



Herd This?



Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2014

Don't forget to call our office and set up appointments for:

- **Pregnancy checks for fall calving herds**
- **Bull tests for winter calving herds (recommended in the 30 days prior to the bulls going in)**
- **Herd health reviews for winter and fall calving herds.**
- **Herd Vaccination Ordering**

Inside this issue:

Calving Problems: 2
Prevention, Recognition and Correction

Small Ruminant 2
Intestinal Parasites: FAMACHA

A Personal Note 3-4
from Heidi



Calving Problems: Prevention and Recognition

The challenges posed by calving difficulty are twofold. The cow-calf producer must know how to handle calving difficulties when they occur as well as how to prevent or minimize them. In this Spring "Herd This?" ruminant newsletter we will help guide you in how to recognize calving difficulty ("dystocia") but most importantly tips and facts to help prevent it from occurring in your herd.

To begin with it is important to know that the most common cause of dystocia on any cattle farm is a cow/calf mismatch in size. This disproportion in size prevents labor from occurring naturally as it should and in many cases assistance is necessary for a healthy/live calf to be delivered. 75% of dystocia's arise directly from a problem with the calf such as a malpresentation, increased birth weights, or if it is a twin. The other 25% of dystocia's involve the cow or heifer that may have a very narrow pelvic cavity. This is something that can be measured using a pelvimeter. The circumference is measured and if a cow or heifer do not meet the required minimum circumference then they are not recommended for reproductive use. This tool is very useful when needing to determine which heifers in your operation you are interested in keeping as replacement heifers. At Pineview we offer Heifer Breeding Soundness Examinations whereby a pelvic measure, reproductive tract score and overall body condition assessment come together to help producers determine if a heifer is ready for breeding.



Other factors that attribute to an increased incidence of dystocia include: gestation length, calf sex, age and parity of the dam, nutrition, exercise, even geographical location. As gestation length increases so does calf birth weight by 0.3 to 0.8 pounds per day. Bulls on average outweigh heifers at birth by roughly 10 pounds. It's a well known fact that dystocia rates decrease exponentially each year a dam has another calf both due to the dams increase in frame size but also from her increase in calving experience. Skinny cows have an overall lack of energy during the birthing process which lead to difficulty calving and weak calves. Likewise over-conditioned cows can have fat birth canals and tend to have an increased incidence of calves born in abnormal presentations which lead to dystocia. In addition, these cows have an increased chance of retained placentas and uterine prolapses. Lastly, one study showed that calves born in colder climates are heavier than calves born in warmer climates which resulted in more dystocias in colder climates.



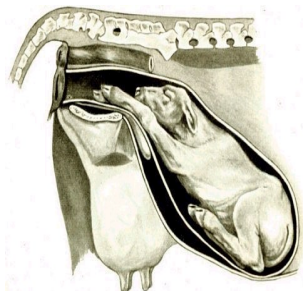
Observation is essential in knowing when a cow is ready to calve as well as when it is important to step in and assist or when to let nature take its course. Cows about to calve generally exhibit certain behavioral patterns and physical characteristic changes. For example, they may have a red swollen vulva, become separated from the herd, stand in one location and look at their sides, and have a full tight udder. Stage one of the birthing process encompass all the aforementioned observations and can begin a week or two before actually delivery occurs. Stage two starts when expulsion of the calf begins. This usually lasts 1-2 hours with active abdominal contractions observed and progressive expulsion of the calf every 15 minutes. If after 15-30 minutes of no

Continued to Page 2

Zoetis, formerly Pfizer Animal Health has partnered with several organizations to give back a portion of the purchases of qualified Zoetis cattle and equine products made between February 1st and April 30th, 2014. Pineview Veterinary Hospital has chosen to have these funds funneled back to our community into the local FFA Chapters to promote the success of our young people through agricultural education. We encourage you to purchase your Zoetis vaccines and dewormers from us before April 30th so that we can give as much as possible to our local FFA Chapters.

zoetis





Normal Calf Presentation

change in expulsion of the calf then assistance is necessary to assess that direct cause of the dystocia. Calves usually stand within 30-45 minutes of delivery and are nursing within an hour. Stage three of the birthing process is completed with the expulsion of the placental membranes. Only 2 percent of dystocia's occur in mature cows the rest are in first calve

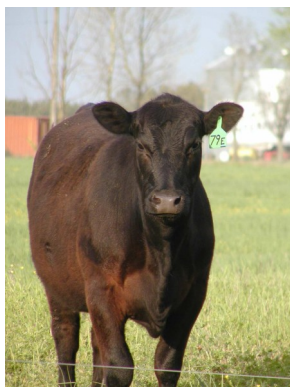
Calving Problems: Prevention and Recognition

heifers so calving them in a separate group and at an earlier time in the calving season makes it easier to identify them and focus your attention where necessary. Further discussion can be made in how to correct all the various malpresentations that calves can get themselves into however this article is primarily focused on preven-

tion and recognition. By picking low birth weight EPD bulls for heifer breeding, selecting only those heifers that meet minimum reproductive requirements and watching your cattle closely you can drastically decrease the likelihood of dystocia within your herd. As always Heidi and I are here to answer any questions you have about your herd.

Equipment to have in your OB Kit

- Two 60 inch chains with handles
- Head Snare
- Plastic gloves
- LUBE!!!
- Disinfectant
- Towels



Gastrointestinal parasites are a fact of life for those of us who own small ruminants (sheep and goats). The reality is that anthelmintic (dewormer) resistance is something that all small ruminant owners face every day. In order to manage this problem a systematic approach was developed called FAMACHA.

Due to the overuse of dewormers over many years, parasitic resistance has slowly developed leaving the excessive dosing and increased frequency of deworming an unreliable method of controlling parasites in small ruminants and camalids. Through the use of the FAMACHA system an owner is able to selectively deworm only those animals that require treatment. Research shows that when fecal egg counts are performed on an entire herd roughly 20% of the animals are harboring 80% of the worms. By treating only those animals harboring the majority of the worms with an effective dewormer, egg shedding and pasture contamination are reduced by 80%. Animals that are left untreated provide a reservoir of worms

Small Ruminant Intestinal Parasites: FAMACHA

("refugia") that have not been subject to deworming selection and therefore can continue to produce offspring that are susceptible to deworming and additionally help dilute the population of resistant worms in the environment.



In small ruminants the gastrointestinal parasite that causes the most clinical disease is *Haemonchus contortus* otherwise known as the "barber pole worm". It is a blood sucking worm which lived in the stomach of small ruminants and causes anemia (decreased red blood cells) which leads to weakness, lethargy and in some cases death. The FAMACHA system identifies those animals that are anemic by looking at the mucous membranes surrounding their eyes. On a scale of 1-5, the redness of the membrane is graded, the degree anemia is subjectively determined which then allows

an owner to determine if that particular animal needs to be dewormed or not. A FAMACHA score of 1 (deep red mucous membranes) indicated that an animal does NOT need to be dewormed. A score of 5 (white mucous membranes) means that an animal is severely anemic and needs to be dewormed right away as death may soon occur.

Through the use of selective deworming programs such as FAMACHA as well as fecal egg counts, proper nutrition and rotational grazing you can over time begin to reduce the number of resistant worms on your property and improve the overall health of your small ruminants.



Please call our office if you would like to schedule a herd health visit for need stool samples examined for you goats today.

A Personal Note From Heidi



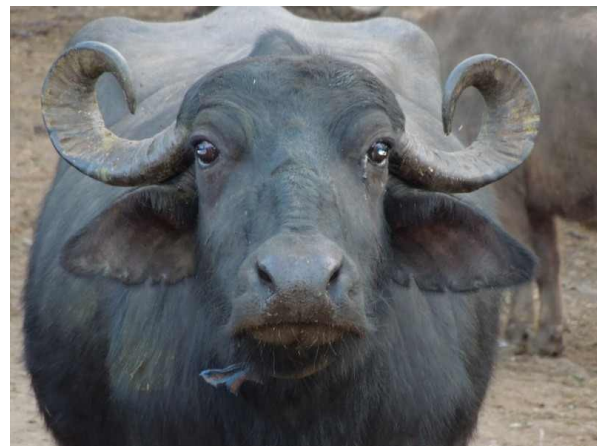
This journey we call life has taught me a few lessons over the years. Perhaps one of the best ones I have learned is that if you want to know what God's will for your life is then look where He is working and join Him. For if we place ourselves where He is working, we can't be outside of His will. And so began my search for what God's role for me was in missions. I have felt for a long time that God didn't give me the ability to be a veterinarian to keep it here. That instead, He wanted to use it as a tool to reach people with the hope of Jesus Christ. This realization has sunk in more over the past year and I really feel my heart's cry leading me to where people have never even heard of Jesus Christ. Working through Christian Veterinary Missions, the same group my husband and I went to Africa with in 2011, I had the opportunity after Christmas in 2012 to work with the Gujar people, a Muslim people group that raises water buffalo in northern India.

It is very difficult to sum up everything that happened in the two weeks I was there. There were the obvious things like treating sick animals and bringing some hope to a people whose lifestyle of harvesting milk from their buffalo for survival is being jeopardized by the population growth in the country.

But there were so many other things that I can't even begin to describe like the feeling of being right where God wanted me even amidst a jungle filled with snakes, monkeys, and leopards. It was eye opening to encounter a culture so very different from ours and yet realize that we are all still God's creations and that He needs messengers to tell those who do not know of Jesus Christ.

I was reminded many times in India of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-40 where Philip went immediately when an angel told him to go and encountered an Ethiopian reading the Bible. And Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" and the Ethiopian replied, "How can I... unless someone explains it to me?" And so it is still to this day. There are people who have never heard the name of Jesus Christ or who don't understand what He did for us. Maybe you are one of those people or maybe you, like me, want to share that Good News with as many people as you can before the race is done. If you don't understand what He did for you, then I would encourage you to talk to me or a church pastor or a friend who is a Christian and have them explain it. If you are on the other end of the spectrum and you want to use the gifts God has given you to reach people in other countries to tell them about Jesus, I would love to help you find opportunities to do that as well!

(continued on page 4)





**So whether you eat or
drink or whatever you
do, do it all for the glory
of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31

Pineview Veterinary Hospital is a large animal veterinary practice meeting the needs of horses and food animals in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

Our mission is to provide high quality service to our clients coupled with the most advanced and progressive veterinary care for our patients with an emphasis on preventive and herd health medicine.

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There are times in life when we feel like we are at the pinnacle, where we have achieved success, in whatever definition that carries for you. I can remember several situations...vet school acceptance, my wedding, vet school graduation, my first case successes, the first Thank You note from a client whose treasured horse I had to euthanize, the birth of my children. But I cannot describe how much greater and eternal the feelings of success were in these situations...the day I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and understood what it meant to have a relationship with Him, the first time a client and friend opened up and thanked me for sharing Christ with him and told me how that had impacted him, and the day my daughter talked with me about accepting Christ and wanted to be baptized. I want the latter list to be longer than the former. I want my eternal influences to outweigh my earthly influences. I want to "Run in such a way as to get the prize" (1 Corinthians 9:24) and hear my Lord and Savior say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).



And so it is with very mixed emotions that I am letting you know that I am turning a page in my life and moving to the next chapter as John, Casey, Avery, and I answer the call that God has placed on our lives to serve full-time on the mission field. John and I have been taking classes at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to prepare for career service and if all goes as we hope (which may or may not be God's plan!) we will be preparing to leaving next spring. I am so excited about the opportunity that lies ahead but I am also saddened because I am really going to miss each and every one of you and your animals that have become so special to me. As I am wrapping my head around all of this, I have frequently reflected on how perfect God's timing is and how I couldn't have asked for a better veterinarian to leave you in the hands of. Dr. Christine Long, who most of you have been seeing for several years now, will be taking over my position as the business owner and making the transition a seamless flow for you, our clients. We know this may create a lot of questions for many of you, and we want to assure you that the business will be functioning the same as it always has, there may just be one new face on the block as a new veterinarian is transitioned in, and one less as I transition out. I thank you in advance for your support through this transition, and I would covet your prayers as we prepare to serve overseas.

In Christ,
Heidi Hart