

# “The Bull Sheet News”

November-December 2021

## 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.
- **FOR SALE: Blue / Red Heeler Puppies** – Ready to go in time for Christmas! Now taking deposits. 605-228-0364

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

*Thank you for your patronage in 2021! We wish you a blessed holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2022! Billy & Dr. Holly, Caleb & Gabe, and the entire crew*

### Hosmer

Billy & Dr. Holly,  
Dr. Steph,  
Ginny, Mary  
Lou, Jessica, Levi  
Brittinee



### Wetonka

Dr. Tim, Evan,  
Erica, Tina



### Bowdle

Dr. Cassie



### Eureka

Heather, Lisa

**This will be our last printed newsletter! If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, please call to request one. If you would like to receive it via email, please send us your email address at [hosmvvet@yahoo.com](mailto:hosmvvet@yahoo.com)**

**Our newsletter can also be viewed on our website at, [www.hosmervetclinic.com](http://www.hosmervetclinic.com)**

## Winter To-Do List for Cattlemen

By Twig Marston, PH.D.

Winter nutrition and management has many focal points but there are a few management decisions all cattle producers should place on their “to-do” list. Whether you have a spring-calving herd or a fall-calving herd, bridging the gap between fall and green grass is a time to implement management and nutritional plans that will reduce costs, increase efficiency and create more profits.

### **Monitor body condition.**

Body condition scores are an open book to the nutritional plane that cattle have been on; they are simple to learn how to evaluate and can be done daily. Evaluation areas include the shape of the top and spine appearance, brisket, ribs and flanks. Thin cows have late breed-backs, lower quality colostrum and lighter-weight calves. Fat cows have low fertility, greater calving difficulty, less milk production and lower efficiency. All cows may not be in the same body condition to be productive, but, in general, moderate body condition is an excellent indication that cattle have matched their environments and management plans.

### **Don't guess- FORAGE TEST.**

The value of forage testing cannot be overstated. Nutritional profiles can be used to determine the value of feed and assist in making diets that are both least-cost and best-performing. With the wide variety and availability of feedstuffs today, knowing their nutritional makeup can help you predict the difference between a good deal and a bad one. Don't make the mistake of filling cows with feedstuffs that do not meet daily requirements.

### **Pregnancy check the cow herd.**

Identifying open cows can help provide educated options. The open females can be culled from the herd, creating a reduction in feed costs- or they can be grouped and managed to increase their value as late-bred females or placed into a different calving group. Having this pregnancy information can allow you to evaluate and implement management options that could create profit.



### **Minimize feed waste.**

“Feed cows a day’s worth of hay, and they will be eating in the dining room. Feed them two days’ worth of hay, and they will be eating in the living room- but feed them three days’ worth of hay, and they will be eating in the bathroom.”

### **Control both internal and external parasites.**

Parasites are free-loaders that rob profit from cattle. The lost income to parasite infestation is estimated to be in the millions of dollars annually. Timely applications of parasite control management decisions should be a priority in every management plan.

Cattle operations may have individual identities and needs, but there are common management decisions that can increase profits. Eliminating problems, eliminates profit robbers. Properly adjusting to environmental conditions improves cowherd performance and prioritizes resources to improve efficiency.

## **Winning the Battle Against Lice**

By Heather Smith Thomas

Lice are a common winter problem. All lice can cause discomfort and itching, and sucking lice rob essential nutrients when cattle need it most. Animals carrying a heavy population of sucking lice may become anemic, suffer weight loss and become susceptible to disease. Cattle that are continually rubbing can damage facilities.

In winter, life cycle of all lice takes about 21 days from egg to egg-laying adult. Many products kill adult lice but not the eggs. They go ahead and hatch, and three weeks later the cattle have lice again. Producers often think the product didn’t work, but label directions recommend retreatment in two to three weeks to kill young lice that hatched after the first treatment.

Another problem is inadequate treatment. Lice are found on the nose, dewlap, armpits and in the groin area where the pour-on may not reach very well. If applying the dosage to just the center of the back, its unlikely the lice came into contact with the product. Since lice move around, they are more likely to come into contact with the pour on if applied all along the back and on the poll.

People need to understand the importance of not mixing untreated cattle with the treated ones or lice will spread again to the treated cattle. Cattle don’t even have to be in the same pen, nose-to-nose contact can be enough to spread lice.

## **Exercise Caution when Grazing Cattle on Drought Stressed Cornstalks**

By Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator

Cornstalk residue is a tremendous resource for fall and winter grazing; however, this year care needs to be taken in grazing drought stressed cornstalks due to the potential high nitrates in the feed.

Cattle prefer and will select the grain as well as leaves and husk first which tend to be lower in nitrates. Because drought stressed corn is smaller and stunted, it is more likely that cattle will eat lower into the stalk where nitrate levels may be high. Nitrates are usually more concentrated in the bottom third of the stalk in the corn plant.

High nitrates may not only be an issue in dryland acres but also on irrigated corn edges and in the corners where adequate water hasn’t reached and plants are stunted. Cattle tend to prefer these drought stressed plants when grazing. There is the potential that cattle could seek out those plants when first turned onto a pivot-irrigated field.

Due to the shortage of feed this year producers are more likely to leave cows grazing cornstalks longer than they normally would to try to stretch feed resources. Forcing cows to eat more of the stalks increases the risk that they will be consuming parts of the corn plant that could be high in nitrates.

Following are suggestions for grazing potentially high nitrate cornstalks.

- Don’t turn cows into drought stressed cornstalks hungry. Make sure the cows are full as this will help them adjust.
- Consider fencing out pivot corners and edges where plants are severely stressed.
- Resist the temptation to leave cattle on corn stalks after they have eaten most of the leaves and husks.

Feeding additional supplemental energy on areas where nitrates could be at higher levels can help reduce risk of nitrate poisoning by giving the rumen microbes the energy they need to increase the rate of detoxification.

