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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

2021 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Holidays: For Thanksgiving, Clinics will be open for the morning only Monday October 11th. Vets will be on call for emergencies. The delivery service will **not** be running on the holiday.

Feedlot Calves This Fall

With the drought in the west this year, we expect cattle to be arriving earlier. Vet, nutritionist and producer will have to work together to get calves off to a good start. The goal is to get the individual animal consuming the proper nutrients at the proper units/levels to promote healthy, cost efficient growth. Potential health issues depends on the cattle buyer, the facilities, the ingredients including the milling/mixing/moisture levels, the weather, the animal health crews and feeding crews, the veterinarian and the nutritionist. Success is based on good animal husbandry practices which must involve the animal, the veterinarian and the nutritionist working together.

20 mistakes in newly arrived calves

Feeding management:

- 1. Inconsistent feeding times.** Cattle should be fed within 15 minutes of when they were fed the prior day.
- 2. Bunks too high for calves.** With today's prices, a lot of smaller calves are coming into the feedlots and they can't reach into the bunks very well.
- 3. Cattle standing around.** A standing calf costs 15% more in maintenance than if lying down. If cattle are standing around waiting on late feed or for bedding then they are losing energy.

Nutrition:

- 4. Not watching moisture levels in diets.** Moisture levels in different ingredients such as high-moisture corn and wet distiller's grains can widely vary and that can change energy density. Silage moisture levels can change roughage content. Also watch things like pre-ground hay that is ground so much all the fiber is gone — it becomes not a roughage but a bloat-promoting, highly soluble material due to the over processing of the feed stuff.
- 5. Feeding calves unfamiliar diets.** For example, feeding silage to calves that have never seen silage before can reduce or delay intakes. Transition feed into the ration. Remember, we are feeding the cattle not the cement feed bunk, watch cattle behavior!
- 6. Blaming acidosis on everything.** It's common to blame acidosis for dead cattle based on the pH of the rumen after death, which is around 4.8, however, pH is most often caused by fermentation which continues after death, not acidosis, so be careful in your diagnosis.
- 7. Not balancing distiller's grains correctly.** Distiller's grains need to be balanced with the right kind of fiber, if you combine it with alfalfa, you'll most likely create diarrhea. Also, make sure fiber sources are not cut in too large or cattle will sort the feed.
- 8. Attention to ingredient processing.** The processing impacts energy availability and how "hot" the diet is. For example, ground wheat digests very rapidly and can cause metabolic upsets as acidosis.
- 9. Feeding the wrong forages to new calves.** Grass hay is great with the hulls having great palatability. Silage can be used depending on the cattle and if they are familiar with it.
- 10. Feeding ingredients free-choice.** When possible have the ingredients mixed instead of free-choice to avoid sorting.
- 11. Supply minerals.** Calcium and phosphorous are important in receiving diets as well as Vitamin E levels at about 400 IUs.

Stress:

- 12. Receiving pens in high-stress location.** Having receiving pens next to shipping pens, the mill, etc. can cause newly arrived cattle to get no rest, and increases stress which can decrease intake.
- 13. Mixing wild cattle with bunk-broke cattle.** Wild cattle that are not used to feed bunks won't mix with other cattle and get to the bunk and eat. They should be sorted off or handled differently, including shortening the pen, placing extra feed troughs in the pen, feeding at night to lower aggravation, etc.
- 14. Not resting new calves.** Incoming calves need some rest after transit, and that many feedlots don't take into consideration the total transit time the calves have gone through, not just the last transit to the feedlot.
- 15. Castrated calves with non-castrated calves.** Putting newly castrated calves with non-castrated calves can cause problems, as for the first few days the newly castrated calves don't want to get bumped around, and will be more hesitant to crowd up to the bunk. Separate them.
- 16. Small and large calves together.** Putting 400-lb calves and 700-lb calves in pens together can result in the larger calves dominating the bunk. The smaller calves won't eat for a few days, and then they will make a break for it and gorge themselves.

Hospitals:

- 17. Insufficient water trough space in the hospital.** Sick cattle like to hang out by waterers, Competition with other hospital pen cattle can reduce water intake.
- 18. Overfeeding/underfeeding hospital cattle.** It's important to have a fairly accurate headcount of hospital pen cattle so that the correct amount of feed can be fed to avoid creating acidosis in those most sensitive to it.
- 19. Not cleaning the hospital pen and bunk.** Regular pens get slick bunks multiple times a day, but hospital pen bunks may only get cleaned out once a week. Unappetizing rations that sit around in the hospital bunk can also be at risk for molds, especially with high-moisture feeds.
- 20. No salt or mineral blocks in the hospital pens.** Sick calves need vitamins and minerals to help with immune function and health.