



From the Dr's desk.....

Where did the summer go? August already! We've certainly faced some major challenges with harvest thus far this summer. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the remainder of the year. We want to thank everyone for a great turnout for our annual client appreciation picnic. As always, we appreciate your business and strive to maintain your trust in us.

Vaccinate! There have been some herd health issues that cause us to REMIND everyone of the importance of vaccination. Anyone that doesn't vaccinate their herd at least annually is putting their farm at risk. A few recent pneumonia outbreaks have proven once again that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Our most common recommendation is to hit every fresh cow with a modified live virus vaccine after she freshens and her uterus has returned to normal. (IBR,PI3, BRSV, BVD types 1 and 2) Monthly herd checks are the easiest time to accomplish this task. The Pasteurella vaccines can be used also, but you should consult your regular veterinarian to determine if Pasteurella is a problem. E. coli still causes sporadic outbreaks on farms, E. Coli vaccines (J-5 & J-Vac) should be discussed with your veterinarian also. Even closed herds are not "immune" to the risk. Cows can get out, birds can carry viruses as well as bacteria, the cattle trucks can bring in disease, and don't forget about the bulls. Take a few minutes at your next herd check to talk about these issues with your vet.

Fly Spray! With the high humidity and warm weather, we are seeing huge fly problems. Even minor infestations can cause enough irritation to decrease production. Another factor to consider is pinkeye. We're seeing a fair amount of this already. Fly control is a major component of pinkeye control. Ultra Boss appears to be the most cost-effective product that also gets lice. There are plenty of choices. Consider it! Ultra Boss costs .68 ~ .85 cents a head (off truck price vs. tiered drop ship price) Schering is also offering a 8-10% rebate on this product direct to you. The rebate is available now thru October 31st and includes Pinkeye vaccine.

Laugh! With the tough year of farming we've had, I'd like to add some humor. A pastor wanted to make a spiritual point in a sermon one Sunday. He displayed four mason jars on the podium. "Each jar contains a worm," the pastor said. "One jar I've filled with alcohol. One is filled with cigarette butts and smoke. One is filled with chocolate syrup. The last one is filled with good "clean" soil." After displaying the jars for the congregation to see, the pastor relayed the fate of each worm. "The worm in the alcohol is dead. The worm in the cigarette butts and smoke is dead. The worm in the chocolate syrup is dead. The worm in the soil is alive and thriving. What can you deduce from these findings?" (You can make your own spiritual deduction now....)

A lady in the back stood up and replied: "So that means if I drink and smoke and eat chocolate I won't have worms?" (sorry, folks, that's the punch line)Dr. Jarrett Gordon



Education for Employees on the Farm ~Calving School~



In our ongoing effort to support and aid in the success of your business we are proud to introduce our Calving School. Calving School is a power point presentation brought to your farm, available in both an English and Spanish version. Please call Carrie or ask your Veterinarian for details.