



RANCH SUCCESSION

K. Scott Jensen, UI Extension Educator, Owyhee County

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 16-18
Jordan Valley
Rodeo

July 26 (tentative)
Owyhee
Cattlemen's
Association
Summer
Meeting in
Silver City



August 4-9
Owyhee County
Fair & Rodeo

If you could do anything with your ranch that you wanted, what would it be? Who would you like to pass it down to? What are your needs in retirement? Do you have any children or grandchildren who would like to continue your operation? These and many other questions need to be answered as you form a plan for succession. Over the next editions of this newsletter, we will discuss some of the important elements in the formation of a succession plan.

To start this discussion, there are a few do's and don'ts to keep in mind. For example:

DO	DON'T
Consider it a process, not an event	Procrastinate!
Start planning now for most available options	Be afraid to ask questions/ listen to answers
Become educated on the subject	Assume you know what each family member is thinking/ feeling
Determine individual family member's priorities	Put all your eggs in one basket
Assemble a competent team to help you	Rely on just one professional advisor

Ranch succession is definitely a process. It requires much thought, discussion, research, etc. Once you have developed your succession plan, there will still be a need to review and update it as the operation changes and as family dynamics change. Additionally, some modifications might be needed as tax laws change.

The earlier you get started, the more options that will be available to you. For example, there are tax implications/limits regarding the dollar value that can be gifted each year. If you wish to gift all or part of your operation to your children, beginning the process earlier could allow you more years to maximize those gifts and reduce the associated tax burden.

Take the opportunity to get educated about ranch succession. We just completed a 5 session workshop on farm/ranch succession in Owyhee County. We expect to repeat the workshop next January in the Weiser/Payette area and again in

Owyhee County. Additionally, some ag lenders also sponsor succession workshops. There is also information available online.

Make an effort to objectively determine each family member's priorities. Oftentimes, we think that we know just how others are thinking and feeling when in reality our true understanding might be off 180°. Does your son/daughter have any interest in taking over the operation? Are their priorities for the direction of the operation in line with yours? Over what period of time do you expect to turn over decision-making control? Are there portions of the operation where they can begin to take some decision-making responsibility?

**Your efforts today
can help ensure
that the legacy
of your operation
can continue
into the future
for your family.**

Finally, assemble a competent team of advisors to help you. Some individuals might want to sell you on their ability handle the entire process. The

BENEFITS OF COLOSTRUM

Tyenne Freeburg, UI Extension Educator, Adams County

Calving season and mud season often overlap don't they? So calves escape a warm uterus and are often plopped down in a cold, wet, and muddy ground. Most have no problem getting enough colostrum milk from their mother, but cold or wet calves may need some help.

Studies have shown that calves that don't receive an adequate amount may have a weakened immune system its entire life. Colostrum is high in antibodies, fat, and vitamins and it is much more similar to the characteristics of blood. The calf can only absorb the antibodies in the first day of life, but for the best boost it will need it in the first twelve hours.

Because the window of time for a calf to receive the most benefit from colostrum is very small it will need 2 quarts in the first six hours and 2 more quarts by twelve hours. It is almost impossible to tell how much the calf is getting from its mother, but the calf should be up and nursing within 2 hours of birth.

Frozen colostrum is always a good freezer staple in a ranching household. Colostrum can be milked from a cow that loses her calf (from a non-disease related reason) or milk a small amount of colostrum from many of your cows. It is best to collect within the first 12-24 hours of calving. Then freeze it in small plastic bags or ice cube trays. It can then be thawed in a warm water bath. If it is defrosted to rapidly by too hot of water or the microwave, then some antibodies will be destroyed. Once it is thawed and at 104° F it can be either bottle fed or tube fed to the calf.

There are supplements on the market but should only be used in addition to real colostrum and not all supplements have been proven effective. The chances of a calf surviving this harsh world greatly increases with that first milk. ♦

Ranch Succession . . . continued from page 1

reality is that the succession planning process contains many different facets. Your family, accountant, tax advisor, and attorney are some of the folks who should be on your succession planning team. Be choosy. Select individuals who are experienced in this arena. This is especially true when selecting an attorney. There are many attorneys who work in the estate planning arena but not many with true understanding of the complexities of farm/ranch estate planning.

In summary, ranch succession planning is a process that takes effort and forethought. Your efforts today can help ensure that the legacy of your operation can continue into the future for your family. ♦



ANIMAL WELFARE IS AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE

Gayle Smith, Wyoming Livestock Roundup, Re-printed by permission

The slide depicted two photos. One was of caged laying hens, and the other was a small birdcage containing two parrots. The message was obvious – why do many members of the public oppose the quality of life of these laying hens, but see no problem with the quality of life of these parrots?

“When negative things happen or we have a negative story in the media regarding animal welfare, people's attention becomes quickly drawn to the issue. They start to think about it, and they change their personal behavior.”
– Candace Croney, Purdue University

Candace Croney, associate professor of animal behavior and well-being in the Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University, spoke to livestock producers about the role ethics play in current farm animal welfare debates.

As Croney discussed the slide depicting the birds, she addressed the problems regarding animal welfare.

Top of the mind

“Looking at these two photos, many people see no problem with the level of inconsistency in their thought process,” she said. “People don't like to look at what they are doing in their own backyard. It is much easier to tell someone else how they should be doing things. When we think about animal welfare, everyone has a different idea of what that means.”

Livestock producers and consumers agree they want food that is safe, palatable, affordable and accessible. However, some consumers question the methods by which they get their food. This makes a huge division between rural and urban-suburban people on animal welfare and the need to regulate it.

“Animal welfare is not a 'top of the mind' issue,” Croney said. “Most people do not wake up in the morning and their first thought is animal welfare.”

“However, when negative things happen or we have a negative story in the media regarding animal welfare, people's attention becomes quickly drawn to the issue. They start to think about it, and they change their personal behavior,” she said.

Views

“Everyone agrees it is our moral obligation to do right for the animals under our care,” Croney continued.

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CATTLE DISPOSITION IMPACTS PERFORMANCE, QUALITY AND ECONOMICS

J. Benton Glaze, Jr., Ph.D., UI Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Throughout the year, beef cattle producers are faced with the task of handling their animals. Handling of cattle may be required for close observation, to perform routine health and management procedures, and for transportation to various pastures and to markets. Over time, beef producers who handle their cattle on a regular basis become keenly aware of animals that consistently present problems during handling. These problem cattle may cause damage to working facilities, require additional labor, and pose a health hazard to humans and other cattle. Cattle with poor dispositions are becoming a more important issue for the beef industry due to the concerns ranging from safety (handler, animal) to economic returns.

Incorporating disposition as a criterion in culling and selection programs can lead to herds that produce calm, unexcitable offspring. When placed in a feedlot, these offspring exhibit greater feedlot performance, carcass quality and economic returns.

Disposition refers to the way an animal is expected to behave under specific conditions. According to the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF, 2002), disposition is a measure of the relative docility, wildness, or aggression of an animal toward unfamiliar situations, human handlers, or management interventions. Most research has been directed toward the disposition of cattle in relation to herd mates, maternal care, and handling. Disposition has always been an important issue to the beef industry with regard to animal and handler safety. In recent years, work has been done to examine what effect an animal's disposition has on animal performance, beef quality and economic returns.

In 2006, Iowa State University researchers (Busby et al., 2006) reported results from a study that was conducted to determine the effect of beef calves' disposition on feedlot performance, carcass quality grade, and economic return. The study in-

cluded information on approximately 13,000 beef calves that were consigned to the Iowa Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity from 2002 to 2004. Cattle in the study were assigned chute scores based on a 6-point disposition scoring system (BIF, 2002) ranging from one (docile animals) to six (very aggressive animals). Researchers refined the evaluation of disposition by condensing the 6-point scoring system into three general classifications (scores 1 and 2 = docile; scores 3 and 4 = restless; scores 5 and 6 = aggressive).

Results of the study indicate that beef cattle performance (feedlot average daily gain), cattle health (morbidity) and carcass quality (measured by USDA quality grade) were significantly affected by the disposition of the animal. Cattle exhibiting higher (aggressive) disposition scores had lower average daily gains than the cattle that exhibited lower (docile) disposition scores. Docile, restless, and aggressive cattle had feedlot average daily gains (pounds/day) of 3.17, 3.11, and 2.91, respectively. Morbidity (rate of sickness) was higher in docile calves (19.2%) versus restless and aggressive calves (16.82% and 16.18%, respectively). Cattle with more favorable dispositions had more favorable quality grades. Only 58.25% of cattle with aggressive behavior graded Prime or Choice versus 74.14% of cattle with docile behavior. In addition, when the costs associated with feedlot performance, cattle health, and carcass quality were accounted for, docile calves returned \$62.19 per head more than aggressive calves, and restless calves returned \$49.06 per head more than aggressive calves.

In 2008, Mississippi State University researchers (Vann et al., 2008) reported results from a study that was conducted to determine the effects of disposition on cattle performance, cattle health, and carcass value. The study included information on cattle that were a part of the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot program. Cattle disposition was evaluated in chutes and pens using a 5-point scale (1 = docile; 5 = aggressive). In addition, exit velocities (speed at which animal leaves the chute) were recorded electronically. As is the case with other studies, results of this study indicate that cattle with a more aggressive disposition had decreased average daily gains, decreased final body weights, increased treatment costs, and increased number of days treated. Net profit was also significantly affected by disposition. Cattle with pen scores of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (1 = docile; 5 = aggressive) had net profits per head of \$121.89, \$100.98, \$107.18, \$83.75, and \$80.81, respectively.

A number of studies have shown that disposition is heritable (passed from parent to offspring) and will respond to selection. As beef cattle producers make culling and selection decisions, they should keep in mind the following quote from *The Lasater Philosophy of Cattle Raising* (Lasater, 1972): "No one likes wild cattle, so why raise them?" Incorporating disposition as a criterion in culling and selection programs can lead to herds that produce calm, unexcitable offspring. When placed in a feedlot, these offspring exhibit greater feedlot performance, carcass quality and economic returns. ♦

This newsletter is provided as a public service to producers and others in beef industry related fields. If you do not have an interest in receiving the Cattlemen's Corner Beef Newsletter in the future, please contact the Extension Office and we will remove your name from our mailing list. Likewise, if you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please let us know, 208-896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. Past editions of the newsletter are available on our website at <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>

Animal Welfare . . . continued from page 2

"But, what does it mean to 'do right' by our animals? This has been a big debate that has animal rights activists tapping into the public and trying to force them to form an opinion on these issues."

"They are also using their influence to impact policy regarding animal welfare," she said.

Individuals view animal welfare differently.

For many, it is providing good animal husbandry and taking care of the physical needs of animals.

However, others feel the biological and behavioral needs of the animal should also be considered.

"To farmers, animal welfare means providing food, water and shelter," Croney said. "Consumers know farmers are already doing these things, so they would also like to see animals living a natural life and having a quick death."

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no one is more concerned
about our animals
than us, and that
we are committed
to their health and welfare."**

– Candace Croney, Purdue University

Unfortunately, many consumers think raising animals naturally is like Old McDonald's Farm, where the animals are all together, and the hens are scratching and pecking in the farmyard, Croney said.

"This isn't realistic for farmers who are expected to feed a population that is growing exponentially," she added.

Influencing consumers

Animal activists are successfully influencing the consumer's view of animal welfare by appealing to the core values people believe in, like compassion, justice, fairness and freedom, the scientist said.

The activists also pick issues that are easily understood by consumers, like housing, handling and pain, and develop modest appeals for change by adopting high moral ground or using religion.

As an example, Croney referred to farrowing crates to contain sows.

"The activists say, 'Can't we give this pig just a little more room to turn around?' which sounds completely reasonable," she explained. "The consumer, who lives in the city, doesn't understand how a sow behaves. They don't understand it is not that easy. Their opinion is, 'What's the problem? Just do it.'"

Disconnect

More people are becoming disconnected with animal agriculture as they move into urban areas. Their contact with animals is through pets, zoos and mass media, Croney said.

"More people are thinking about animals in human terms," she explained. "We don't see animal welfare conversations happening in developing countries where people are still struggling to put food on

the table. In the United States, the way many people think about their companion animals starts to color how they think food animals should be treated," she said.

Animal agriculture needs to do a better job reaching consumers through Extension, outreach groups, teachers and education.

"People not connected to the farm are interested in what goes on at the farm," she said. "Even though producers are busy, they should take the time to open their doors and show others what they do and why and how they do it."

Costly issue

"It is more expensive to ignore animal welfare issues than to address them," Croney continued. "If we don't address these issues, we will get left behind, and we can't afford that."

"If there is anything done on the farm that causes pain and can be filmed, be sure we can explain why it is necessary and what is being done to control that pain," she added. "When something bad happens that has to do with animal welfare, address that it was bad and be sure people understand we don't do that."

Producers must take the time to explain what they do to protect the welfare of animals and take the moral high ground in dealing with welfare issues.

Most of all, Croney encouraged producers to be their own voice and not let others, like activists groups, speak for them.

"Make sure people know no one is more concerned about our animals than us, and that we are committed to their health and welfare," she said.

"Develop a statement committed to animal welfare and put it out there where people will read it," Croney recommended. "Actions speak louder than words, but words can be very effective when people don't know us or what we do." ♦

Did you know . . .

On March 1, Owyhee County 4-H and FFA youth weighed in 28 market steers for the Owyhee County Fair. In addition, nearly 30 youth signed up with beef breeding projects.

On March 8, Owyhee County hosted the 9th Annual Beef Field Day for 4-H and FFA youth. Approximately 70 attended from Owyhee, Adams, Gem, Malheur, Elmore, Valley and Canyon counties. This year the topic was Beef Quality Assurance. Youth and parents rotated through five stations that included Animal Handling and Management, Ethics and Animal Welfare, Animal Health, Carcass Quality, and Record Keeping. Presenters were Dr. Benton Glaze, UI Extension Beef Specialist; Dr. Austin Hines, Caine Veterinary Teaching Center; Scott Jensen, Owyhee County Extension Educator; Rikki Ruiz, Gem/Boise County Extension Educator; and, Tyanne Freeburg, Adams County Extension Educator.

Beef Reproductive Management Short Course

This hands-on short course will focus on improving reproduction of your cow herd. Three 1-Day sessions, include lunch and are offered at two locations, the UI Cummings Center outside of Salmon, Idaho and at the Washington County Fair Grounds Exhibit in Cambridge, Idaho.

Choose the location that works for you!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 21ST**

**COST: \$40 for each Unit
Or
\$100 for all three Units**

QUESTIONS?

Dr. John Hall: jhall@uidaho.edu
or (208) 756-2749
Dr. Benton Glaze: bglaze@uidaho.edu
or (208)736-3600
Scott Jensen: scottj@uidaho.edu
or (208) 896-4104
Tyanne Freeburg: tfreeburg@uidaho.edu
or (208) 253-4279
Shannon Williams: shannonw@uidaho.edu
or (208) 756-2815 ext. 283
Sarah Baker: sdbaker@uidaho.edu
or (208) 879-2344

2014 Short Course Schedule & Registration

UNIT ONE: PREBREEDING

CAMBRIDGE: <input type="checkbox"/>	SALMON: <input type="checkbox"/>
DATE: April 1, 2014	DATE: April 3, 2014
Time: 9AM to 4PM	Time: 9AM to 4PM
Location: Fair Grounds Exhibit Hall	Location: UI Cummings Center

UNIT TWO: PREGNANCY DETECTION & FALL WORKING

CAMBRIDGE: <input type="checkbox"/>	SALMON: <input type="checkbox"/>
DATE: September 25, 2014	DATE: TBD

UNIT THREE: CALVING SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE: <input type="checkbox"/>	SALMON: <input type="checkbox"/>
DATE: December 4, 2014	DATE: TBD

Attending: <input type="checkbox"/>	Attending: <input type="checkbox"/>	Attending: <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Unit—\$40	2 Units—\$80	3 Units—\$100

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
University of Idaho

Registration and Payment Information:

RETURN REGISTRATION FOR —

CAMBRIDGE CLASSES TO:
UI Extension, Adams County
P.O. Box 43
Council, ID 83612

SALMON CLASSES TO:
UI Nancy M Cummings REE Ctr
16 Hot Springs Rd.
Carmen, ID 83462

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Owyhee County

238 8th Ave. W., P.O. Box 400
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Beef Reproductive Management Short Course

INCREASE YOUR PROFIT BY MANAGING THE REPRODUCTION OF YOUR BEEF COWS

Three Part Hands-on Course Focusing on Improving the Reproduction of Your Cow Herd

Unit 1: Prebreeding

- ◆ Economics of getting cows bred early
- ◆ Nutrition impacts on cycling and pregnancy success
- ◆ Health and prebreeding vaccination programs
- ◆ Estrus synchronization systems for Natural Service and AI Breeding soundness exams on bulls
- ◆ Bovine reproductive anatomy
- ◆ Estrus cycle of the cow
- ◆ Heifer breeding soundness exams
- ◆ Heifer and Bull selection and improving reproduction via selection

More Information:

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Sarah Baker: sdbaker@uidaho.edu, 208-879-2344

Choose your location! Cambridge: April 1, Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall Salmon: April 3, UI Nancy M Cumings REE Center
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (lunch provided) Cost: \$40 per unit or \$100 for all 3 Registration due: March 21

Unit 2: Pregnancy detection and fall working

Cambridge: September 25 Salmon: T/B/D at a later date

Unit 3: Calving School

Cambridge: December 4 Salmon: T/B/D at a later date

**Registration form
on page 5**