



Owyhee County

Cattlemen's Corner Beef Newsletter

University of Idaho
Extension

January, 2015

Estrus Synchronization and BQA

K. Scott Jensen, UI Extension Educator, Owyhee County

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Owyhee Cattlemen's
Association meeting and
Winter Beef School
Saturday, February 14
Oreana Community Hall

Estrus synchronization is a valuable tool when utilizing artificial insemination in the beef cow herd. Estrus synchronization aids in having all eligible cattle bred at the beginning of the breeding period. It helps to concentrate labor and AI technician services into a short window of time. Many of the estrus synchronization protocols require administration of injectable reproductive hormones in order to manipulate the estrus cycle. Some AI technicians and veterinarians have been quite successful in convincing beef producers that these hormone injections must be administered in the hind quarters of the heifer/cow in order to be most effective. Is that assertion fact or fiction?

A foundational beef quality assurance (BQA) recommendation is that all injections be administered in the injection-site triangle in the neck of the animal. Adherence to this recommendation helps reduce injection-site lesions, toughness, and other issues in the more valuable hind quarter cuts (round, rump) associated with injections. (See article in this issue by Dr. Benton Glaze for more information on meat quality defects caused by injections). Is it possible to synchronize estrus in cattle and still follow BQA injection-site recommendations? Let's take a look at how reproductive hormones are moved throughout the body.

Two hormones that are commonly used to synchronize estrus in cattle are gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and pro-

taglandin (PG). GnRH is produced in the hypothalamus (part of the brain) which causes the anterior pituitary (another part of the brain) to produce follicle stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone. These hormones are then transported by the bloodstream to the reproductive organs. Prostaglandin is produced by the endometrial cells of the uterus and is transported by the bloodstream to the ovary to cause regression of the corpus luteum which in turn brings the animal into heat.

It should be noted that these and other reproductive hormones are transported by the bloodstream. They circulate throughout the body. By applying this knowledge we can determine that

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Estrus Synchronization & BQA . . . continued from page 1

there is no advantage in estrus synchronization to giving hormone injections in the “back end” of the cow. Researchers from North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, and Pennsylvania State University conducted a study looking at PG injection sites associated with CIDR synchronization protocols.

The study was conducted at 2 sites over a period of 2 years with Angus cross cattle. Treatment groups of cattle were injected in either the neck or the rump. Additionally, blood samples were collected at the time of CIDR insertion and at breeding to determine if PG injection location affected PG concentration in the blood.

The results showed that PG injection location had effect on PG concentration in the blood. More importantly, there was no statistical difference in AI pregnancy rate between the two study groups of cattle (neck injected 62.7% and rump injected 61.1%). The summary statement from the researchers was that “Overall, altering the location of the PG injection during estrus synchronization did not change circulating hormone concentrations at breeding or pregnancy rates; therefore cattle producers should follow BQA guidelines when administering estrus synchronization protocols”.

In another published study conducted by Dr. Ricardo Chebel at UC Davis, site and even route of administration (such as IM or even subcutaneously in the cervical area or in the ischio-rectal fossa) did not affect efficacy of dinoprost (a prostaglandin) in regression of the corpus luteum. In other words, this hormone functioned the same no matter where or how it was injected into the cow.

Overall, beef cattle producers do an excellent job of producing quality beef for consumers. Let’s keep up the good work and not be swayed! ♦

Estrus Synchronization Drugs and Tissue Damage: Is there a Link?

*J. Benton Glaze, Jr., Ph.D., Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Animal & Veterinary Science Department, University of Idaho*

Synchronization of estrus involves manipulating the estrus cycle of beef females so they can be bred at approximately the same time. Today, there are a variety of protocols available for synchronizing estrus in beef females. The primary products used to synchronize estrus include progestins, prostaglandins, and gonadotropins. Generally, the protocols involving prostaglandins and gonadotropins require the estrus synchronization drugs to be administered via injections.

In the beef industry, medications/drugs (antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, vaccines) are commonly given to beef cattle as a part of regular husbandry practices to prevent illnesses or diseases, treat illnesses and injuries, and alleviate pain and discomfort. These products may be given by mouth, topically, or by injection. Injections are commonly given in the muscle (intramuscular – IM), under the skin (subcutaneous – SubQ), or in the bloodstream (intravenous – IV). Intramuscular injections of almost any medication, or product, results in some form of injection-site lesion or blemish. The injection-site damage from these products is well documented. However, questions have arisen regarding estrus synchronization drugs and their potential to cause injection-site damage.

In a recent study involving dairy cows, the effect of prostaglandin and gonadotropin injections on tissue damage was evaluated. To gauge the level of tissue damage, cows in the study were injected (intramuscularly) once a week in different locations in the round with: 1) a gonadotropin, 2) a prostaglandin, 3) an anti-inflammatory (Flunixin), 4) a saline solution, and 5) a needle alone. Flunixin is labeled to be given to cattle intravenously, and the tissue damage caused by intramuscular injections is well documented. Flunixin was included in the study as a positive control.

Intramuscular injections of prostaglandin and Flunixin caused significantly greater tissue damage than the use of a needle alone. The study found no differences between prostoglandin and Flunixin. In other words, injections of prostaglandin caused as much tissue damage as Flunixin. These two products were also shown to cause marginally greater tissue damage than the gonadotropin injections. No statistically significant tissue damage differences were found between the gonadotropin, saline solu-

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A New System to Improve Efficiency — Beef Production without Mature Cows

Jason K. Ahola, George E. Seidel, and Jack C. Whittier, *Beef Management Systems*, Colorado State University

Introduction

There are only 29 million beef cows in the U.S. – the lowest inventory since 1962. And, the combination of increasing world population and an increasing standard of living in most developing countries will result in increased demand for meat over the next several decades. Providing an increased supply of beef at a reasonable price will be difficult, particularly if sustainable production methods are to be used.

Mature beef cows on cow/calf operations are provided with feed year-round to produce one weaned calf per year. And, there is a decline in the cow's value for beef over her lifetime after the birth of her first calf. If the need to maintain a mature cowherd can be eliminated by means of having each first-calf heifer replace herself with a heifer calf that she produces, every animal in the enterprise will be growing at all times. Doing so could result in up to a 30% increase in beef production without increasing the net amount of feed required. And, simultaneously greenhouse gas emissions could be decreased per unit of beef produced.

Beef Production Without Mature Cows

The “beef production without mature cows” system we are proposing involves inseminating yearling heifers with sexed semen, weaning their calves early at 90 days post-calving, feeding a grain-based diet for a short period to the dams (70 to 90 days), and harvesting the dams prior to 30 months of age to produce a high quality carcass (Figure 1). This scenario greatly reduces the total amount of feed needed per pound of beef produced, while also decreasing water use, and production of greenhouse gases and manure.

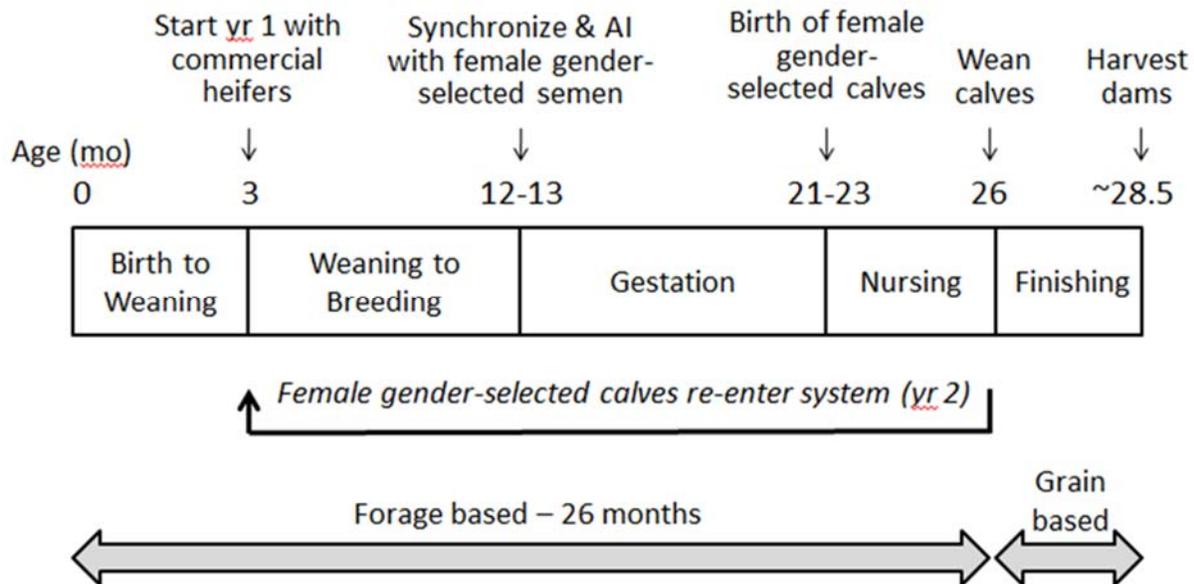


Figure 1. Design and timeframe for a beef production without mature cows system.

It has been estimated that about two-thirds (65 to 70%) of the nutrients consumed for routine beef production are attributed to the cow/calf enterprise, including getting calves to weaning age. As seen in Figure 2, these nutrients are used for cow maintenance, pregnancy, and lactation; for maintenance and growth of calves up to weaning; and for replacement heifers and natural service bulls. And, about 30% goes toward the post-weaning maintenance and growth of calves (the stocker/feedlot segments). Most recent efforts to improve the efficiency of beef production have focused on



A New System to Improve Efficiency . . . continued from page 3

post-weaning improvements to cattle production – from weaning through harvest via intensification of cattle production, often through use of technologies (e.g. growth promoting implants, beta agonists, ionophores, feed additives, etc.). However, tremendous opportunity exists to improve production efficiency via the cow/calf segment.

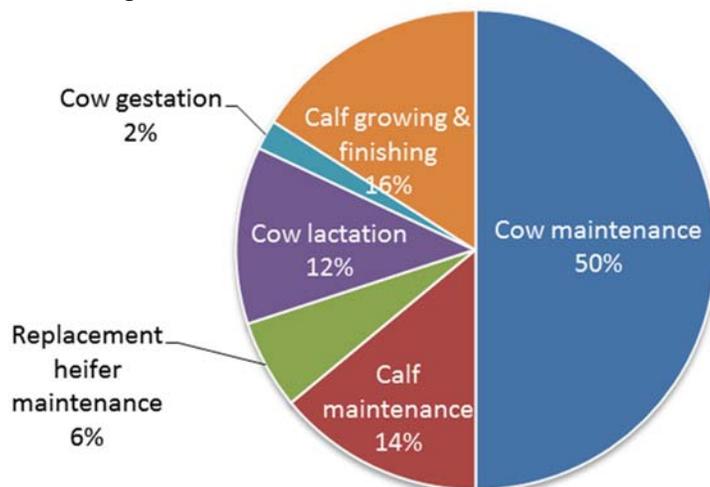


Figure 2. Conceptual illustration of the distribution of intake energy devoted to various physiological functions in a traditional beef production system in the U.S. Note that percentages will vary somewhat depending on breed, management system, and other factors.

In beef cows, feed is used to support maintenance, growth, lactation, and/or gestation. Feed can also go to fat deposition, but fat stores come and go throughout the year and the net result is zero. However, for all classes of beef cattle (cows, calves, etc.), maintenance is the largest requirement. As seen in Figure 2, 50% of all nutrients needed in the beef production system go to maintain the cowherd. In fact, of all nutrients consumed by a beef cow, 75 to 80% go toward maintenance of the cow, with just 20 to 25% available for production (i.e. gestation, lactation, or growth). Unfortunately, no beef is produced in exchange for this expenditure since the cows do not grow after they reach approximately 3 years of age. Thus, of all the feed utilized to produce a pound of beef for a consumer to eat, about half of the feed was used to simply maintain the mature cow (the dam of the animal that was used to create the pound of beef). It has been estimated that the system we are proposing eliminates the need for the approximately 50% of nutrients consumed in the total beef enterprise that go to maintaining older cows for their lifetimes. However, more nutrients are required for growth because 100% of animals are growing.

Conventional thinking has focused on maximizing longevity in beef cows, so that the cost of raising a replacement heifer can be spread across more calves in a cow's lifetime. However, this system may in fact not be the most efficient production arrangement for beef producers, due in part to the fact that efficiency is better in younger females since less feed is needed for maintenance. Thus, more rapid turn-over of a cowherd via increased replacement rate actually improves production efficiency of management systems. Early research into beef production efficiency showed that as the number of calves born per cow decreased, production efficiency increased. Thus, the traditional production system in which producers focus on maximizing the number of calves born per cow is less efficient than a single-calf system. This efficiency occurs when the dam "assumes the role" of slaughter offspring, and much of the overhead cost of producing a calf disappears and is replaced by productive growth. In 1987, Colorado State University researchers Rick Bourdon and Jim Brinks stated that "the younger the cow herd, the greater the proportion of total feed used for weight production and the smaller the proportion used for maintenance, lactation, gestation and regaining of body condition." Ultimately, the quicker a



A New System to Improve Efficiency . . . continued from page 4

replacement female can be generated and the dam harvested, the greater the efficiency.

Additional Benefits and Costs of this System

The fringe benefits of this system are substantive. Perhaps the main one is that there are no nursing, growing first-calf heifers to re-breed. Pregnancy rates for first-calf heifers are notoriously low, resulting in culling many of these prime young females unless high amounts of energy-dense feed are supplied. There also are no old cows, which are prone to problems with feet and legs, mastitis, diseased eyes, and other age-related ailments. Also, all beef produced is from young, growing animals, whereas with conventional systems a substantial amount of beef is from old, culled cows that are discounted in market value. Because a minimal number of male calves are produced in this system, there is also an animal welfare benefit due to decreased numbers of calves needing castration. A marked genetic benefit is that generation interval is greatly reduced on the female side, which results in about twice the opportunities to make genetic progress per unit time.

There are also additional costs with this system. All calves are born to first-calf heifers, which on average have higher rates of dystocia than cows. However, use of easy-calving AI sires reduces this risk and the majority of calves will be heifers, which average about 5 lbs lighter at birth than bulls and therefore have reduced incidence of dystocia. Perhaps the greatest additional cost is lower fertility with sexed vs. conventional semen. However, sperm sexing procedures are improving rapidly, so this fertility gap should narrow substantively over time. This system is also not entirely self-sustaining, in which each heifer would replace herself with the heifer calf that she produces. This is due to factors that include: 1) calf death loss, 2) less than 100% of calves are female (due to imperfect sex selection of sperm, and use of clean-up bulls), and 3) failure of some heifers to become pregnant. However, this system could be up to 75 to 80% self-sustaining, thus requiring only a small percentage of heifers from outside the system to be added each year.

That number may be slightly higher than conventional beef-production systems, but the cost per replacement will likely be lower because replacements are younger, smaller, and productive sooner.

Finally, heifers grow slightly less efficiently than steers, although use of anabolic implants can compensate for this. And, since 30 months is the oldest age at which an animal's carcass may be classified as A maturity, there also is the possibility of discounts for carcasses from 28- to 30-month-old heifers that may have physiologically advanced bone ossification (used by USDA graders when assigning quality grade) as a result of pregnancy. However, it has been shown that first-calf heifers able to grade the equivalent of USDA Choice at harvest prior to 30 months of age have been valued at 30% more per pound than cull cows. Ultimately, recovering merited price and grade would require marketing cattle outside of traditional fed cattle value-based marketing systems (e.g. grid pricing).

Conclusions

The extra costs of the proposed system appear to be more than offset by the fringe benefits, but the overriding value is not having to feed and manage a cowherd. Management for the proposed system needs to be at a high level, and to some extent, labor substitutes for feed, possibly resulting in more jobs per unit of beef produced. Several unanswered questions remain, including the ultimate profitability of this system, actual meat quality from these cattle vs. fed cattle typically produced by the industry (e.g. steers and heifers 13- to 22-months old at harvest), and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and manure. Researchers at Colorado State University have initiated a long-term trial that will evaluate 4 cohorts through a "beef production without mature cows" system. The first cohort was harvested in late September, and results will be forthcoming. ♦

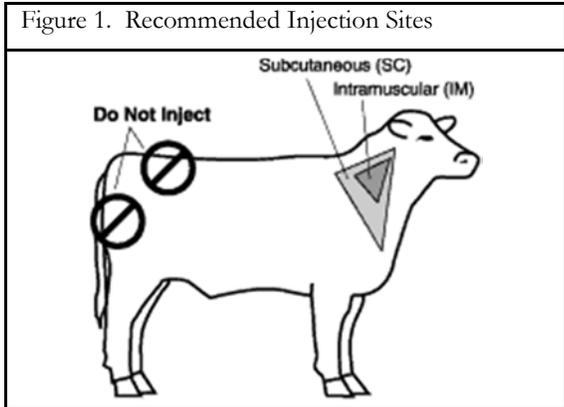


Estrus Synchronization Drugs and Tissue Damage . . . continued from page 2

tion, or needle alone. However, the authors of the study suggest that if the gonadotropin was given at the same dosage level as the prostaglandin, there may have been an increased amount of tissue damage.

Generally, it has been assumed that the use of estrus synchronization drugs causes little or no tissue damage. However, the results of the study mentioned above indicate that estrus synchronization drugs have the potential to cause significant tissue damage. In fact, injections of protoglandin caused similar tissue damage as injections of Flunixin. This suggests that as beef producers use estrus synchronization drugs in their herds, they must take steps to reduce the incidence and severity of injection-site blemishes/lesions that can result from the use of these drugs.

The incidence, severity and economic loss of injection-site blemishes/lesions can be reduced through the use of beef quality assurance (BQA) approved injection sites and injection techniques, and proper injection hygiene. Beef cattle producers should follow BQA recommendations when administering intramuscular injections during estrus synchronization. All intramuscular and subcutaneous injections should be administered to cattle in front of the shoulder in the area known as the injection-site triangle (Figure 1).

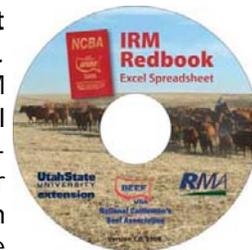


1.	Follow label directions.
2.	Give all injections in front of an animal's shoulder (in the injection site triangle).
3.	Choose route of administration that minimizes risk of tissue damage. (i.e. subcutaneous vs. intramuscular)
4.	Select sharp, sanitary needles of correct length and gauge.
5.	Do not use bent, burred, or broken needles.
6.	Do not inject more than 10cc of product in one injection site.
7.	Keep injection sites at least 4 inches apart.
8.	Adhere to withdrawal periods.
9.	Keep accurate records.

Table 1 provides general BQA guidelines for injecting animal health products which include estrus synchronization drugs, hormones and products. ♦

This newsletter is provided as a public service. If you do not have an interest in receiving the Owyhee County Extension 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, owyhee@uidaho.edu or 208-896-4104. Past editions of the newsletter are available on our website at <http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>

IRM Beef Redbooks are now available at the Extension Office. In addition, thanks to Dr. Bruce Godfrey at Utah State University, the IRM Redbook has been developed into an Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is a great companion tool to the Redbook in that you can enter and analyze the data that you have recorded in the field. The spreadsheet features the same record keeping sections as the Redbook in an easy to use Excel format. To download the spreadsheet free of charge go to www.beefusa.org/CMDocs/BeefUSA/Resources/NCBA-Redbook-Worksheet-Excel-2007.xlsx.



Who Should Attend:

- Farmers and ranchers concerned with passing the farm or ranch on to the next generation.

How You Can Benefit:

- Learn the do's and don'ts of succession planning
- Gain the impetus to get started in the process
- Identify what is important to each generation
- Gain ideas to fairly divide and transfer non-titled property

Learn How To:

- Determine the things that should be considered in a succession plan
- Develop a succession plan in a step-by-step process
- Open the lines of communication with family members
- Define personal, family, and business objectives and goals
- Collect and analyze information
- Organize your important paperwork
- Compare and choose among available options

University of Idaho Extension

The University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Teaching Staff:

Keeping the Legacy Alive was developed by faculty of UI Extension, several of whom will serve as your instructors. They include Extension educators Scott Jensen, Rikki Ruiz, Montessa Young, and Marsha Lockard.

A featured speaker will be Attorney Peter Volk, a recognized expert in farm and ranch estate planning. You won't find anyone with more practical understanding and experience in succession of agricultural operations than Pete.

For more information contact:

Scott Jensen
scottj@uidaho.edu or 208-896-4104
Rikki Ruiz
rikkiw@uidaho.edu or 208-365-6363

Keeping the Legacy Alive

Estate and Succession Planning for Farmers and Ranchers



Marsing: January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 2015
Owyhee County Extension Office, Marsing
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Emmett: January 12, 26, February 2, 9, 2015
USDA Service Center, Emmett

Cost

Per person: \$50

Per ranch/farm family: \$75 (1 set of materials)

Program

Day 1:

- Goals for a lasting legacy
- Organizing your financial paperwork
- Communicating the legacy

Day 2:

- Transferring non-titled property
- Healthy lifestyles for a healthy legacy
- Passing on Production-Cattle & Crops

Day 3:

- Communicating the legacy, Part II
- Farm and Ranch Succession Success
- It's Your Life: Letter of Last Instruction

Day 4:

- Structuring the legacy: Wills, Succession, and Probate
- Workshop commitments and evaluations

Registration

Class size is limited. Pre-register by January 12 by sending a \$25 deposit (payable to Owyhee County Extension) to:

Keeping the Legacy Alive
UI Owyhee County Extension
P.O. Box 400
Marsing, ID 83639

The remainder of your fee, if any, is due at on-site registration the first day of the workshop. We are able to accept payment by credit card.

Name(s): _____

Organization/Ranch: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Information: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact Debbie Titus at least one week in advance at P.O. Box 400, Marsing, Idaho 83639, 208-896-4104, or owyhee@uidaho.edu.

Testimonials:

"This was a very good class and a wake-up time for us!"

"We learned so much and truly enjoyed this class! The presenters were excellent. We are nearing completion of our estate plan."

"Can we come back a second time? We learned so much but there is so much more to learn. Great class!"

"I hope you offer the class again so that our children can attend. They need to come so they understand the process and why we need to do this."

"We've been given the tools to get our estate plan done. Now it is up to us to use them!"





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Why Do We Grab for Candy When Stressed?

Researchers at the Monell Chemical Sciences Center in Philadelphia found that there are glucocorticoid (GC) receptor cells on the tongue which are responsible for helping us taste sweetness. Using a mouse model, they found that these GC receptor cells are activated by glucocorticoid (GC) hormone, which is released under stressful conditions. When they compared stressed and non-stressed mice, they found that the stressed mice had a 77% increase in activation of their GC receptors.



Lead author Dr. Parker stated that "sweet taste may be particularly affected by stress. Our results may provide a molecular mechanism to help explain why some people eat more sugary foods when they are experiencing intense stress." There may be wider implications of these results, since these GC receptors are found not only on the tongue but in the cells of the

gastrointestinal tract and the pancreas.

Note: The article was published in the June 2014 issue of Neuroscience Letters - Parker, MR, Feng, D, Chamuris B, and RF Margolskee. Expression and nuclear translocation of glucocorticoid receptors in type 2 taste receptor cells, 571: 72-77.

Source: School of Family & Consumer Sciences, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, The Communicator, September 2014. <http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/fcs/news/communicator> - Martha Raidl, University of Idaho Nutrition Education Specialist ♦





A Healthy Diet is Related to Location, Location, Location



There are two studies that show the environment plays a role in whether individuals consume a healthy diet. In the first study, researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital taught 488 obese children that were 6-12 years-old and their parents how to eat healthier foods that could help them lose weight. They monitored children’s intake of fruits, vegetables, sugar-sweetened beverages, and fast-foods and compared it to how far the children lived from the local supermarket.

Overall, they found that distance from the local grocery store influenced changes in eating behaviors of fruits and vegetables and fast food. Table 1 shows that children who lived two miles or less from the supermarket increased their daily fruit and vegetable intake and decreased their weekly intake of fast foods. These results were the opposite in those who lived more than two miles from a supermarket. Consumption of sugar sweetened beverages remained unchanged and was not affected by distance from the supermarket.

Table 1. Food intake based on distance from a grocery store

	≤2 miles from grocery store	> 2 miles from grocery store
Fruit & Vegetable Intake	+0.55 servings per day	-0.21 servings per day
Fast Food Intake	-0.36 servings per week	+0.28 servings per week
Sugar Sweetened Beverages	No change	No change



In the second study, researchers at Kansas State University analyzed menus from 61 fast-food and 72 table service restaurants that were approximately one half mile from four neighborhoods. The four neighborhoods had a similar number of restaurants and two of the neighborhoods were in lower income areas and two were in higher income areas. The lower income neighborhoods had more fast food restaurants and the entrees at the table service restaurants were higher in calories and fat, and lower in whole grains, vegetables and fruit. In addition, the fast food restaurants in the lower income areas promoted larger servings and targeted youth by offering toys with meals. Lead author Katie Heinrich stated “if we don’t set up environments where the majority of choices can potentially be healthy, it becomes much more likely that people are going to make unhealthy choices.”



Lead author Katie Heinrich stated “if we don’t set up environments where the majority of choices can potentially be healthy, it becomes much more likely that people are going to make unhealthy choices.”

Source: School of Family and consumer Sciences, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, The Communicator, June 2014. <http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/fcs/news/communicator> - Martha Raidl, University of Idaho Nutrition Extension Specialist ♦



Managing our Stress



The "Why Do We Grab For Candy when Stressed?" article on page 9 serves as a reminder that we should really try to listen to our body's signals to us. Are we actively stressed and attempting to reduce this through food, or are we mindlessly consuming foods that we see in front of us? Either way, the stress will not be reduced by the consumption of the food, so we really need to look towards healthy and effective ways to manage stress.

With a new year upon us, it is crucial that we see this as an opportunity to create Lifestyle Changes instead of New Year's Resolutions. The simplest way to start this process is by looking at a few stress factors at a time, and how we may use them as tools to set us on the right path.

Here are just three to get us started:

- **Focus on what's really important to you and your family. Make time for you.** (Develop a list of priorities.) Try having regularly scheduled meetings to talk about family matters. This may sound rather silly, especially for those that have a family, but it is the core of importance as we truly take time to think of what is important to us. Perhaps the holidays strained the financial budget more than you planned for, or after having the kids home for break and with them back at school, you are realizing how you would like to be spending more time with them. Whatever it is that matters to you, it will start being a priority when you take the time to sit down and consider what is or isn't working for both you and your family. A great way to get started is by having a family dinner and including everyone in on the discussion.
- **Practice saying "no" to added demands on your personal time. This is not always that simple.** Some individuals may have the ability to say no quite easily when approached by others with an opportunity, while others may have trouble in this area. I know that for me, saying no can sometimes be unnerving as I try to make everything work out, even if it ultimately just won't work for my schedule, or mental health. This goes back to starting by focusing on importance. If you have already determined priorities range around your family and spending additional time with them now, than you have in the past, then it will be easier for you to decline an invitation that does not lend to that first priority that you have set.
- **Involve others. Loosen the Reins on Control.** Sometimes we may have an issue with controlling situations and we don't even realize it. I know that there are times when we are entertaining company in our home and instead of reaching out to my husband to assist with the different tasks that I would like to be completed before we have individuals over, I plan to complete everything myself. While around the holidays this could turn me into an absolute panic, I have instead worked to include my husband in the responsibilities. Not only does this help manage my stress level, but it also allows him to be included in the process, creating more joint ownership in the party, than if I had completed everything myself. ♦



Owyhee County



Idaho's First County!

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...to **Montana Wasson** and **Cheylih Volkers** who were selected to represent Owyhee County at the 2015 Know Your Government (KYG) Conference in Boise, February 14-16.

Would you like them to share about their KYG experience with your club to encourage more Owyhee County 8th and 9th graders to attend next year? Contact



the Extension Office and we can help make that happen! And, don't forget to check out their KYG display at the Fair!

...to **Richard & Sarah Perkins!** Their sweet babies arrived just in time for Christmas. Houston Maxwell weighed 5.14 lbs. and Hazel Autumn weighed 4.13. All are doing well and, in their spare time we're sure they are already looking over Cloverbud projects to be involved in!

Sarah will be out of the office for several weeks. Contact the Extension Office if you have any questions, and we'll do all we can to help until she returns.

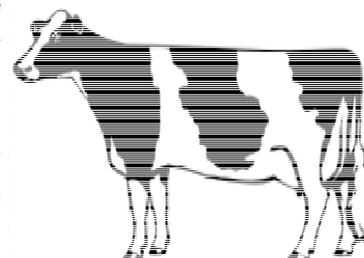


Remember when you were new to 4-H? Don't forget to encourage new members, parents and leaders and help them learn "the ropes" of Owyhee County 4-H.

Treasure Valley Dairy Replacement Heifer Project

The Treasure valley Dairy Replacement Heifer Project is open to participants from Ada, Canyon, Gem, Payette, and Owyhee counties. The purpose of the program is to increase knowledge and interest in the dairy industry.

To obtain an application, contact the Extension Office. For more information on the program, contact Samantha Graf at the Canyon County Extension Office at 459-6003, 899-5079, or at samanthag@uidaho.edu.





Message from ISDA on Avian Influenza incident



Attention Idaho Bird Breeders, NPIP participants, extension educators, 4-H and adult bird exhibitors- In an effort to keep Idaho bird breeder industry folks updated on the Avian Influenza cases occurring in the Northwest – Here is a link to a USDA news release about a new Avian Influenza incident in a backyard Oregon flock that had exposure to migrating waterfowl (ducks, geese). Please take precautions against mingling of your birds with wild ducks/geese or their manure.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/e44982>. ♦

Leaders,

In order to comply with new State 4-H requirements, to be an Owyhee County 4-H Leader this year you need to complete the following three steps:

1. Enroll
2. Background check
3. Protecting Minors Training.



If you didn't complete all three steps or are not sure, please contact Sarah as soon as possible at sperkins@uidaho.edu or 899-0968.

There will be one more new leader training in Marsing and one in Grand View/Bruneau in February. If you are interested in becoming a leader and have not contacted Sarah, please do so. We will let you know exact dates and locations soon.

Website Update. The University is making changes to their website program so we are "frozen" (fitting for this time of year!) and cannot make changes to our site at this time. If you cannot find a form you need or if there is a form that needs updated that we missed before we were "frozen", please let us know!



<http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>

Remind me again how much it costs . . .

Owyhee County 4-H fees are:

- \$4 for Cloverbuds, ages 5-7;
- \$11 for ages 8-18; and,
- \$15 for horse members ages 8-18.



Please pay your enrollment fees to your leader. They will make one payment to the Extension Office and review membership at that time. Members will be approved in 4honline once your leader has paid the Extension Office [due by March 1].

If you participate in more than one club, you still only need to pay one enrollment fee.



The youth ice fishing event had to be postponed due to weather conditions. If you would like to attend, check the Idaho Youth Outdoors website to see if they are able to re-schedule.

4-H Teen Mania

Exciting New Workshops Available!

- Backpacking Essentials
- Dutch Oven
- College 101
- Veterinary Science
- Credit Score Millionaire
- Junk Drawer Robotics



January 31, 2015

Registration 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Workshops (including lunch) 10:30 - 3:00

United Methodist church

824 E. Logan, Caldwell

Contact the Canyon County Extension Office for Workshop and registration information, 459-6003 or shelstad@uidaho.edu.

All youth, grades 7-12, are welcomed!

We had a great time and learned a lot at the Fall Project Exploration Days! Now, we are planning **Spring and Summer Project Exploration Days!** Please let us know if there are projects you would like for us to include. Are there projects members in your club would like to try but you may not have a leader for them? Is there something that your kids are interested in and you wonder if there's a 4-H project for that? We can't wait to **EXPLORE** your ideas! Please contact the Extension Office with your input. More details coming soon!





2015 Owyhee County 4-H & FFA Market Livestock Weigh-in Schedule

Species	Days on Feed	Maximum at Initial Weigh-In	Minimum at Final Weigh-in	Weigh-in Dates and Location	Final Weigh-in
Beef	150	900 (Suggested 750-850 lbs)	1,100 lbs.	Saturday, March 7 7:00 am Homedale (Burgess Angus) 1:00 pm Oreana (Bill & Bev White's) T/B/A Jordan Valley	Wednesday, August 5
Swine	114	85 (Suggested 65-80 lbs)	230 lbs.	Monday, April 13 Homedale, Rimrock, Marsing, Jordan Valley <i>[NOTE: The decision on whether Owyhee County will hold an initial swine weigh-in this year will be made in March based upon the recommendation of the State Veterinary.]</i>	Wednesday, August 5
Sheep* **	75	90 (Suggested 75-85 lbs)	110 lbs.	Friday, May 22 Homedale, Rimrock, Jordan Valley	Wednesday, August 5
Goats* **	75	Born after Jan. 1 and must have ADG of .3 at final weigh-in	65 lbs.	Friday, May 22 Homedale, Rimrock, Jordan Valley	Wednesday, August 5

* NEW FOR 2015: No collars or leads may be worn by sheep or goats on the scale.

** Scrapies tags are required for all ewes and does. All Market Sheep must be slick shorn within 7 days prior to final weigh-in.

Please contact the Owyhee County Extension Office at owyhee@uidaho.edu or 896-4104 if you have any questions. For more information about these and other projects, visit our website at <http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>.

Revised: 1-7-2015

2015 Rule Clarifications/Changes and Reminders:

- Online enrollment for new families or re-enrollment for returning 4-H and FFA members for 2015 is open at idaho.4honline.com and must be completed by **March 1**. Your enrollment must be complete to weigh-in. **Please pay your 4-H dues to your club leader.** They will review and submit one payment for your club to our office.
- Boundary Exception Petitions (for those meeting the criteria) are to be submitted to the Fair Board by **February 1**. (The form is on our website)
- Fair entries are REQUIRED and will open on June 15 and close on July 15. No exceptions. FREE online entries and \$25 per child for paper entry forms.
- Early Arrival. If you need to bring your animal to the fairgrounds at a time other than during the posted animal check-in hours, contact your Superintendent **IN ADVANCE** of your arrival at the fairgrounds to see if arrangements can be made.
- **NEW: Underweight Animals.** Those living a great distance from the fairgrounds may keep their underweight animal at the fairgrounds as long as they are removed no later than Saturday night. NO underweight animals can be on the fairgrounds Sunday morning when sale animals are sorted for delivery to packers. ALL animals must be checked out with your Superintendent.
- **NEW: Self-Insurance.** Rates for payment of youth whose market animal dies will be set each spring by the Livestock Sale Committee after reviewing the current market.
- **Owyhee County Fair & Rodeo August 3-8, 2015 . . . "Shootin' for the Stars!"**



JANUARY				
	5	M	7:00 p.m.	Owyhee County 4-H Horse Leaders (OCHL) meeting (Extension Office)
	8	Th	7:30 p.m.	Fair Board meeting (Extension Office)
	13	T	7:30 p.m.	OCA Board meeting (Murphy)
	14	W	3:00 p.m.	Owyhee Watershed Council meeting (Extension Office)
	19	M		CIVIL RIGHTS DAY - County Offices closed
	20	T	1:00 p.m.	Keeping the Legacy Alive class (Extension Office)
	27	T	1:00 p.m.	Keeping the Legacy Alive class (Extension Office)
	31	S	10am-3pm	4-H Teen Mania (United Methodist Church, Caldwell) see page
FEBRUARY				
	1	S		4-H/FFA Boundary Exception Petitions DUE to Fair Board (form available on our website)
	2	M	7:00 p.m.	Owyhee County 4-H Horse Leaders (OCHL) meeting (Extension Office)
	3	T	1:00 p.m.	Keeping the Legacy Alive class (Extension Office)
	5	Th	7:30 p.m.	Fair Board meeting (Extension Office)
	10	T	1:00 p.m.	Keeping the Legacy Alive class (Extension Office)
	11	W	3:00 p.m.	Owyhee Watershed Council meeting (Extension Office)
	14	S		Winter Beef School and Owyhee Cattlemen's Association Winter meeting (Oreana)
	14-16	S-M		KYG — 4-H Know Your Government Conference (Boise)
	24	T	6:00 p.m.	Keeping the Legacy Alive class and dinner (Extension Office)
	24-27	T-F		AI School (Extension Office and local dairies)
	28	S		County Horse Judging Contest (Canyon County Fairgrounds)
MARCH				
	1	S		Enrollment deadline for 4-H/FFA youth if participating in the Owyhee County Fair
	2	M	7:00 p.m.	Owyhee County 4-H Horse Leaders (OCHL) meeting (Extension Office)
	5	Th	7:00 p.m.	Fair Board meeting (Extension Office)
	7	S		4-H/FFA Beef weigh-in
	14	S		4-H/FFA Beef Field Day for Youth (Marsing Ag Shop)
APRIL				
	6	M	7:00 p.m.	Owyhee County 4-H Horse Leaders (OCHL) meeting (Extension Office)
	13	M		4-H/FFA Swine weigh-in

Owyhee County

238 8th Ave. W., P.O. Box 400
Marsing, ID 83639
(208) 896-4104 FAX (208) 896-4105
Owyhee@uidaho.edu
<http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ATTENTION ALL LEADERS AND ADVISORS! Due to the fact there are few changes to rules or guidelines this year, we will **NOT** be having a **Leader/Advisor meeting on January 26**. However, that being said, if you have any questions or issues you feel need to be addressed, please contact the Extension Office. We value your input, but we also know how busy you are! If you have questions that have not been addressed in this newsletter, or cannot find the forms you need on our website, let us know. Please watch for info regarding and plan to attend the pre-Fair meeting in June.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WITH BEEF PROJECTS THAT WILL WEIGH-IN IN HOMEDALE! Please note that we have changed the location for the **Homedale beef weigh-in on March 7** from the fairgrounds to **Burgess Angus Ranch**. Thank you to Doug and Janice Burgess for allowing us to use your chute and scale.

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