Owyhee County Cattlemen's Corner Beef Newsletter

July, 2011

University of Idaho Extension

Beating a Dead Horse - Reducing Feed Costs

K. Scott Jensen, UI Extension Educator, Owyhee County

Wow! I have spent much of the day listening to the Western Video Market sale while working. Today would be a great day to have a few truckloads of good steers to sell! Seems like for much of the past several months or even longer that cattle prices have been very good. Producers should be making money like never before. The only problem is that many of the input costs are also quite high. Fuel, fertilizer, and feed costs are just a few of the inputs that are quite high.

One of the best ways to reduce these costs is for cattle spend more time grazing and less time being fed. Sounds a bit too simplistic but if you really think about it, the more time spent grazing the less time required for putting up hay and feeding hay (both of which require fuel and generally some fertilizer besides).

How can you make it work for you? There are three important factors. First, you must have a willingness to make it work. The attitude of "sounds like a great idea but it can never work for me because… (insert your excuse here)", means that it surely will not work. Better is the attitude of "sounds like a great idea… what do I need to do/learn in order to make it work for me"?

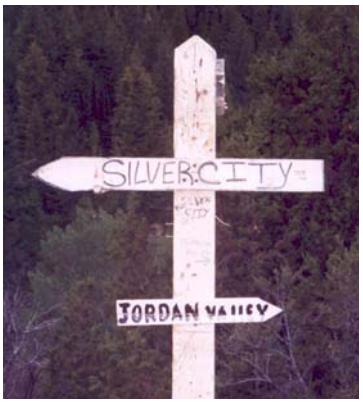
Second, you must have the forage to graze. If your cows spend much of the year grazing rangeland, take that opportunity to stockpile summer growth in your meadows or irrigated pastures to utilize for winter grazing. Wait you say… what about snow, trampling, etc., etc., etc.? The answer is that there are ways to work around each of these challenges.

Third, look for opportunities to learn how to better utilize your forage resource. One of the best learning opportunities is the Lost Rivers Grazing Academy (LRGA) that will be held September 13-16, 2011 in Salmon, Idaho. You will gain not only the theory but also the practical application that goes with it.

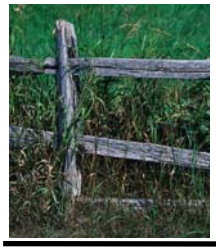
I find it interesting that the average number of days that hay is fed in Minnesota, Missouri, and Mississippi is the same (130 days). Hay feeding for many producers is more of a habit than a necessity. With hay prices hovering around $125 - $150 per ton, this is a pretty expensive habit and one that can certainly eat into the profitability of an operation!

I invite you to attend the upcoming LRGA and take some steps to reduce your feed costs while improving profitability.

Inside this issue:



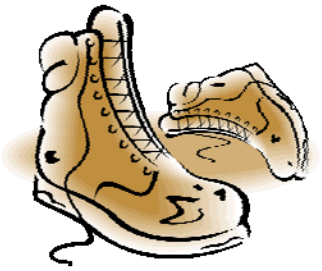
Saturday, July 30



Developing Biosecurity Habits

Stephanie Etter, University of Idaho, Canyon County Extension Educator

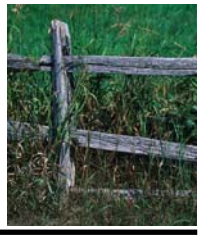
The unfortunate outbreak of equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1) in Idaho and many other Western states is a good reminder to ALL livestock owners to review biosecurity practices in place on your own operations. In the context of livestock production, biosecurity refers to those measures taken to keep infectious diseases out of populations, herds or groups of animals where they do not already exist. Diseases can potentially be spread by reintroducing animals that have been comingled with other animals at fairs or shows, bringing new animals onto your property, inanimate objects like boots, tires and buckets, vectors such as insects and wildlife and the visitors we allow on our operations.



The visitors we allow on our operations may be one of the most overlooked and possible hardest to control risk areas of biosecurity due to our human nature. Who wants to ask their friend what other farms they've been on in the past several days, or inspect their boots to make sure they are clean? Not me! However it is just as important for farm owners to expect visitors to abide by biosecurity protocols as it is for visitors to plan for biosecurity measures on the farms they visit. According to the Ohio State University factsheet "On-Farm Biosecurity: Traffic Control and Sanitation", visitors can be classified into three categories, low, medium and high risk. Low risk visitors are those who have little to no contact with livestock. Medium risk visitors are those who routinely visit farms, but have little contact with animals, such as delivery drivers, or contractors. High risk visitors are those who have close contact with animals and their bodily discharges. Precautions will vary for each individual or group depending on their risk level. Biosecurity precautions for low risk visitors would include wearing clean outwear and shoes, not allowing visitors in pens, feeding areas or to contact animals if possible, and asking them to wash their hands before leaving. Biosecurity precautions for medium risk visitors include those for low risk visitors in addition to disposable boot covers and cleaning equipment before and after use if there is contact with feed, animals, soil or manure. Biosecurity precautions for high risk visitors include those mentioned for low and medium risk as well as cleaning vehicle, tires, wheel wells and trailers prior to arriving at the farm and cleaning and disinfecting equipment and instruments that have direct contact with animals before and after use.

As mentioned before, visitors are not the only biosecurity risk that livestock operations face. Using quarantine periods and preventing vector transmission also play an important role. Quarantine any new animals you purchase or animals that have been at shows or fairs when you return home. Animals should be isolated for a minimum of two weeks, preferably 30 days, during which they should be watched closely for signs of illness. Many diseases have incubation periods of at least 14 days. Ideally isolated animals should be housed at least 300 yards away from other animals, however if this is not possible, make sure they are far enough away to avoid nose-to nose contact with other animals. Wildlife such as birds, rodents and insects can carry diseases from one farm to another. Make your farm unattractive to these species by cutting tall grass and weeds around buildings, cleaning up spilled grain or other food source and cleaning up old piles of material that could provide hiding or nesting areas. Make sure to clean water troughs on a regular basis and remove any standing water to prevent mosquito breeding areas.

Implementing biosecurity principles on your livestock operation can play a significant role in the health and wellbeing of your animals and your farm business. Developing biosecurity habits are habits worth creating.



Hardware Disease

Ron Torell, Long-Standing Educator and Advocate of Agriculture

As a kid I remember my dad announcing that the milk cow was showing signs of haywire disease. My brothers and I laughed; we thought the cow was actually going crazy! Actually my dad was referring to hardware disease. His generation called it haywire disease primarily due to the extensive use of hay wire during that time period. The high occurrence of hardware disease was due to cattle ingesting small pieces of wire which would then lodge in the reticulum causing problems and oftentimes death. My dad lectured us to pick up wire after feeding as a preventative measure. When baling twine replaced baling wire this resulted in a reduced incidence of hardware disease for the next 30 years or so. It seems, however, that this malady is yet again on the rise.

Hardware disease, also known as traumatic reticuloperitonitis, is technically not a disease. It is a mechanical injury to the reticulum. The signs of hardware disease in a cow include depression, a poor appetite, and a reluctance to move. Cattle may have indigestion and show signs of pain when defecating. The cow may stand with an arched back. A "grunt" may be heard when the cow is forced to walk. If the object penetrates close to the heart and migrates forward, an often fatal infection will result.

Hardware disease appears to be escalating mainly due to the increased use of deteriorating and discarded steel-belted tires for water and feed troughs. Many ranchers located near mining and construction areas have access to discarded steel-belted equipment tires. These worn, steel-belted tires are used for many purposes including windbreaks, water and mineral troughs, feed bunks and even fencing for corals. Thin wires exposed from the worn steel belt break off and fall into the tire feeder or water tank. Cattle ingest these fragments of metal which are mixed in with the feed. Along with metal fragments from steel-belted tires, barbed wire fencing, staples and roofing nails are often incriminated in hardware disease cases. The ingested metal objects lie in a chamber of the stomach known as the reticulum. The reticulum "catches" all heavy objects that are ingested. Feed and lighter materials pass back into the rumen leaving the heavier metal objects behind. When muscles contract, the "hardware" may be forced through the wall of the reticulum, diaphragm and heart sac.

Diagnosis can be difficult primarily because many other diseases mimic the signs of hardware disease. According to the Merck Veterinary Manual, a withers test can be done by squeezing the cow's backbone just above the withers. If the animal forcibly grunts the pain can be localized to the front half of the cow. This indicates that hardware disease may be the problem. If hardware disease is suspected, a cheap treatment is to place a commercially available magnet in the reticulum. This is done using a standard balling gun and administering it orally. If the magnet finds its way to the reticulum, there's a chance that the foreign metal will adhere to the magnet and retract. Secondly, a broad-spectrum antibiotic should be administered to control infection. Confinement of the animal will buy time so that the stomach can wall off the hole created there. Cattle with extensive infection in the abdomen or in the heart have a very poor prognosis. These cattle will die of starvation despite any attempt to encourage feed intake.

Magnets are primarily recommended as a preventative to be placed in healthy cattle prior to ingesting foreign material rather than as a treatment. Ingested metal adheres to the magnet and remains in the reticulum for the life of the cow. The foreign metal objects cause no problems due to the magnet's presence and the objects adhering to that magnetic force. Inspecting magnets post-harvest reveals the extent that cattle actually consume metal objects over their lifetime. Harvest facilities of market dairy cows will have several of these magnets on display as trophies they have collected over the years. These magnets are loaded with foreign metal objects.

Managing animal feed and feeding areas in order to avoid sharp, heavy objects finding their way into feed bunks is paramount. Magnets can be installed in feed mills and harvesting equipment to catch as many foreign objects as possible prior to entering

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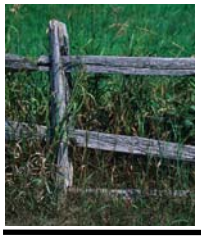

Pink Eye Season is Upon Us

James J. England, DVM, PhD, Caine Veterinary Teaching Center

Summer is here and so is pinkeye. Infectious pinkeye, also called infectious keratoconjunctivitis, caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis* occurs commonly in beef cattle during the grazing season. Not every "white" eye is infectious pinkeye, but be aware, be watchful and be ready to act! Rapid recognition, correction and treatment will avert a costly, time consuming, and potentially blinding outcome.

We all know the pain, tearing and squinting from a "finger in the eye." These also are the first signs of a potential pinkeye infection in our cows. While tearing and squinting are actually the first signs of pinkeye, owners may fail to recognize pinkeye until they see a "white" or cloudy eye. The reason tearing and squinting are so important as a first sign is because unless the surface of the cornea is abnormal, tearing and squinting do not occur.

Damage to the cells of the surface of the eye by dust, foreign material, UV light or by flies causes inflammation and permits *M. bovis* to infect the eye. The inflammatory response causes corneal opacity, clouding or whitening of the eye; the inflammation and the infection stimulate the infiltration of blood vessels into the cornea to control the infection and heal the damage. Progression of the inflammation and infection without treatment can lead to ulceration and protrusion of the cornea. (Figure 1). All animals showing tearing and squinting need examination!

Figure 1. Bilateral corneal opacity and ulceration. This animal is blind.

Treatment is most effective if initiated as early as possible in the course of the infection/condition. Using a clean latex glove that is moistened with water, examine under each eyelid and behind the third eyelid for presence of cheat grass, hay, etc. and examine the surface of the eyeball for injury. If no foreign material or evidence of injury is found, treatment with sub-conjunctival procaine penicillin G and SQ tetracycline is adequate. An eye patch is generally not necessary for this level of involvement.

If ulceration or damage is present on the cornea, an eye patch or a third eyelid flap is indicated in addition to sub-conjunctival and systemic antibiotic therapy. Ulcers > 1/4th inch in diameter or protrusion of the eye from the orbit require a third eyelid flap. Severe ulceration may require 2-3 weekly treatments with the third eyelid flap to allow the eye to heal. Severely ulcerated eyes will remain cloudy for the life of the animal even after treatment although the animal is able to see well enough to function normally.

Oxytetracycline is the only antibiotic approved for treatment of pinkeye! Nuflor™, Draxxin™, Baytril™, A180™ and penicillin have *in vitro* activity against *M. bovis*, but use of these antibiotics to treat pinkeye is an extra label drug use (ELDU). ELDU requires a veterinary prescription AND a valid veterinary:client:patient relationship. ELDU necessitates extended withdrawal times!

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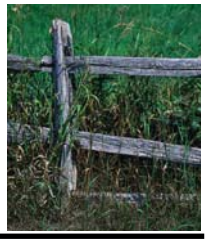


***Hardware Disease** . . . continued from page*

the feed bunk. Cattle take large mouthfuls of food and often swallow without any chewing. This indiscriminate eating pattern predisposes cattle to hardware disease especially when bunk fed a total mixed ration of chopped hay and grain. This eating pattern explains how these foreign materials easily enter the digestive system. The take home message: If you use steel-belted tires on your ranch as hay feeders and/or water or mineral troughs, inspect those tires for exposed small metal fragments that may break off and cause hardware disease. A little prevention may keep your cows from going HAYWIRE!

Past editions of the *Cattlemen's Corner Beef Newsletter* are available on our webpage at http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee

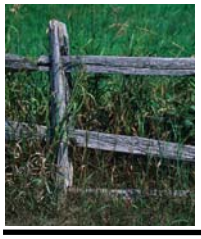
***Pink Eye Season** . . . continued from page 5*

Vaccines are available to aid in the control of pinkeye caused by *M. bovis*. The efficacy of these vaccines is controversial. Vaccine efficacy may be improved when they are administered prior to the exposure season—dust, dry grasses and flies. Hutch reared calves may not respond well enough to vaccination to be protected during the bottle feeding stage. Fly control significantly reduces the incidence and spread of *M. bovis.*

New strains of *Moraxella* organisms are being recovered with increasing frequency from outbreaks of pinkeye. The significance of these new strains, especially *M. bovicoli,* is not defined. However, these strain variants may contribute to the decreased effectiveness of the *M. bovis* vaccines.

See you in Homedale August 8-13!

August 8-9	4-H Horse events begin at 8:00 am both days
August 10	4-H Ranch Horse events 7:45 am—noon
	4-H/FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goat weigh-in
	1:00 pm Bird and Poultry Show
	1:00 pm Goat Show
	2:00 pm Pygmy Goat show
	2:00 pm Rabbit and Cavy Show
	4:00 pm Dairy Show
	8:00 pm Rodeo
August 11	8:00 am Beef Show
	1:00 pm Cat Show
	1:30 pm Dog Show
	3:00 pm Sheep Show
	3:00 pm Small Animal Round Robin
	8:00 pm Rodeo
August 12	8:00 am Swine Show
	4:00 pm 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest
	6:00 pm 4-H Fashion Revue
	7:00 pm 4-H Awards Ceremony
	8:00 pm Rodeo
August 13	noon - Buyer's Lunch & 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Sale
	8:00 pm Rodeo



EHV-1

Equine Herpesvirus Type 1
Background and Recommended Vaccination Program

James J. England, DVM, PhD, Caine Veterinary Teaching Center

EHV-1 has received a lot of attention in the last couple months especially regarding the effects it can have when it infects the brain, the neurologic form. EHV-1 has been infecting horse probably since the days of the Hagerman Horse. EHV-1 causes abortion, neurologic disease, and rarely, respiratory disease in susceptible horses. The virus is transmitted between susceptible horses through respiratory fluids. Following infection, the virus can be shed from the respiratory system for up to 21 days; thus the recommended isolation/quarantine of 21 days post the last confirmed infection.

The EHV-1 vaccines limit the spread of the viruses: however, the neurotrophic form of EHV-1 is not officially covered by the current vaccines: however, the current neurologic disease is caused by the genetic variant of EHV-1, so EHV-1 vaccination could/should limit spread of EHV-1 and hopefully the neurologic form as well.

Herpesviruses have a property that leads to the problem we've recently seen. In essence, once infected, always infected! Herpesviruses have learned how to hide somewhere in an animal's body and reside without worry of ejection. Unfortunately, these viruses can be reactivated, think "coldsores." The viruses are again shed to others causing disease and assuring their continued existence. The most likely cause of this reactivation is STRESS. Our ability to load, haul and co-mingle horses from many different and distant locations increases the ability of the viruses to reactivate and cause disease.

Early in the infection, the infected horse develops a moderate fever, 102°F (+/-) and should be isolated from other horses if this fever develops. It is recommended to monitor temperature at least twice a for 2-6 days post travel. The horses will exhibit rear end weakness and ataxia (instability, wobbling) and may dribble urine. If you see these signs, call your veterinarian! Approximately 1-5% of EHV-1 exposed horses can develop the neurologic disease. 70+% of these will recover; however, some individuals may require extensive nursing and therapy. The value of the antiviral drugs being used on affected horses is not well defined, but it is very expensive.

Fortunately, Herpesviruses are unstable outside their host, so detergent and disinfectants are effective means to limit spread of these viruses. In addition these viruses do not survive well on inanimate objects, tack, water buckets, etc., so direct and quick interaction with contaminated object is needed to transmit the virus. The lesson here is: do not share tack and feeding equipment and disinfect tack, surfaces and trailers/stalls regularly!!!

The following recommended vaccination regime should be discussed with your veterinarian and modified to fit the lifestyle of your horse(s).

RECOMMENDED VACCINES

- **CORE—every year.**
  - ◊ **Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness)**
    - ♦ **Eastern Equine encephalomyelitis (EEE)**
    - ♦ **Western Equine encephalomyelitis (WEE)**
    - ♦ **Venezuelan Equine encephalomyelitis (VEE)—not necessary but may be in some vaccines**
  - ◊ **West Nile Virus**
  - ◊ **Tetanus**
- **OPTIONAL, horses at higher risk due to increased interaction (comingling) with other horses, such as breeding horses, travelling (performance, events, fairs, etc).**

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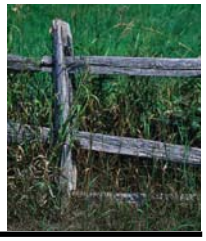

EHV-1 . . . continued from page 6

- ◊ **Equine Herpesvirus (Rhinopneumonitis/encephalitis)**
  - ♦ **EHV 1 & 4**
  - ♦ **2X/year**
- ◊ **Influenza**
- ◊ **Strangles**
- ◊ ***Rabies (Very low risk in Idaho)***
- ◊ **Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)**

ALWAYS VACCINATE ACCORDING TO LABEL DIRECTIONS.

NOTES AND PRECAUTIONS

- Rabies prevalence is very low in Idaho and is present only in bats. Stabled horses may be more at risk and justify vaccination.
- All horses that are regularly brought into contact in groups such as breeding horses, event/ performance horses, show horses, should have the core AND EHV1, influenza and strangles vaccines at least 2x/year.
- Breeding horses also should receive herpesvirus vaccination.
- EVA vaccines should be administered under the direction of a veterinarian and in accordance with the herd's control program or exposure risk.
- Strangles vaccines tend to be controversial as to protective ability and as a cause of disease or severe injection reactions. Always monitor your horse after administration of these vaccines. Strict hygienic measures, absolutely no sharing of tack or feed, are beneficial in controlling strangles.
- Nursing foals do not respond well to vaccinations due to colostral interference. Always repeat a complete label vaccination regime after 5 months of age if program was administered to foals <5 month of age.
- (Re-)vaccinate all purchases and isolate all new additions from the home herd for a minimum of 15 days.
- Always consult with your veterinarian before adopting or changing a vaccination program

Resources: http://www/vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/topics.htm:
http://www.aaep.org/control_guidelines_non-member.htm:

Fortunately, Herpesviruses are unstable outside their host, so detergent and disinfectants are effective means to limit spread of these viruses. In addition these viruses do not survive well on inanimate objects, tack, water buckets, etc., so direct and quick interaction with contaminated object is needed to transmit the virus. **The lesson here is: do not share tack and feeding equipment and disinfect tack, surfaces and trailers/stalls regularly!!!**

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association

133rd Annual Summer Meeting
July 30, 2011

Historic Schoolhouse in Silver City

Saturday, July 30

9:00 am	**Registration**
9:30 am	**Business Meeting**
	Pledge
	Membership Bit Drawing
	Introductions and President's Report - Mark Frisbie
	Introduce 2011 Beef heifer Replacement Program Recipients
	Honorary Life Members - Tom & Connie Hook, and Chad Gibson
	Owyhee Initiative Science Review Update - Chad Gibson
10:45 am	**Break**
11:00 am	Preparing for Grazing Permit Renewal - Wayne Burkhardt
Noon	**LUNCH BREAK (Potluck)**
	Permit Renewal Process - Aden Seidlitz, BLM
	Reports/Updates
	Sage Grouse Working Group - Donna Bennett
	Pickup Raffle - Chris Collett
	Resolutions
3:30 pm	**Break**
	Deck o' Cards Raffle
	New Business
	Election of Directors - Past President, Doug Rutan
	Evening Activities
5:00 pm	Social, sponsored by OWYHEE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
6:00 pm	Dinner, catered by *Grubbin' BBQ,* $15 for adults, $10 youth under 12
9:00 pm	**Dance,** music provided by Owyhee County's own Runnin' for Cover $7/person, $12/couple

Thank you to

Boehringer Ingelheim

for providing the beef for lunch!

Sunday, July 31

7:00-9:00 am	Breakfast at the historic Idaho Hotel: $9.50, or $5 ages 10 and under
10:00 am	OCA Board of Directors Meeting at the Nettleton Horse Corral

OWYHEE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 400, Marsing, ID 83639
(208) 896-4104

Date: _____/_____/_____

Your dues are now due **ONLY IF** it has been a year since they were paid. LIFE MEMBERS do not need to pay.

Name_____Phone #_____

MAILING Address_____
City State Zip

Dues Assessment Schedule

Cow-calf operations (mother cows)			
1 to 20	$15		
21 to 100	$25	Over 501	$50
Over 101	$30	Over 601	$55
Over 201	$35	Over 701	$60
Over 301	$40	Over 801	$65
Over 401	$45	Over 900	$70

Feedlot operations (one time capacity)			
Up to 1000	$25	Over 5001	$50
Over 1001	$30	Over 6001	$55
Over 2001	$35	Over 7001	$60
Over 3001	$40	Over 8001	$65
Over 4001	$45	Over 9000	$70

Check one: (See schedule above, and back of form for definitions, examples)

[ ] **INDIVIDUAL** . . . . . $_____

[ ] **FAMILY** . . . . . $_____

[ ] **CORPORATION** . . . . . $_____

[ ] **PARTNERSHIP** . . . . . $_____

[ ] **ADDITIONAL Family (age 18 or over), Corporation, or Partnership Member(s)** to be included and eligible for voting (add $5 for each) _____ **@ $5 =** $_____

(If these additional members would like to receive mailings, please note address(es) -- use back of form if you need additional space – otherwise, one mailing will be sent to the address above.)

_____ _____

_____ _____

[ ] **ASSOCIATE DUES** (for businesses or individuals that do not own cattle). . . . . $ **35.00**

[ ] **Youth Member(s) under 18** (please list below) . . . . . **NO CHARGE**

_____ _____

_____ _____

[ ] To purchase a **brand block** ($15 to cover cost), draw the brand in the box as accurately as possible

. . . . . $_____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE . . . . . $_____

Authorizing Signature _____

University of Idaho Extension

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July 30
OCA Summer Meeting
in Silver City

Looking Ahead . . .

July 30

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association Summer Meeting in Silver City

August 8-13

Owyhee County Fair & Rodeo

August 13

Owyhee County Junior Livestock Sale

September 13-16

Lost Rivers Grazing Academy in Salmon

September 30 - October 1

Applied Reproductive Strategies for Beef Cattle Symposium
More information at http://muconf.missouri.edu/arsbc-northwest/index.html

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.
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