

“The Bull Sheet News”

January-February 2022

Reminders...

- **Clinic Phone Numbers:** Hosmer 605-283-2278 – Eureka 605-284-2509 – Bowdle 605-285-6888 – Wetonka 605-225-7176
- The Emergency Line Phone number for the Hosmer, Eureka and Bowdle Clinics is **(605) 281-0493**.
- The Emergency Line Phone number for Wetonka is **(605) 824-0582**.
- **IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY**, please leave a detailed message at the clinic with the staff or on our cell phones. If you chose not to leave a message, we cannot guarantee a call back on the same day.

Hosmer Veterinary Clinic Annual Nut Fry will be the 2nd Saturday in January. **January 8, 2022.**

February 3rd 22nd Annual Stavick Simmental Bull Sale – 1 PM at the Ranch

February 12th Hillview Farms Private Treaty Sale - Eureka, SD

February 13th Treftz Limousin Annual Production Sale – 1 PM, Wetonka, SD

February 16th Hart Simmental 48th Annual Production Sale – 12 PM at the farm

February 16th Hill Top 42nd Annual Production Sale – 1 PM, Bowdle, SD

February 19th Flittie Simmental, Lazy J Bar Ranch, Schnabel Ranch, Annual Bull Sale Hub City Livestock 1pm

February 21st Rausch Herefords 64th Annual Bull & Female Sale – 1 PM at the ranch, Hoven, SD

February 25th Beitelspacher Annual Production Sale – 1 PM at Mobridge Livestock Auction, Mobridge, SD

March 4th Sandmeier Charolais Annual Production Sale – 1 PM, Bowdle, SD

March 5th Lazy TV Ranch Production Sale – 1 PM at the ranch, Selby, SD

March 12th & 13th Stangl Shorthorn Private Treaty Bull & Heifer Sale – Java SD

March 13th RBM Livestock Annual Production Sale – 1 PM, Florence, SD

March 23rd Rossow Angus Ranch 30th Annual Bull & Female Sale – 1 PM at the ranch, Herreid, SD

April 9th Thorstenson Hereford Ranch Production Sale – 1 PM at the ranch, Selby, SD

Erdmann Angus Private Treaty Bulls Available Now – Leola, SD

Hoffman Herefords On-going Private Treaty Sale – at the ranch, Leola, SD

Hosmer

Billy & Dr. Holly,

Dr. Steph,

Ginny, Mary

Lou, Jessica, Levi

Tasha, Miranda



Wetonka

Dr. Tim, Evan,

Erica, Tina



Bowdle

Dr. Cassie, Tiara



Eureka

Heather, Lisa

Calving Season is Coming Soon!

DO YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

*Humane Restraint *Needles *Syringes *Calf jack *OB sleeves and latex gloves *Calving chains/straps & OB handles *Clean pail for water, chains/straps & handles *OB lubricant/J-lube/mild dish soap

*Iodine/betadine/nolvasan (Wash vulvular/vaginal area before assisting cow to calve)

*Working flashlight & extra batteries *Old towels/Paper towels

***It can be helpful to have these things in a bucket that is easy to grab and accessible to everyone. It also makes clean up much easier!

MEDICATIONS FOR THE CALF:

*Dopram (Helps lungs “get going”) *Banamine *Dexamethasone *Penicillin or Excenel/Naxcel *Scour Boluses

*Electrolytes *Bottle *Drenching bottle/bag *Colostrum Replacement/Colostrum Supplement

*Vaccines - (Clostridial perfringens type C&D or 7-way and Inforce 3)

MEDICATIONS FOR THE COW:

*Penicillin *Uterine boluses *Oxytocin

*Dexamethasone - will INDUCE a cow to calve!! DO NOT USE ON PREGNANT COWS!!!

Preventing Dystocia Before Calving Season Starts

SDSU Extension

Beef producers are preparing themselves for less sleep each night, as time spent observing cows day and night will soon start. Nearly 90% of beef producers regularly observe cows and heifers during calving and research shows doing calving checks every 3 hours yields best results. Yet, the best calving check regimen is not always practical or a guaranteed way to eliminate calving problems or dystocia from occurring. It is estimated 11% of heifers and 4% of cows need some assistance during calving each year. Therefore, what can we do to prevent calving difficulty before it occurs so calving season will be a little less stressful for all parties involved?

Don't Select for Dystocia In the hours leading up to calving, there is often little anyone can do to prevent dystocia from occurring. However, looking back on your management decisions from the past the breeding season and fall, may give one insight into how calving will go. Here are some example areas to evaluate before calving starts:

Calving Ease Direct EPD (CED) Utilize calving ease bulls when mating to heifers, young or small cows that may have trouble calving. CED measures percent of unassisted births and takes into account the size and presentation of the fetus. Be careful not to over select for CED in mature cows as valuable calf weight will be given up and sacrifice potential revenue.

Pelvic Measure Measuring pelvic area in replacement or bred heifers before their first calving event will give producers an idea of which females may have trouble due to abnormal pelvis shape or size. The pelvis continues to grow and shape until cows are mature, so keep in mind the pelvis can change between first and third calving events.

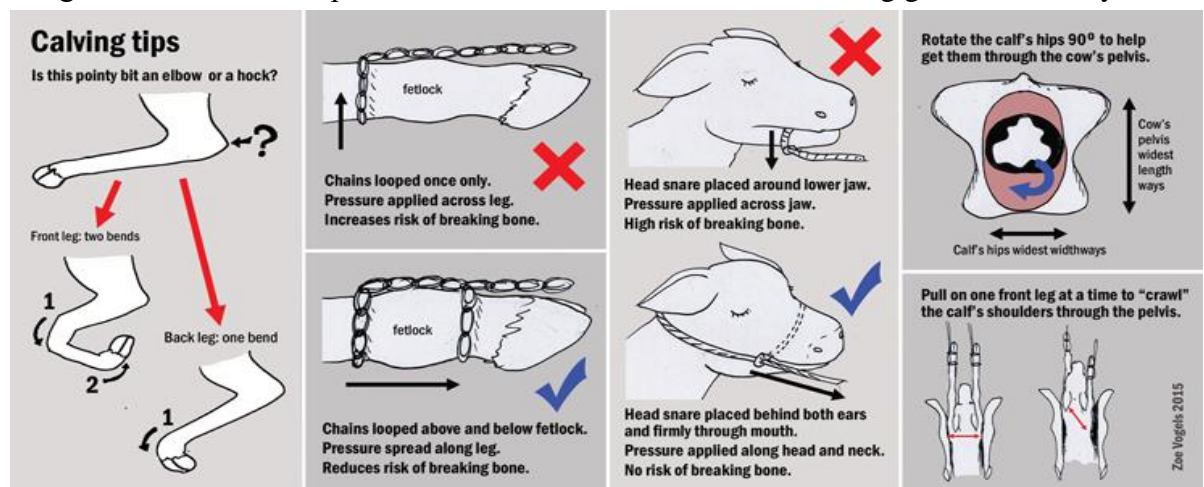
Body Condition Score Pay attention to heifers and cows that are carrying extreme amounts of fat or are very thin. Over conditioned heifers are more likely to have troubles calving due to accumulation of fat in the pelvis hindering fetal passage through the birth canal. In addition, if heifers are too skinny their endurance during calving may be limited by the absence of energy resources. At any time, if a female stops making progress during calving for more than 15 minutes, assistance should be offered. Separate cows based on condition so not to overfeed fat cows and underfeed thin ones.

Provide Exercise Cows need to be in shape come calving season, so providing adequate exercise prior to calving is important to their physical strength. Feeding cows in a loafing pasture and providing water a ¼ mile away is a good distance for cows to travel daily. If keeping cows in a lot during gestation, less energy will be used every day as they don't have to walk so far. Design rations to meet requirements of cows based on location during gestation. Lastly, avoid moving cows

close to calving as fetal growth is occurring very rapidly and calf position can flip if cows slip or fall.

Know the Signs Not all dystocia is preventable even if you follow the practices listed above. However, if you observe cows struggling during labor, keep a close

watch on her to observe her through the stages of labor and intervene when necessary. Stages of labor:



Stage 1

- External Signs: Restless, nesting, stops eating and drinking, vaginal discharge observed.
- Internal Events: Cervix begins to dilate, Uterine contractions strengthen (1 /15 min. to → 1/3 min.).
- Length: 2 – 8 hours, potentially longer in heifers.
- When to Intervene: >8 h, check for stillborn calves.

Stage 2

- External Signs: Abdominal straining 1 – 3x/min., water bag appears, fetal limbs appear, calf is delivered.
- Internal Events: Cervix fully dilated, progress from head to chest and lastly hips, allow calf to take first breath.
- Length: ½ - 4 hours.
- When to Intervene: Water bag has been visible for 2 hours and not trying, no progress >30 min, progress stops for >15 min.

Stage 3

- External Signs: Passes placenta.
- Internal Events: Connection between placenta and uterus deteriorate.
- Length: Completed 12 h post delivery.
- When to Intervene: 12 -24 h, check for retained placenta.

Bull Buying Guide

University of Georgia Extension

Never underestimate the power of your bull. Selecting and purchasing a bull for your beef herd could be considered one of the most important decisions you make in your operation. Don't make a quick, unprepared decision on purchasing a bull. Never consider purchasing a bull without a proven record and a sound genetic background. Using a bull with poor performance and a weak genetic base could delay improvements in your herd for several years. The small expense you have in purchasing a bull is the difference between the purchase price of the new bull and the salvage value of the old bull. This investment will add efficiency and profitability to your herd for years to come.

The cost of purchasing a bull may seem high at a glance; however, that expense becomes relatively small when it is spread across your bull's calf crop for a three- to five-year period. Bull procurement decisions can greatly impact your future calf crops and herd genetics for many years. When you consider that the bull contributes one-half of the genetic makeup of your calf crop and may sire 25 to 40 or more calves per year, it is easy to see that he is the most important

individual in the herd. Keep in mind that a bull that will improve a herd must have genetic superiority over both the cows in the herd and over previous bulls.

The best way to remain efficient in today's beef industry is continue to produce more pounds of product per cow exposed. That task can become hard to achieve without the help of a superior bull. Fortunately, weight at various ages is heritable. Birth weight and weaning weight are estimated to be about 30 percent heritable, while yearling weight is about 45 percent heritable. This means that a certain degree of birth weight, weaning weight and yearling weight is inherited from the parents and that progress can be made by selecting for these traits.

Selection Tools

Birth, weaning and yearling weights are normally used to evaluate breeding animals. Actual or adjusted weights may help in making comparisons between bulls in the same contemporary group. Since environmental factors like feed and weather affect weights, actual or adjusted weight can be misleading if bulls come from different contemporary groups. Within a herd, weight ratios help account for some of the environmental differences between contemporary groups. But, ratios can also be misleading if bulls come from different herds. Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), on the other hand, are calculated across herds. A bull's EPD for a trait is a more accurate estimate of his genetic worth than his weight, adjusted weight or ratio. EPDs not only account for contemporary group and herd differences, they also include information on a bull's relatives as well as his individual performance.

Most major breed associations have National Cattle Evaluation programs. Breeders who are involved in their breed's performance program should have birth, weaning and yearling weight EPDs available on yearling bulls. In all of these breeds, weight EPDs are expressed in pounds of calf. For example, if bull A has a weaning weight EPD of +45 and bull B has a weaning weight EPD of +35, the calves produced by bull A are expected to weigh, on the average, 10 pounds more at weaning than those of bull B, assuming the bulls are bred to comparable cows. Advances in National Cattle Evaluation have made estimating a bull's genetic worth more accurate than ever before. EPDs allow valid comparisons of all bulls of the same breed, but they do not allow comparison of bulls from different breeds. Since breeds have different average performance, base years and evaluation procedures, direct comparison of EPDs from different breeds can be extremely misleading. It should also be noted that a bull with an EPD of zero is rarely average. In most breeds, zero is the average of some base group of animals. Since breeds change over time, in some breeds it is possible to find bulls with positive weaning and yearling weight EPDs that are several pounds below the average of all yearling bulls in that breed. Current breed averages and information on how to use EPDs are included in breed association sire summaries, which are available on most major breed association websites.

Accuracy Values (ACC) are usually published with EPDs. The accuracy values indicate the reliability of the EPD, or how likely the EPD is to change as more information becomes available. Accuracies are usually expressed as correlations ranging from zero to one. The closer the accuracy is to one, the more reliable the EPD is. Yearling bulls normally have low accuracy values. Older AI sires can have very high accuracies.

Other Factors to Consider when Buying a Bull

- The bull you buy should be functionally sound -- a good breeder with a long life ahead -- and he should be structurally correct, with sound feet and legs and strong pasterns.
- The bull should not have swollen joints and should be able to move freely and easily.
- The bull should not be extremely nervous. A bull with a mean disposition is difficult to handle and he may pass on his nervousness to his offspring.

Be sure you do not buy disease when you buy a bull. Request a copy of the bull's health record. Place new bulls in an isolation paddock where you can observe them for 30 days before putting them with the herd.

Where to Buy a Bull

Many top cattlemen think where to buy a bull is the most important choice involved in their purchase. You need to know that records of birth dates, rate of gain, weaning weights and health conditions of a bull are just as the seller says. You need to know that the breeder will live up to his responsibilities. It has been said that records and pedigrees are as good or as poor as the integrity of the breeder. Here are some recommendations:

- Buy from a breeder whose integrity is above reproach.
- Buy from someone who has complete performance records on his cattle, and knows what those records mean.
- Buy from a place where you know the type of management under which the bulls were produced.
- Buy bulls from central test stations where all records are available.
- Buy bulls from performance oriented producer sales.
- Buy bulls from breed association sponsored sales.

Using Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination increases your chances of promoting the important traits. Since many of the bulls in the AI studs have a great number of progeny with performance records, you can predict more accurately what their calves' performances will be in your herd. AI services also screen their bulls closely for any undesirable traits. Whether you breed your cows by AI or not is a decision you must make based on your own labor and management situation. However, you can consider AI as one method of "buying a bull."



Determining a Bull's Worth

It is very difficult to predict the dollar value of a particular bull; however, the following factors can affect a bull's value:

- The number of calves the bull may sire.
- The performance level of the herd on which the bull is to be used. Almost any good bull will improve the performance of a poor herd, while only very superior bulls can help a high performing herd.
- The type of breeding system you select. Purebred breeders can usually justify a higher bull investment than can commercial producers.

Summary

Selecting and buying a herd bull is the quickest way to make genetic improvement in your herd. The selection process must include looking for those traits that are economically important and highly heritable. Your own herd records are necessary if you are to select a bull that will improve your genetic base. Demand and buy bulls with total performance that will improve your herd.



Lambing season helpful hints:

- During lambing season check the sheep barn first and feed the sheep first in the morning.
- Don't wear heavy perfumes or colognes around a newborn lamb as the smell will confuse the mother and could cause her to reject her lambs.
- Use extreme caution when handling lambs from more than one ewe. Mixing the smell of one newborn lamb to another will cause the ewe to reject her own lamb. Use the plastic gloves or wash hands in between.
- Get a newborn lamb breathing quickly by sticking a small piece of straw up its nose. This helps to clear the airway and makes the lamb sneeze. Always wipe away excess mucous or membranes first. Also rub the lamb's ribcage to get the lamb going.
- Getting colostrum into the newborn lamb in the first 15 minutes is very important. It will warm up the lamb, give it energy and supply antibodies.
- When attempting to get the newborn lamb to nurse, tickle the lamb under the tail. This stimulates suckling.
- When carrying a newborn lamb, keep it close to the mother. A good ewe will follow her lamb into the lambing pens. Carry the lambs low.
- When putting iodine on the navel, tip the lamb up with the bottle. The stuff will stain your hands and clothes.
- Before putting an ewe into the lambing pens, make sure they are cleaned out and freshly bedded. This prevents disease problems.
- If a ewe won't allow a newborn lamb to nurse, tie the ewe up with a halter and help the lambs nurse. A head gate can also be used to restrain the ewe so the lambs can nurse.
- Golden Rule: First due no harm

You've heard of elf on a shelf...

