Veterinary Feed Directive

The Veterinary Feed Directive has gone into effect as of January 1st, 2017. The FDA has passed regulations transitioning over-the-counter drugs to Rx status. Meaning that drugs administered through feed and mineral such as CTC and many others must now be ordered by a licensed veterinarian for a specific treatment and time. Dr. Roger Helms, DVM will be speaking about the changes and answering questions at our Multi County Beef and Forage Meeting February 21st in Ash Flat.
Extension Beef and Forage Field Day

Please make plans to attend our Multi County Beef and Forage Meeting to be held at Ozarka College in Ash Flat on February 21, 2017.

Topics to be covered will be:

- “It’s All About Time” Dr. John Jennings Extension Forage Specialist
- “Changes to Medicated Feed Regulations” Roger Helms, DVM
- “Spring Forage Weed Control and Timing” Brad Runsick CEA Fulton Co.

The conference will begin with a meal that will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentations of each of our speakers. To plan for meals, we ask that all attendees pre-register with the Izard County Extension Office by Monday, Feb. 13th. The cost is $10 that will be paid at the door. Call 870-368-4323 to pre-register.

Early Spring Weed Control

Weed control in dormant Bermuda grass: As we near spring green up, it is time to apply early weed control to our Bermuda fields. Winter weeds and grasses compete for nutrients as Bermuda breaks dormancy in March. This leads to first cutting that is largely free of weeds. For most weeds and grasses apply 16-32 oz/acre of Roundup in late February or early March. To improve broadleaf control tank mix .25 oz/acre of Metsulfuron of 1 pint/acre of 24,D Amine.

Weed control in green Bermuda grass: If the Bermuda has greened up, Pastora can be applied at 1 to 1.5 oz/acre. It does an amazing job but it is not cheap. Metsulfuron products are another good option; use the recommended rate on the label.

Greenbrier—the toughest of them all: Much work and research has been done the last few years on greenbrier control/suppression. What our guys have found to be successful and affordable is applying 2 quarts/acre Weed Master or Brash in April while the new growth on the briers are still tender. Annual vigilance is the key to suppressing greenbriers.

Early pasture weed control: Thistles and buttercups, along with dozens of other broadleaf weeds are readily controlled with an application of 1 ½-2 pints/acre of 24, D Amine. The key is to make the application by early March.

When do we intervene and assist a cow or heifer in labor?

Before the spring calving season commences, now is the time to put together and post a protocol for family members and hired employees to follow when they find a cow or heifer starting in the process of calving. An issue facing the rancher at calving time, is the amount of time heifers or cows are allowed to be in labor before assistance is given. Traditional text books, fact sheets and magazine articles stated that “Stage II” of labor lasted from 2 to 4 hours. “Stage II” is defined as that portion of the birthing process from the first appearance of the water bag until the baby calf is delivered. Research data from Oklahoma State University and the USDA experiment station at Miles City, Montana clearly show that Stage II is much shorter, lasting approximately 60 minutes in first calf heifers, and 30 minutes in mature cows.

Table 1. Research Results of Length of Stage II of Parturition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>No. of Animals</th>
<th>Length of State II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USDA (Doornbos, et al. 1984. JAS:59:1)</td>
<td>24 mature cows</td>
<td>22.5 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA (Doornbos, et al. 1984. JAS:59:1)</td>
<td>32 first calf heifers</td>
<td>54.1 min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In these studies, heifers that were in stage II of labor, much more than one hour, or cows that were in stage II, much more than 30 minutes, definitely needed assistance. Research information also shows that calves from prolonged deliveries are weaker and more disease prone, even if born alive. In addition, cows or heifers with prolonged deliveries return to heat later and are less likely to be bred for the next calf crop. Consequently a good rule of thumb: “If the heifer is not making significant progress 1 hour after the water bag or feet appear, examine the heifer to see if you can provide assistance. Mature cows should be watched for only 30 minutes before a rectal examine is conducted.” Make certain the cervix is completely dilated before pulling on the chains. **If you cannot safely deliver the calf yourself at this time, call your local large animal veterinarian immediately.**

Most ranches develop heifers fully, and use calving ease bulls to prevent calving difficulties. However, a few difficult births are going to occur each calving season. Using the concept of evening feeding to get more heifers calving in daylight, and productive two-year cows to rebreed next year.