University of California Cooperative Extension • Tulare County

Beef Roundup

Volume 2, Issue 2 November 2005

Tulare County Cattleman's Association and UC Cooperative Extension Presents a

Calf Health Program

Monday, November 21, 2005

10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Tulare County Ag Building Auditorium

Why: Have you been trying to make the decision between a killed or modified live respiratory vaccine? Do you know what the risks are? How many boosters do you need to use if you choose the killed vaccine? What is your risk if you use the modified live and your cows are not vaccinated? Does it really make a difference to your buyer?

Purpose: We are going to answer these questions and more. This meeting will provide the information you need as a calf producer to develop an effective calf vaccination program that meets the buyer's and your needs.

Who: ***John Maas DVM - Cooperative Extension Veterinarian***
Dr. Maas specializes in beef cattle health and herd health management. His herd health articles are regularly published in the California Cattleman's magazine.

Greg Quakenbush DVM Manager - US Beef Veterinary Operations Pfizer
Dr. Quakenbush is now located in Kansas where he sees the results of both effective and failed calf vaccination programs. He is familiar with California beef production and many producers in this area have worked with him in the past.

Representative of Harris Ranch Feeding
Perhaps the best way to develop your calf vaccination program is ask those that are buying your calves what they want. We will have a representative to discuss what Harris Ranch wants in a vaccination program.

Lunch 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Please call or fax by November 16, 2005
Phone: (559) 685-3303
Fax: (559) 685-3309
Registration form attached

4437B S Laspina St, Tulare, CA 93274 • Phone (559) 685-3303 • Fax (559) 685-3319 • Web Site cetulare.ucdavis.edu

UCD VET VIEWS

NOTE: *Here is a review from Dr. Maas prior to the November meeting. Bring your questions to the meeting, Jim*

FALL CATTLE HEALTH REMINDERS

Fall is here, the days are shorter and the list of things to get done is longer. Sometimes, there are multiple lists, or even a list of lists. Suffice it to say there is plenty to do and not much time. This time of the year as we try to get all the cattle worked through the chute, it might be good to review a few cattle health considerations that are always important.

Pregnancy Check. For the cow herd this an important check on current progress and can be the first sign of any problems that might have occurred. This is a check on the bulls as well as the cows. The price of cows has been pretty good recently so it may be a good time to sell open cows or late-calving cows. For thin, open cows you may want to add a little weight on cheap feed before selling them. If the pregnancy rate is **less than 90%**, consider checking the bulls for Trichomonosis. When Trich gets into a herd the first year, the pregnancy rates often falls to less than 90% and the **next year may plummet to 70% or less**. When your veterinarian checks the cows for pregnancy, get a general assessment of health. If the cow is in marginal condition, this may be the time to start planning for her eventual exit from your herd.

Bull Examinations. For fall-calving herds, examine the bulls BEFORE they go out with the herds. This includes a breeding soundness exam and a Trich test. This is the time to prevent these types of losses. Dominant bulls that are sterile will really decrease pregnancy rates and move your calving season back. Vaccinate and deworm these bulls before they go out with the cows. The bulls can receive 2 doses of a "vibriosis" bacterin at 2-3 times the dose given to the cows. This is an effective way to prevent Vibriosis in the herd. If you have bought new bulls, be sure they were vaccinated against Anaplasmosis or do it at this time. Adult bulls should receive 2 doses of the killed anaplasmosis vaccine available from the California Woolgrowers. Vaccinate the bulls as you would for the cow herd (Clostridial vaccines, virus vaccines, etc.).

Vaccinations. In the cow herd, the minimum should include (1) a Clostridial vaccine (usually an 8 way) that includes Redwater protection (*Clostridium hemolyticum*) as the most important component (2) vibriosis vaccine for cows that are going to be turned out with the bulls, (3) Leptospirosis vaccine for cows 3 to 8 months pregnant, and (4) a virus vaccine booster (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV). For open cows the modified live vaccines are safe and for pregnant cows the killed virus vaccines are safe. Additionally, there are some new modified live virus vaccines that are safe for pregnant cows **IF** the cow herd has been vaccinated appropriately in the past. We need to remember that the modified live IBR vaccines can cause abortions if the pregnant cows have not been well vaccinated in the past. For pregnant cows that are going to calve within 30 to 90 days it is wise to use a Rota virus, Corona virus, K99 combination vaccine to help prevent scours in calves. In herds that have had Trichomonosis in the past, this may be a good time to vaccinate the cow herd with the Trich vaccine. But before you go to all the work and expense of working the cows through the chute, talk over your vaccination program with your veterinarian. Also, take good care of the vaccines when handling them. Keep live vaccines out of the sun. Keep all vaccines on ice and prevent them from freezing on cold mornings.

Parasite Control. This is an excellent time of the year to deworm cattle. They are often going on to clean pastures or range. So kill the parasites, stop the parasites from laying eggs, and prevent the contamination of the fields they will be on for the next few months, as well as getting the parasites out of the cattle. Fluke control is particularly effective at this time of the year, as most of the flukes will be mature and this is the life stage when the flukes are most susceptible to drugs. The drugs that can kill flukes include Valbazen® and Ivomec Plus®. Grub control is an important consideration in the fall. Also be sure to check with your veterinarian that the grub control drug you are going to use is safe and effective.

Miscellaneous Items. Fall is the time of year to remove any fly control ear tags from the cattle. This will help prevent the flies from developing resistance to the insecticides used in these ear tags. There have not been many new fly control ear tags developed over the last several years, so preventing resistance in the flies is important. If you are in an area of California that is copper deficient, this is time of year you want to supplement with injections or boluses. The copper injections (copper glycinate) last about 6 months and the copper boluses last about 12 months. Also, for selenium deficient areas, this may be the time of year to supplement the cattle. The California Cattlemen's

Association sells a selenium bolus that lasts for one year. Alternatively, selenium injections can be given to provide partial supplementation for 30 to 40 days. This is a good time of the year to review your overall supplementation program as well as your mineral program. Be sure to spend a little time with your veterinarian, livestock advisor, nutrition consultant, and any others to discuss the items that need to get done at this busy time of the year.

John Maas, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVN & ACVIM
Extension Veterinarian
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California, Davis

BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH UPDATES

Crossbreeding Reduced Incidence of Respiratory Disease

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is the most costly beef cattle disease in the U.S. Scientists at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center analyzed 20 years of pre-weaning progeny records from nine purebred breeds, three composite breeds, and a variety of F_1 and three-way crosses to characterize the genetic and environmental factors influencing BRD. Respiratory disease in the MARC herd followed a standard pattern of initial introduction, reaching epidemic stages at 70 to 170 days of age, followed by a rapid decline to weaning time.

Estimates of heritability of BRD were relatively low, with overall estimates of 0.07 and 0.19 depending on the dataset used. As the annual incidence of BRD increased, there was an associated increase in heritability. Consequently, the estimated heritability based on an underlying continuous scale was high (0.48), suggesting that response to selection for BRD resistance could be large if the phenotype of resistant animals could be identified.

Overall incidence of BRD was 10.5%, ranging from a high of 18.8% in the Braunvieh breed to a low of 7.0% in Limousin. The genetic correlation between direct (calf) and maternal (dam) genetic effects was large and negative, suggesting that dams genetically superior for resisting BRD raise calves that are more susceptible. The authors speculated that genetically superior dams provide passive immunity to their calves, which delays development of the calves' immune systems, making them more susceptible to BRD during pre-weaning. Heterosis of crossbred calves resulted in a lower incidence of BRD than in purebred calves. Calves that were Continental x British or tropically adapted x British breeds had a lower incidence than did calves of British x British breeds (Snowder et al. 2005. J. Anim. Sci. 83: 1247).

Effect of Frequency of Protein Supplementation on Cows

Grazing Low-Quality Forage

In a 3-year study, Oregon State University workers allotted 120 pregnant Angus x Hereford cows to three treatments to evaluate the influence of the frequency of protein supplementation on cows grazing low-quality forage (<6% CP) at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range in southeast Oregon. Treatments were: 1) unsupplemented control (CON); 2) supplementation every day (2 lb DM/cow) and 3) supplementation once every 6 days (12 lb DM/cow). Cows were grazed for an 84-day period from August through November in each of the 3 years. The supplement used was cottonseed meal (43% CP).
Body wt. and body condition scores were greater for supplemented cows compared with CON, but there were no differences due to supplementation frequency. Grazing time was greater for CON than for supplemented cows, with no difference due to supplementation frequency. Distance traveled, cow distribution, DM intake and DM digestibility were not affected by either protein supplementation or supplementation frequency.

This study demonstrated that infrequent supplementation of crude protein to cows grazing low-quality forage can result in animal performance and grazing behavior similar to that of cows receiving supplement daily. The authors concluded that infrequent protein supplementation is a management alternative that can lower the labor and feed costs associated with supplementation of cows grazing native range (Schauer et al. 2005. J. Anim. Sci. 83:1115).

***Credit to*:**
Harlan Ritchie, Steven Rust and Daniel Buskirk
Beef Cattle Specialists
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

FDA PROPOSED FEED RULE

The FDA has published a proposed rule that would ban the use of certain cattle materials in all animal feed, including pet food. Comments on the proposed rule must be submitted to FDA no later than December 20,

2005 while comments on the information collection provisions of the proposed rule must be submitted to FDA no later than November 7, 2005.

The proposed rule would ban the following cattle materials:

- Brains and spinal cords of cattle 30 months of age or older;
- Brains and spinal cords of all cattle not inspected and passed for human consumption;
- The entire carcass of cattle not inspected and passed for human consumption if the brain and spinal cord have not been removed (including cattle that die on the farm and non-ambulatory disabled cattle);
- Mechanically separated beef that is derived from any of the materials listed above; and
- Tallow that is derived from any of the materials listed above and that contains more than 0.15 percent insoluble impurities.

The proposed restrictions would be in addition to, not in lieu of, the existing regulation that bans mammalian protein, with certain exceptions, in ruminant feed.
FDA has concluded that a full SRM (*Specified Risk Materials*) ban is not warranted at this time, because brain and spinal cord together account for about 90 percent of BSE infectivity in an infected animal. FDA also cites the Harvard-Tuskegee Study, which found that removing dead stock from the feed chain would reduce potential exposure of cattle to BSE by eighty-eight percent. Therefore, the agency has concluded that focusing on these high-risk materials would achieve the greatest risk reduction while minimizing the economic, environmental, and public health concerns associated with a full SRM ban. FDA also states that the infrastructure does not currently exist to handle the volume of materials that would require non-feed disposal if all SRMs were prohibited in all feed. FDA estimates that total costs to industry to comply with the proposed rule range from $14 million to $24 million per year.

Calf Health Program Registration Form

Please detach and mail this form with your check to: Calf Health Program, 4437-B South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274. Cost is $10 if pre-registered on or before November 16th. Make check payable to UC Regents. Paying at the door is $15.00. For Tulare County Cattlemen members only, fee is prepaid if you pre-register.

Name_____ Phone _____

Others Attending _____ _____

_____ _____

Will attend lunch ☐ yes ☐ no

Tulare County Cattlemen member ☐ yes ☐ no

Or you can call or fax by November 16, 2005
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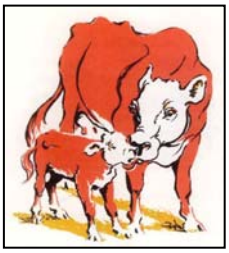

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Jim Sullins
County Director