

Fall Producer Newsletter

Fall will soon be upon us and with it comes another busy season for beef producers in our region. At this time some of you are beginning the process of assessing damages to property and livestock from the recent wildfires. Others are dealing with the fact that the drought has cut your grazing season short. No matter what your situation I know that you are extremely busy but I ask that you take a moment to read through some updates on new products and cattle health topics. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call or e-mail at drpoe@grandcouleevet.com.

New Option in Parasite Control

A new player has entered the market in our region for external parasite control—StandGuard. The product provides season long protection against important external parasites such as lice and horn flies. It works best when given in conjunction with an injectable dewormer for internal parasite control. It can be given along with another pour-on product but the application areas cannot overlap. StandGuard contains gamma-cyhalothrin—the latest generation of pyrethroids—which has not previously been used in beef cattle. It's a powerful, low-dose, easy-to-use cattle pour-on. It is applied at a rate of 10ml for animals weighing 600 pounds or less or 15ml for animals weighing over 600 pounds and is supplied in 900ml or 4.5L bottles. For more information please check out the Elanco website:

www.elanco.us/products-services/beef/horn-fly-lice-control-cattle.aspx

Increased Need for Pneumonia Prevention?

There has been some discussion with the recent wildfire activity regarding the increased chance for respiratory



disease in our cattle herds due to the damage that smoke inhalation can cause. Included in this newsletter you will find an article from UC Davis regarding wildfires and livestock. One point made is that it can take 4 to 6 weeks after the air quality has returned to normal for the respiratory tract to heal. This means that our livestock affected by the fires has a long road to recovery ahead of them. One way to give our calves a fighting chance as we head into the stress of weaning and shipping is to consider how your immunization program addresses respiratory health. Use of a complete respiratory vaccine such as Express 5 along with a pneumonia vaccines such as NuPlura (*Mannheimia [Pasteurella] haemolytic*) and Ultrabac 7 Somubac (*Haemophilus somnus*) will help your calves have a fighting chance. Some advocate the use of antibiotic metaphylaxis, which is the mass medication of a herd with antibiotics in the effort to prevent the development of respiratory disease. There is some controversy regarding the mass use of antibiotics for prevention rather than treatment. Deciding which method will be best for a herd is a decision only a producer can make with input from their veterinarian. If you have any questions regarding your vaccine program and disease prevention please refer to the our recommendations sheet included in this packet, give me a call, or send me an e-mail.

Culling Considerations

Every producer has many decisions to make in the fall, one of which is to cull or not to cull. It is inevitable that some cows will need to be removed from the herd each

year either due to advanced age, being open, or issues of soundness. After the decision has been made to cull a cow the next decision one must consider is whether to ship that animal right away or to hold her over, invest in feed, and capitalize on her potential improvement in condition. Enclosed with the newsletter you will find several pages from the Western Beef Resources Committee (WBRC) *Cattle Producer's Handbook* relating to body condition scoring of beef cattle, culling, and marketing and feeding of the cull cow.

She Has a Lump on Her Jaw...Now What?

Each fall I receive calls from clients who have one or more cows with suspected lumpy jaw. This bacterial infection of the mandible (jaw bone) is often easy to diagnose but often difficult or impossible to treat. The medications that work best for treating this condition are difficult to find and greatly discouraged in food producing animals. Most often the key is in early recognition of affected animals so that they can be sent to slaughter before the condition is advanced. If the lesion is large and discharging and the animal is being culled then humane euthanasia on the ranch is often the best option as such an animal will not pass USDA inspection at the slaughterhouse. Check out the article on Lumpy Jaw and Wooden Tongue from the WBRC *Cattle Producer's Handbook* for more information on this condition and its sister condition wooden tongue.



WBRC Cattle Producer's Handbook



If you don't have this handbook in your library already you should seriously considering purchasing it. I have often turned to this resource to update and educate myself on

topics as well as to help educate clients. As you can see from the articles I have provided to you in this newsletter there is a wide variety of topics covering many aspects of beef production. For more information, including how to order this book, please contact the University of Idaho at 208-736-3600.

Calving Emergency Contact

Calving season is just around the corner. There are two phone numbers you need to keep close at hand. For evening and weekend calving emergencies please call my home number (639-2366) and/or my cell phone (638-2040). Please be sure to leave a message if I don't answer as I can't always run fast enough to catch the phone. During business hours please call the clinic (633-0711).