

# Animal Health and Welfare

Best Practice



# Pain Control

- Humane practices in beef production are being promoted
- We in the beef industry must position ourselves as the best protein source
- This will mean quality beef raised in humane conditions

# Public Perception



- Look at A and W
- What a great job marketing
- The public didn't know they wanted hormone and antibiotic free beef
- A&W give the impression only they have the corner on healthy naturally raised beef.
- Advertising dictates what market demands
  - production follows the market

**PAIN Reduced Production is the next evolution**

# Castration and Dehorning



# Pain control during castration

- Castration and dehorning are common practices.
  - Benefits High quality tender meat with more marbling and less dark cutters
  - Draw backs Painful causing decreased feed efficiency increase stress and increase potential for infection or disease

# Castration Methods

- Surgical
- Bands or Rings
- Burdizzo
- Chemical- inject lactic acid in the testicle
- Hormone injection-inject female hormones every 6 months

**PAIN IS PRESENT IN ALL BUT THE HORMONE INJECTIONS**

# Pain Varies

- Method
- Varies in severity and time of onset
- Age of animal

# Timing of castration

- Days of Age vs Severity of Pain
  - 1-7 has the least pain
  - 6-21 moderate pain
  - >42 has highest pain

**DO IT EARLY**



# Timing of Castration

- Early castrated calves
  - ate more and had higher rates of gain
  - Showed little or no pain
- Delaying castration conveys no benefit on carcass weight if castrating less than 400 wts
  - Testosterone production occurs around this time
- Chronic pain was associated with persistent open wounds using large bands.
- Open wounds lead to infection particularly Tetanus
  - VACCINATE ALL BANDED CALVES FOR TETANUS

# Timing of Castration

- Banding VS Knife

- Knife immediate pain –Immediate / complete
  - problems with soreness, bleeding and infection
  - Reduced ADG initially
  - Lasts 2-3 weeks
- Band - No bleeding
  - Delayed pain with chronic soreness 3-4 weeks
  - Reduced gains initially and through to the time of tissue necrosis
  - Risk of leaving a testicle

Summary –

Advantages/Disadvantages

ADG balances out after a month

# Pain Control

- Animal Welfare is suggesting pain control for these procedures over 7 days
- Pain control
  - increases feed consumption and weight gain
  - Reduces stress and decreases secondary infections
  - The acceptable code of practice in the future

# Pain control options

## 2 types

- Freezing into the cord prior to castration
- Pain control under the skin at the time of the procedure.

# Freezing

- Takes time to freeze the area. Slows down the procedure.
  - Most dentists freeze you and then come back in 10 minutes to ensure you are frozen before pulling your teeth.
  - Provides good pain control for a few hours.
  - Gets over the initial acute pain

# Metacam

- Given at the time of the procedure.
- Good pain control
- Lasts 3 days

# Summary

- Castrate and dehorn at a young age
- Use pain control if done at an older age

# The Road to Control Calf Sickness Death and Disease





No calves No money



# Management is Key

- Sustainable
- One time

# Management is the Key

Calves are the commodity you trade

NO CALVES NO MONEY

What's Your Production Objective?

Sustainable production

MAaximum pounds of quality beef

Optimum input costs

Not a one time beef production

Not most pounds of poor quality beef

Least cost

No ivomec/poor feed

Each farm must determine the goal

Pounds per cow or pounds per acre

Pounds per dollar invested

The people hear today can help you decide  
the parameters for you

# **Designing Effective Vaccination Programs**

**Each farm should design an  
individual vaccination program  
Everyone is different**

**Discuss vaccinations with your  
veterinarian**

Calves are a renewable resource

Bigger healthier calves  
means more money

Cows are the calf incubator

Sick cows means poor or no calf  
less or no money

# Bovine Neonatal Disease Complex

(Sours and Pneumonia)

- Result in Death and Sickness

Dead calves are hard to sell

Sickness costs money

Vet costs

Medication costs

Labor costs

- Reduction of ADG- Poor doer

# Healthy Calves

You all heard the saying happy wife  
means happy life

The same can be said of happy calves



# Management is the key

- Reduce stress –good nutrition through the pregnancy
  - Thin cows OK—Skinny cows mean weak calves
  - You cant fatten a cow in the last 2 months of pregnancy
- Choose calving ease bulls
- Don't chase the cows during birthing process
- Keep calves dry
- Ensure 4 liters colostrum in 8 hours
- Reduce crowding in calving /maternity/nursery pens
- Group calves in 1-2 week age groups and move them out to clean ground
- Move bedding and feeding grounds weekly or more often



VACCINATE  
VACCINATE  
VACCINATE



Vaccination does

**not**

replace

management

Vaccinations are a  
tool  
to reduce  
diseases

Many pathogens  
cause disease in the  
calf and abortions in  
the cow

# Bovine Disease

- Viruses

- IBR BRD calf/Abortion cow
- BVDV Immuno suppress calf/Abortion cow
- BRSV BRD pneumonia calf /occaisional cow
- PI3 BRD pneumonia calf
- Rota / corona – scours calf

- Bacteria

- Mannheimia haemolytica-BRD calf /yearling
- Pasteurella multocida - BRD calf /yearling
- Histophilus somnus - BRD calf /yearling
- Clostridials -Black leg and scours
- Ecoli - Scours calf/mastitis cow

# Vaccination Programs

**CALVES 3 weeks of age booster  
in 1 month or in the fall**

- IBR/BVD/PI3/BRSV
- Shipping fever
- Black leg with Hemophilus

Method

**Cows /Bulls**

**Vaccinate prebreeding best**

- IBR/BVD/PI3/BRSV
- Black leg
- Scours pre calving

# Calves and Replacements

- Feeder calves
  - Same as calves
  - IBR/BVD/PI3/BRSV
  - Shipping Fever
  - Black leg/hemophilus
  - BOOSTER IN 2-4 WEEKS
- Replacements/Young Bulls
    - Same as calves (2 shots)
    - Vaccinate prebreeding in the spring

# Vaccination considerations for cow herd

- Bred vs Open cows
- Timing of vaccinations
  - Scour vaccine administration timing
  - Weeks before breeding
  - Weeks before calving
- Type of vaccinations Live vs Killed
- Previous vaccination history
- Likely hood of comingling
  - (Open vs Closed herds)



Protect your herd!!!!

Questions