



Management Tools for Cattle Producers

REMEMBER:

- Clean water is vital to feed consumption
- Allow adequate bunk space.
- Read and Feed at the same time everyday
- Allow 2-3 days in between ration changes

It is that time of year when the days are too short and the “to do” list is too long. We can’t make our days longer but we can make better use of them. Technology has provided cattle producers with an impressive inventory of “tools” to help them make better use of their time and resources.

Some of these “tools” include:

Implants:

Implants have been proven to increase feed efficiency and gain. There is a wide range of implants available to match your particular management needs.



Coccidiostats:

Coccidiostats are products that help prevent coccidiosis. These products are added to the feed or mineral and include:

Amprolium 1.25% crumbles rate = 1lbs/1,250 lbs of body weight for 5 Days.

Deccox rate = 1 lbs/10,000lbs of body weight for 28 days

CTC:

Chlortetracycline is used as a preventative against respiratory disease. CTC comes in different levels such as 50 gram meal; 4, 10, and 20 gram crumbles. The recommended rate is a gram per 100 lbs of body weight fed for 5 days upon arrival and 3 days per month after that. Another option is to pulse it. This involves feeding it for 5 days on then five days off then five days on for anywhere from 2-5 cycles depending on need.



Antiparasitic Products:

Cattle coming off pasture are likely carrying a heavy worm load which can have a detrimental effect on the immune system. Dewormers are now easier than ever to use. Dewormers now come in a number of different forms such as: drench, paste, pellets/crumbles, cubes, blocks, and pour-ons.

Optaflex:

Optaflex is a feed ingredient fed to cattle during the final 28-42 days of the finishing period to increase live weight gain, improve feed efficiency and increase red meat yield.



Projections, Rations, Close Outs and Consulting:

Sioux Nation Ag Center has the resources to provide customers with all forms of nutrition and cattle feeding consulting. Having accurate projections and rations enable producers to make educated decisions regarding the purchase, feeding and marketing of their cattle. Whether you are a seasoned cattle feeder or someone new to the game we can provide you with the support and information needed to help you be profitable.



Tetanus Kills, Take Precautions!



Tetanus is a highly fatal disease common in horses, sheep and pigs. It is less common in cattle.

Tetanus is caused by toxins produced by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*.

Clostridium tetani is a bacterium found in the soil and in the guts of animals and humans.

Problems arise when the organism enters a wound or damaged tissue. Once the bacteria enters a wound, the wound heals over and provides the oxygen deprived environment needed for the bacterium to produce toxins. The bacteria multiply and produce an infection. The toxins produced from the infection spread along the nerves to the

brain.

The time between infection and disease varies, 10-14 days on average.

Signs include: stiffness, reluctance to move, difficulty swallowing, twitching, muscle tremors, increased pulse rate, labored breathing, lockjaw, protruding 3rd eyelid, unsteady gait, stiff held out tail, anxious and easily excitable, sensitive to light and heat, bloat, head, neck and legs extended due to spasms causing a "sawhorse" stance and lastly collapse, spasms and death.

Cattle treated early respond better than other species. High doses of penicillin can be effective if caught early. Sedatives

and relaxants can aid in the treatment along with providing a dark, quiet and heavily bedded environment. Antitoxins can be useful as a short acting preventative. If affected animals are not treated early and the disease has progressed it is not advised to attempt treatment.

When it comes to tetanus the best plan is a preemptive plan. There are a number of vaccine options available for all species. If you plan to band your calves it is best to utilize a three dose regime to maximize protection.

For more information on tetanus toxoids and antitoxins contact your Field Marketer.

Weaning and Receiving By Ki Fanning, Ruminant Nutritionist

To prepare for new arrivals, make sure the manure is cleaned out of the pens, the waterers are clean, fences are fixed and cables are tight, sharp and toxic objects are removed from the pen, and bunks are clean and straightened. Newly weaned or received calves should have 24 inches of bunk space and 2 to 4 inches of waterer space. If the calves have been creep fed, pull the creep feeder into the pen for a few days and also feed some of the creep feed over long stem hay in the bunk. The goal is to wean the calves off the cow and have feed they are used to eating available. Put extra waterers and feed or lick tubs by fences to get calves walking the fence interested in drinking water and eating some feed.

After three to five days, begin introducing the starter ration. Calculate how much the calves should consume daily and feed at about half

that level, quickly working them up to the target intake. An intake guide can be found in the front of each *Great Plains Livestock Inc.* ration book. The starter should contain palatable ingredients. Silages are an acquired taste and should be introduced slowly. Electrolytes, a probiotic, organic trace minerals, high levels of antioxidants, and AS700 or CTC are beneficial for stressed cattle. I prefer CTC at 1 gram per 100 lbs of body weight for five days because of its effectiveness and low cost. Since the CTC is being introduced on day 3 or 4 and fed for 5 days, the calves should be eating the ration well and will get the correct amount of the drug into their system. After 5 days of CTC, the CTC is to be removed from the diet for 1 to 5 days and then put back into the diet for an additional 5 days. This process can be repeated as many cycles as needed, at least two for low risk calves and five cycles for

high risk calves.

Once the calves are eating the ration and settled down, give them the second round of shots including an implant. The implant should be an intermediate implant for 500 to 900 lbs or a terminal implant for cattle over 900 lbs.

Changing one thing at a time is the best plan. Realistically, that is not always possible. However, the closer you follow a weaning or receiving program that makes slow and gradual changes, the less problems you will have and the heavier the calves you will produce.

If your goal is to sell the calves, keep in mind that feedlots do pay a premium for weaned calves. Health problems cost feedlots a lot of time and money. Healthy calves make money. We can help get them off to a good start so give us a call.

1-800-658-3629

