodations by contacting Jessica Anderson, County Extension Agent, Agriculture 704.694.2415, Fax 704.694.2248, or e-mail jessica_a_anderson@ncsu.edu at least five days prior to any event listed in this newsletter.

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