



WATCH FOR SUMMER PNEUMONIA

Gerald Stokka and Mike Apley
From BEEF Magazine (June 1, 2001)

Just because calving season is finished and the cows have been put to grass, it's no time for producers to let their watchful guard down. Without frequent observation of the herd, a number of conditions can result in serious economic loss.

Summer pneumonia is a term used to describe a respiratory condition that develops in suckling calves during summer months. The condition often goes unnoticed until several calves are found dead or in the disease's late stages.

It seems unusual to experience pneumonia under non-stressful conditions in this age of calf. The common risk factors usually discussed with pneumonia — commingling, transportation, exposure to infectious agents, stressful weather, confinement and dietary changes — don't apply here.

But, veterinarians generally believe that warm, summer, daytime temperatures coupled with cool, summer nights and declining maternal immunity to respiratory pathogens can result in a combination of stress and low immunity. When exposure to potential pathogens occurs, the result can be clinical disease.

Some of the organisms responsible for disease can be carried by healthy animals and yet not cause disease. Such organisms include *Mannheimia (Pasteurella) hemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Hemophilus somnus* and the viruses Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV).

SUMMER PNEUMONIA SYMPTOMS

In cases in which animals are found alive, summer pneumonia symptoms include calves laying off by themselves, looking gaunt and ears down. They also look depressed with their dams showing no evidence of being nursed. Rectal temperatures range from 104° to 106° F.

With early diagnosis, response to antibiotic therapy is normally very good. When viruses are part of the problem, however, response to therapy will be less successful.

When the first case is discovered, producers must diligently check for new cases. It's important to work with your veterinarian to determine the best therapy for the cases in your herd.

Severe outbreaks may require therapy of calves that have not yet displayed clinical signs of disease. This is not appropriate in every case, however.

Vaccination is another strategy, particularly if a virus is assumed to be part of the cause. Vaccination may slow the virus' spread and help stop the outbreak.

In instances in which summer pneumonia becomes an annual problem, then pasteurella and viral vaccines should be considered at spring turnout. Because the use of modified-live vaccines in suckling calves is not approved, remember to read all vaccine labels and plan your vaccination schedule with your veterinarian.

PERFORMANCE, QUALITY LOSSES

The prevalence of summer pneumonia isn't known. A 1993 National Animal Health Monitoring Service study attributed 8% of all deaths in suckling calves to respiratory disease. The data, however, doesn't indicate how many calves were affected and recovered.

Feedlot data indicate that respiratory disease costs range from \$58-90 for every sick animal treated. Iowa State University steer futurity tests further broke down that lost opportunity cost to a per-head basis of \$28.90 due to chronics and

deads, \$18.10 because of treatments, \$2.38 in quality grade loss and \$6.10 in longer feeding times.

These data sets, of course, don't indicate the impact of respiratory disease during the suckling phase. It's reasonable to assume the impact on performance and carcass quality of affected animals is long term.

In addition, the use of intramuscular antibiotics during the suckling calf phase can potentially create a blemish or reduce tenderness in that muscle.

BQA "TWILIGHT TRAININGS" SET FOR THIS SUMMER

Clint Peck, Director of BQA Programming

The Montana State University Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program and Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) have teamed up to present a series of "Twilight Trainings" this summer. The events will feature BQA educational sessions that will help Montana beef producers apply quality assurance practices and become BQA certified.

"We'll demonstrate and discuss some of the cattle management practices that are becoming more important to the cattle industry as we continue to work on improving the quality and consistency of our beef products," says Clint Peck, Montana BQA director. Log on to the BQA website at www.mtbqa.org for details.

Peck says beef producers nationwide are "ramping-up" BQA programming. BQA focuses on pre-harvest supply chain management concepts that ensure domestic and international beef consumers enjoy ready access to a beef supply that consistently satisfies customer expectations – and is safe and wholesome.

BQA programming includes:

- Hands-on demonstration based on accepted scientific management practices that inspire a commitment to quality production at every level.
- Beef production benchmarks through national BQA audits.
- Establishing "best management practices" as standard operating procedures.

- Documenting and verifying management/husbandry practices throughout the supply chain.
- Managing cattle to reduce the incidence of common cattle diseases.
- Preventing the introduction and spread of foreign or emerging animal diseases.

The "Twilight Trainings" will begin at 4:00pm in each location and wrap up following a free dinner. Each program will feature hands-on BQA practices and allow for group discussion of various beef production issues. Dinnertime presentations will be conducted by the MSGA.

"These Twilight Trainings are intended to be fun, community-oriented events that the whole family can enjoy," says Steve Roth, MSGA president. "Anyone from the local communities – MSGA members or not – is encouraged to attend and learn about this very important part of our day-to-day business." Montana BQA programming is sponsored in part by Beef Checkoff dollars.

Schedule:

- July 29 (Tues) – Malta, Phillips County Stockgrowers – Phillips Co. Fairgrounds
- Aug. 8 (Fri) – Lewistown, - Gateway Simmental – At the ranch
- Aug. 15 (Fri) – White Sulpher Spring, Fryer Ranch – At the ranch

- Aug. 27 (Wed) – Sidney, Rolling Rock Angus/Rambur Charolais – Rambur Feedlot
- Sept. 5 (Fri) – Havre, IX Ranch, Northern Ag Research Center
- Sept. 15 (Mon) – Hall, Skinner Ranch – At the ranch

SUPPLEMENTAL MINERALS ARE IMPORTANT TO ENHANCE FUTURE COW AND CALF PERFORMANCE

Kindra Gordon

From American Cowman, Jul 21, 2008

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Herd health and vaccination programs tend to get most of a producer's management focus. But mineral nutrition has an important role in herd health as well. As we approach fall, this is the optimum time to make certain calves are getting extra nutrition at the ranch so they go on to perform well at the feedlot. And, heifers and cows need special attention through the fall and winter to ensure a healthy calf crop and better breed back next spring. Here are some guidelines:

Minerals For Calves Proper calfhoo d vaccinations and mineral nutrition at the ranch go hand in hand. Here's why: Montana Extension beef specialist John Paterson often cites a Colorado study that showed among calves that were preconditioned about one-third were still getting sick at the feedlot. Paterson attributes that to poor mineral supplementation.

Specifically he says, "The reason we often see sickness in feedlot is probably due to lack of mineral management starting in the cowherd. Trace minerals can have a significant carry-over effect on feedlot performance and health of calves."

Thus, he says mineral supplementation is an important focus at the cow/calf level to enhance fertility, fetal development and the calf's future disease resistance. Paterson adds, "A nutrition program is important from conception through the feedyard so the animal's genetics can be fully expressed."

For trace minerals, he says copper, zinc and phosphorus are the big three. During drought, vitamins A, D, and E may also need to be supplemented.

Because some of these minerals can have secondary interactions that limit nutrient uptake or interact with soil micronutrients that cause toxicity, Paterson advises working with a nutritionist to develop a balanced nutrition program that optimizes production.

He adds, "Trace minerals by themselves won't cure all morbidity problems. Producers still need to consider vaccination programs, genetics, and environmental factors as well."

Additionally, parasites can be a factor that suppress appetite and the immune system, so be certain parasite control is part of the health program at the ranch.

Cows' Needs For cows and heifers, minerals play a key role in enhancing fertility. Although beef cows only require 3 to 4 ounces of trace minerals in their daily diet, that little bit of supplement helps ensure proper nutrition so that cows will rebreed and produce a healthy calf every 365 days.

Paterson says the availability of free choice minerals is especially critical in the three months leading up to calving and then immediately after calving, when the cow has increased energy and protein requirements.

For instance, a spring calving cow's phosphorus and calcium requirements are high during the winter due to fetal development. Zinc and copper have also been shown to be an important part of the cow's diet just prior to and after calving. Thus, trace minerals are especially important during the last 90 days before calving and then through the breeding season. Providing trace minerals prior to weaning can also help produce a better

immune response and weaning weights among calves.

Paterson suggests that to provide minerals cost-effectively and to the best benefit of the cow-calf pair, mineral supplements need to be utilized in a well-balanced program that matches the forage base, which varies in nutritional content during the growing season. Thus, an occasional forage analysis should be conducted on your ranch for the major minerals – calcium, phosphorus and magnesium – and the trace minerals – copper, zinc, sulfur and manganese. Getting a water quality analysis is also a good idea.

Phosphorus will likely be the primary mineral

needed because its content in forages varies greatly during the year. For example, a higher phosphorus mineral is needed in the winter because phosphorus is generally lower in dried winter forages.*

Paterson also suggests including a vitamin supplement because forages are often deficient in Vitamins A and E.

** Editorial comment from Paterson: With the increased expense of mineral supplements this year, it is very important to get a forage analysis to determine your needs for a mineral supplement*



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