

HARDING COUNTY AG NEWS

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Beef Quality Assurance Training

The Beef Quality Assurance Training Program has been in existence for quite some time. Producers on the national level have been given the opportunity to learn best management practices for livestock production and New Mexico State University has participated in training at the state level. Furthermore, we have had 2 trainings in Harding County since my time with the extension service. The problem with BQA is that the certification card was only good for 1 year. Consequently, producers who had taken the test and attended the course, and who actually used the certification as a tool for marketing their livestock felt that a one year certification wasn't worthwhile. Understandable. However, it seems many producers would like to have a refresher course, and get re-certified under the program. Therefore, Harding Extension will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance program on September 24th at the Harding County Community Building starting at 6:30 pm. Bring a pen or pencil and a calculator. The following are new guidelines for how the program will work:

To become a New Mexico "BQA Trained Producer":

1. Producer completes training at a training class.
2. Producer takes and passes the test.
3. Extension Agent sends a list of those producers and their mailing addresses to NMSU.
4. NMSU will issue a "New Mexico BQA Trained Producer" certificate to the producer.

To become a New Mexico "BQA Certified Producer":

1. First, complete the above steps to be a "New Mexico BQA Trained Producer"
2. Complete the NM BQA Application for Certification and include:
 - a check for \$10 to the NM Livestock Board
 - BQA Critical Management Plan
 - Veterinary Client-Patient-Relationship forms
3. Livestock Board issues a Certificate and wallet ID card to the producer good for 3 years



Re-certification

The original "New Mexico BQA Certified Producer" certificates and wallet ID cards were valid for only one year and have all expired.

For a producer to become "re-certified"

1. Attend the workshop and retake the test.
2. The Extension office will send a memo to the New Mexico Livestock Board including the name and address of the producer who has successfully passed the test. The memo must include a \$5.00 check payable to the NM Livestock Board.
3. Livestock Board will issue new certificates and wallet ID cards valid for three years.

At the September workshop, I will recertify those who once had a certification card and will also have the information to those who want to become "trained" or "certified" producers. If you have ranch hands, or employees that need exposed to this, I would encourage them to at least get trained. I would encourage owners and producers who are "hands on" at their operation to become certified.

Come join the Harding County Extension Service and refresh your mind on BQA and join in discussion and activities about current animal husbandry "good business practices" including animal welfare.

Sporadic Rainfall Leads to Inadequate Forage

Another growing season has come and gone and it has left some in pretty good shape, others in bad shape and a whole lot in the middle. Rains have continued to be spotty, inconsistent, and short lived. Moisture late in the growing season continues to plague leaf growth. I don't like to offer a lot of advice on the issue of managing during inadequate forage unless it is asked for, but here are some common sense things to look at.



Get calves off— if cows are failing and losing condition, get the calves off. This will cut the cows requirements in half and she will be in better condition going into fall. Pounds sacrificed by the calf may wash out with not having to feed the cows. Precondition and sell off the cow, or wean for a short period if you have the resources. Weaning is more favorable if you can add substantial gain in relation to cost. Look for cheaper processed

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grains from commodity dealers if you want to mess with the extra hassle of handling it. You would be surprised by what is near you. If anyone wishes to discuss the pros and cons of processed grains such as gluten pellets or distillers grains, please give me a call.

Find Pasture— this is usually easier said than done, but it can be favorable depending on location, freight, care, and lease expense. Figure your cost to raise a calf at home and compare it with what it would be through your pasture deal. There are many ways that a lease can be worked and still receive a favorable return.

Sell Cows— this is what everyone would want to do the least, but may be the wisest. It is hard to service dept with fewer cows, but it may be the cheapest in the long run. If the drought is for the long haul, it is better to liquidate early and save tying up more expense in the cattle. The problem is selling when the market is already saturated and they are not worth anything. Selling the junk (drys, bad eyes, bad udders, etc.) should be a given. Then try to sell something that will have some value when sold. Remember that the whole object here is to make money. Don't get attached to your good, young genetics (easier said than done) Let someone pay you a premium to own them. Let your proven older factories continue to work as they are finally making money for you from about age 6 and beyond. If you do decide to sell livestock, be sure you talk with your accountant about capital gains deferment.

Feed Cows— it is very difficult to feed your way out of a drought in NE New Mexico unless you're buying feed with non-ranch derived income or you can get very cheap feed and have very few numbers. Feeding expensive feed starts out as a short-term solution but can turn into a pocket squeezing long-term nightmare. Consequently, it is quite possible in the long term to end up with no feed, no cattle, and no money.

Take care of the country- remember that during these times that land can only take so much. Continued pressure will only put it (land) farther behind for working for you in the future. I would guess that 75% of cattle owners in this county have outside jobs or working spouses or both. Let the spouse bring home the bacon and put the steak to bed for a while. Your land is your ultimate resource forever.

Vesicular Stomatitis Restrictions Suspended

As most of you are aware, the New Mexico Livestock Board recently released the last remaining quarantined premises for Vesicular Stomatitis in New Mexico. Extensive examination and epidemiological investigations have not revealed any further evidence of the disease in the state of New Mexico. There are no investigations for Vesicular Stomatitis at this time.

All in state movement restrictions imposed due to Vesicular Stomatitis have been suspended.

It is anticipated that other states will suspend restrictions concerning Vesicular Stomatitis in a timely manner. All persons shipping livestock out of New Mexico are advised to call state of destination for entry requirements. Here is some general information about the disease provided from the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture.



Vesicular Stomatitis

What is Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)?

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, and swine. This disease also occasionally affects sheep and goats. Many species of wild animals, including deer, bobcats, goats, raccoons, and monkeys, have been found to be susceptible hosts.

What are the Symptoms of VS?

The incubation period for VS ranges from two to eight days. Excessive salivation is often the first sign. Body temperature may rise immediately before or at the same time that blister-like lesions first appear in the mouth and dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue that is so painful that infected animals generally refuse to eat or drink and show signs of lameness.

The virus can spread rapidly in the herd, and up to 90% of the animals may show clinical signs and nearly all develop antibodies.

The morbidity rate for VS varies considerably within species. If there are no complications such as secondary infections, then affected animals recover in about two weeks. VS does not generally cause animals to die.

How is VS Diagnosed?

All suspicious cases are treated with high-priority response by animal health officials. Samples are submitted to National Veterinary Services Laboratory for rapid diagnosis by virus detection and antibody levels in the bloodstream.

How is the Virus Transmitted?

Direct contact and infected feed and water are primary means of disease spread. Small black gnats of *Culicoides* sp. can transmit this disease by feeding on an infected animal and subsequently feeding on a susceptible animal. Other biting flies like sand flies, black flies, and mosquitoes also transmit the disease when they bite susceptible animals. Movement of infected animals in commerce or pleasure can also spread the disease.

Does VS Affect Humans?

Humans can become infected with VS when handling affected animals if proper biosafety methods are not followed. Prevalence of this disease in humans may be under reported because it may often go undetected or may be misdiagnosed. In humans, VS causes an acute influenza-like illness with symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headache, malaise, and blisters in the mouth. The disease course is four to seven days.

How is VS Treated?

There is no specific treatment or cure for VS. Mild antiseptic mouthwashes may bring comfort and more rapid recovery to an affected animal.

Can I Protect My Livestock?

No vaccines are available in the United States. Owners can protect their animals from disease by avoiding congregation of animals in the vicinity where VS has occurred. Movement of animals, trucks, trailers, and other fomites of contact should be restricted. Good sanitation and quarantine practices on affected farms usually contain the infection until it dies out. There is no approved vaccine for VS in the United States.

Are Disinfectants Effective to Kill the Virus?

Yes, 2% sodium hypochlorite; 4% sodium hydroxide; 2% iodophor disinfectant, and chlorine dioxide disinfectants.

Where is VS Found?

Classic VS has been confirmed only in North and Central America and the northern part of South America. Sporadic outbreaks occur in the southwestern United States. During an outbreak in 1982, VS was confirmed on a premise in Nebraska - (proceedings of an International Conference on Vesicular Stomatitis, 1984).

Why is there So Much Concern About VS?

VS is very similar in its clinical appearance to Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), so it is important to determine if, in fact, it is VS and not the more serious foreign animal disease, FMD.

Is VS a Reportable and Quarantinable Disease?

YES! Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have VS or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact State or Federal animal health authorities.

Severe weight loss usually follows:

In horses, these lesions generally occur on the upper surface of the tongue.

In cattle, the lesions usually appear on the hard palate, lips, and gums, sometimes extending to the muzzle and nostrils.

Dairy cattle, also, often suffer from teat lesions, a severe drop in milk production and subsequent mastitis.

Affected pigs usually first show signs of lameness caused by foot lesions.

Recommended Actions

When a definite diagnosis is made on a farm, the following procedures are recommended:

Separate animals with lesions from healthy animals, preferably by stabling. Animals on pastures apparently are affected more frequently with this disease.

As a precautionary measure, do not move animals from premises affected by vesicular stomatitis, unless they are going directly to slaughter -- for at least 30 days after the last lesion found has healed.



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Implement on-farm insect control programs that include the elimination or reduction of insect breeding areas and the use of insecticide sprays or insecticide-treated eartags on animals.

Use protective measures when handling affected animals to avoid human exposure to this disease.

The following are questions taken from the test portion of a State 4-H contest in 2009. Give em a try!

What agency has the responsibility of inspecting all carcasses intended for sale in the US?

- a. USDA b. NRCS c. FDA d. ATF

A sexually transmitted disease that resides in the prepuce of a bulls' reproductive tract, and must be tested for on an annual basis in non-virgin bulls by law is?

- a. brucellosis b. trichomoniasis c. tuberculosis d. hanta virus

What breed produces mohair?

- a. Cashmere b. Katahdin c. Merino d. Angora



If used, an official animal identification number tag must be placed in the _____ of calves?

- a. left ear b. dewlap c. right ear d. tail

Country of Origin Labeling is part of which legislation?

- a. Farm Bill b. Pork Barrel Initiative c. North American Free Trade Agreement d. Naturalization and Immigration Act

_____ is a hormone commonly administered to synchronize estrus?

- a. cortisol b. pmsg c. Nuflor d. prostaglandina

The following is from Amanda Nolz, a young, energetic farm girl from South Dakota who works with Beef Magazine.

Last week, I wrote about an article, "Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food," that was published in TIME Magazine by Editor Bryan Walsh. Walsh decided to throw journalistic integrity to the wind and give his two cents on our nation's food supply, blaming farmers and ranchers for sins such as: environmental destruction, obesity, antibiotic resistance and animal abuse. The outcry from the agriculture sector has been huge, and many of you have stood up to this magazine to tell them their article on America's food supply was biased and unacceptable. Now, it's time for more of us to step up to the plate and give TIME our two cents on this story, and there is currently the perfect opportunity to do so...

AgriTalk recently interviewed Walsh on his take on America's food supply, and he unsuccessfully backpedaled as he tried to justify the opinions, not facts, presented in his article. In the interview Walsh stumbled through his defense of his piece saying, "Ultimately the story we decided to do and this is the angle

we've been taking at Time more is to try to say, well, rather than just doing the sort of story where you do 50 percent on one side and 50 percent on another you allow the writer to look at it and make some of his own judgments I mean that's why the story, I think, came out in many ways the way it does is that I, coming from my perspective saw the information I saw, and thought well, this is the angle I'd like to take."

Now, let's tell Bryan Walsh what we really think about this article. First, send your letters to

letters@time.com. Then, take the time to vote in an online poll on Facebook. This poll asks the question, "Is TIME still a news magazine or has it transitioned to an opinion magazine in order to be "part of the conversation"? Be sure to weigh in and vote today!

If I can be of assistance to anyone on anything, please don't hesitate to call the office at 673-2341 or my cell phone at 643-7517. Or email me at jclavel@nmsu.edu

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