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Feedlot Herd Health Program

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The first two weeks in the feedlot are the most critical for cattle. Respiratory diseases are most apt to show up during the time the cattle are making adjustments to their new environment, feeding practices, etc. The effects of stress before and during shipping become evident at this time.

Cattle of unknown origin may have been "on the circuit" for a period of time and been exposed to several market places and changes in feed and water. Avoid such cattle for they are stale and probably sick before you get them to your lot. Some "bargain" cattle are in this category. Buy from reputable people that you can depend upon.

Preconditioning

Most of the "shipping fever" complex is triggered by viral infections that flare up due to a variety of stresses that are placed on the cattle. Many stresses can be minimized by preconditioning calves before shipping. This includes weaning and introduction to bunk feeding at least three weeks prior to shipment. The stress of weaning is one of the most severe and the smaller, younger calves seem most severely affected.

Familiarity with grain and roughage will help cattle get started in the lot with fewer problems. Weaning several weeks prior to shipment will assure that calves are not subjected to weaning stress and shipping at the same time.

Preconditioning programs usually include management practices such as dehorning and castration. Vaccination against red nose, PI₃, pasteurella and blackleg-malignant edema are recommended several weeks prior to shipment. It takes 10 to 14 days for immunity to develop after vaccination. For maximum benefit, vaccination must be done before shipment. It should be pointed out that vaccines are not available that will give protection against all forms of respiratory infections.

The most desirable preconditioning program can be agreed upon in advance with the rancher. A preconditioning certificate of the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association is your best assurance of the management practices and immunizations the calves have received.

The distance the cattle are hauled and the time spent on the road can be important factors. Cattle in transit over 24 hours or those arriving in severe weather are subjected to unusually severe stress conditions and need special attention.

Handling on Arrival

Feedlot conditions and design affect stress. Small lots with sufficient bunk space for each animal will make adjustment easier. Watering facilities

A summary of the presentation given at Cattle Feeders Day, October 1, 1971.

are important. Range cattle may have difficulty learning to drink from the small waterer. A large tank, set in temporarily, may be necessary to assure water consumption.

The lot should be well drained to provide a dry area for the cattle to lie down. Dust should be avoided for it is irritating to the respiratory system. Special measures such as sprinkling or bedding may need to be taken if dust problems are encountered.

Constant Surveillance Necessary

Cattle should be observed several times daily the first several weeks. Any that lag from the feed bunk or appear listless should be checked for signs of sickness. Treatment may be effective in the early stages of respiratory problems, but response will be poor if the animal has been sick for several days. If a number of the animals appear to be affected, your veterinarian may recommend treating the entire group with an injectable antibiotic or use a broad spectrum antibiotic or sulfa in the ration or drinking water.

Work closely with your veterinarian. He is best qualified to assist you with your animal health problems. Remember, early diagnosis and treatment will be much more profitable than letting the problem progress so far that treatment is not effective.

Handling Cattle Not Previously Immunized

There are two schools of thought regarding vaccination of cattle at the feedlot. One school says to do it right away and the other says wait about two weeks. Actually, under different conditions, both may be right.

Vigorous, thrifty cattle may be successfully vaccinated when unloaded or within 24 to 48 hours. Cattle that are tired from a long ride and appear depressed and perhaps already sick probably shouldn't be further stressed by any type of vaccination until they have recovered. This may be two to three weeks.

Most feedlot vaccination schedules include red nose (IBR), parainfluenza (PI₃), blackleg-malignant edema, pasteurilla and leptospirosis. In addition to blackleg-malignant edema, there is a combination 4-way or 7-way Clostridium bacterin to protect against enterotoxemia and an "off breed" type of blackleg. Talk to your veterinarian about this additional protection. Some veterinarians prefer to wait a month or so after the regular vaccinations before giving BVD vaccine.

Internal and External Parasite Control

Internal parasites, usually stomach worms, can be a very serious problem in some groups of cattle. Much depends upon the pasture or range on which the calves were raised. The safest thing is to have several manure samples checked by your veterinarian to determine the level of worm burden, if any, that your cattle are carrying. A microscopic test is made to identify the type and number of eggs present in the manure.

There are several safe and effective worming compounds available on the market that will get rid of the worms without causing any setback to the cattle. Worm after 2 to 3 weeks.

Cattle lice are the most greatly underrated cattle parasite. Cattle may come into the feedlot with just a few lice in the fall. If untreated, these lice multiply rapidly during the winter months and may be a serious problem during the late winter and early spring.

Fall is the time to get rid of lice. You will be safe to assume that all cattle have lice and should be treated.

Spray and worm after the cattle have become adjusted to the lot and are past any shipping fever problems. However, if they are carrying a very heavy louse infestation, it may be desirable to spray them immediately. Lice can cause anemia, which lowers the animal resistance and makes the cattle more subject to shipping fever due to the louse problem.

Grub Control

Cattle that may be marketed in the spring when grubs are emerging should be treated for grubs. A great economic loss can be encountered if you are forced to market grubby cattle.

The following recommendations for louse and grub control are taken from the 1971 South Dakota Insecticide Recommendations published by the Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota State University, and U.S.D.A. (EC 683).

Table 1. Pesticides Used for the Control of Lice

Insect	Host	Insecticide	Dosage	Remarks, Precautions		
Cattle lice	Beef Cattle	<u>SPRAYS</u> Co-Ral	0.25% spray - 2 lb. of 25% W.P. to 25 gal. of water	Use as directed on the label.		
		Delnav (Dioxathion)	0.15% spray - 1 qt. of 30% E.C. to 50 gal. water or 2 qt. 15% E.C. to 50 gal. water	Do not repeat application within 2 weeks. Do not dip animals under 3 months of age.		
		Ciodrin	1 qt. 2 lb. E.C. to 6 gal. of water. 1 to 2 pt. spray per animal	Do not repeat sooner than 7 days.		
		Ciodrin	3% dry dust	Apply to animal by hand and rub into hair coat. Repeat in 3 to 4 weeks if necessary.		
		Lindane	0.06% spray - 2 pt. of 20% E.C. or 2 lb. 25% W.P. to 100 gal. of water	Do not spray within 30 days of slaughter or dip within 60 days of slaughter.		
		Malathion	0.5% spray - 1 gal. of 57% E.C. or 16 lb. of 25% W.P. to 100 gal. of water	Be sure to follow all label precautions.		
		Methoxychlor	0.5% spray - 2 gal. 25% E.C. or 8 lb. 50% W.P. to 100 gal. of water	Be sure to follow all label precautions.		
		Neguvon	2 1/2 lb. of 80% soluble powder to 100 gal. of water	Do not treat within 14 days of slaughter.		
		Ronnel (Korlan)	2 gal. 24% E.C. or 16 lb. 25% W.P. to 100 gal. of water	Do not treat within 56 days of slaughter.		
		Toxaphene	5 pt. of 60% E.C. or 8 lb. of 50% W.P. to 100 gal. of water	Do not use within 28 days of slaughter.		
		Carbaryl (Sevin)	50% W.P., 8 lb. per 100 gal. of water	Do not apply within 7 days of slaughter.		
		Famphur (Famix)	Prepared feed mix 0.22% ^a 10-day treatment for grubs 30-day treatment for grubs and <u>sucking</u> lice	Feed to beef cattle, heifers or dry cows only. Feed at rate of 1/4 lb. per 100 lb. body weight for 10 days for grubs. Feed 1/8 lb. per 100 lb. body weight for 39 days for grubs and lice. Do not use after November 1. Do not use within 21 days of calving or 4 days of slaughter.		
				<u>BACKRUBBERS</u>		
				Lindane	0.2% in fuel oil	Wait 30 days to slaughter.
				Malathion	2 to 5% in fuel oil	Follow all label precautions.
				Methoxychlor	5% in fuel oil	Follow all label precautions.
		Ronnel (Korlan)	0.5% to 1.0% in fuel oil	Wait 14 days to slaughter.		
		Toxaphene	5% in fuel oil	Wait 28 days to slaughter.		
		Ciodrin	1% solution	Follow all label precautions.		
		Coumaphos (Co-Ral)	2% in fuel oil	Follow all label precautions.		
<p>Note: (Backrubbers are <u>not</u> 100% effective against lice. Charge backrubbers early in the fall and recharge every two or three weeks. Do <u>not</u> use old crankcase oil as a diluent for backrubbers.)</p>						

^a Typical concentration—other concentrations available but are calculated to give animal proper dosage over treating period.

Table 2. Chemicals Having Clearance for Grub Control

Insect	Host	Insecticide	Dosage	Remarks, Precautions		
Cattle grub (Apply sprays thoroughly with pressure above 250 lb. per square inch. Use a pencil stream spray #5, 6 or 7 nozzle disk. Hold nozzle from 4 to 5 feet from the animal. The addition of a small amount of detergent to the spray tank may help penetration.)	BEEF CATTLE <u>ONLY</u>	Co-Ral	12 lb. of 25% W.P. to 100 gal. of water (spray)	Spray. No limitations for slaughter stock. Do not apply to lactating dairy animals or to dry dairy animals within 14 days of freshening.		
			25% W.P. 8 lb./100 gal. of water (spray or dip)	No limitations for slaughter stock. Do not apply to lactating dairy animals or to dry dairy animals within 14 days of freshening. Two applications are required at 3-month intervals.		
			4 lb. of 25% W.P./3 gal. of water or white mineral oil as pour-on, 1/2 pint/head (also available as ready-mix pour-on)	Apply to the back of animals. Do not apply to lactating dairy animals or dry dairy animals within 14 days of freshening. No limitations on slaughter.		
				Neguvon	Spray 10 lb. 80% W.P. to 100 gal. water	Do not apply within 14 days of slaughter; <u>do not spray dairy animals.</u>
				Ruelene	0.5% spray at 1 gal./head	Ruelene is not recommended for treatment after November 1. Do not apply within 28 days of slaughter or freshening. (For both 0.5% and 8.3%).
				Famphur (Warbex)	13.2% ready mixed pour-on 1 ounce per 200 lb. body weight--as directed on the label	Use on beef cattle, dry dairy cows or heifers. Pour on directed amount from shoulders to tailhead. Do not use within 21 days of calving or 35 days of sale for slaughter. Do not use on calves under three months old or animals stressed from dehorning, castration, illness, or over excitement.
				Ronnel (Feed Additives)	Use Ronnel (such as Rid-Ezy, Steer Kleer, Trolene) in feed program, following use directions on manufacturer's label	All cattle systemic grub treatments should be given in late summer or early fall, after the heel fly season is over.
				Famphur (Famix)	Prepared feed mix 0.22% ^a 10-day treatment for grubs 30-day treatment for grubs and <u>sucking</u> lice	Feed to beef cattle, heifers or dry cows only. Feed at rate of 1/4 lb. per 100 lb. body weight for 10 days for grubs. Feed 1/8 lb. per 100 lb. body weight for 30 days for grubs and lice. Do not use after November 1. Do not use within 21 days of calving or 4 days of slaughter.
				Imidan (Prolate)	4% in water pour-on treatment	Apply 1 fluid oz. per 100 lb. of body wt. but not over 8 fluid oz. per animal. Do not apply within 21 days of slaughter. Do not treat dairy animals.
			0.25% spray treatment		Use about 1 gal. per animal. Do not apply within 21 days of slaughter. Do not treat dairy animals. Do not repeat for seven days.	

^a Typical concentration--other concentrations available but are calculated to give animal proper dosage over treating period.