



# Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Spring 2021 Newsletter

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- Since my last COVID-19 update there have been a few changes: A house cat in Virginia tested positive for SARS CoV2 in the past 2 weeks. The cat had an underlying heart condition and then contracted COVID-19 from its owner who had been clinical with the disease. The owner recovered, however, the cat died from respiratory complications of the disease. Also, two gorillas have tested positive at a zoo in the U.S. The take home message here is **NOT** to freak out, just be aware that if your household is infected with COVID-19 and your pets become ill, you should make your veterinarian aware.
- Please continue to be patient with our staff here at LVS. We are short staffed at times because of exposures to COVID-19. We take public health very seriously and strive to protect each other here in the office and our clients. We will be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine very soon, as veterinarians qualify in the 1B phase of vaccination. Agricultural workers are also in this category. Contact your local health department for details.
- **Shipping delays** continue to be an issue, as well as back orders on some drugs and medicals supplies, due to COVID-19 spreading through the supply warehouses and manufacturing plants. Please start gathering your herd health supplies **early** this year! There often are substitutes for items that may not be available in time for Spring.
- To our clients, friends, and family who are in the medical field we would like to say **thank you** and let you know how much we appreciate your hard work during this pandemic! I encourage you all to reach out to these doctors, nurses and hospital staffers and do something nice for them.

## Grab Your Spring Herd Health Planning by the Balls!



This section is designed to be a worksheet to help you guide you through planning for your cattle herd work this Spring. I encourage you to print it off and work through it in the next month, so that you are ready for go time in the Spring!

Please feel free to call the office and schedule a consultation time if you would like to speak to a veterinarian to help you plan or if you have questions.

Pro-tip: Do **NOT** wait until your bulls are this big to castrate them...it is more like an amputation!

1. Do you have a defined calving season? If so, what are the dates?

\*If there are pregnant cows coming through in the Spring that may affect what type of vaccines can be used.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have a defined breeding season? If so, what were the dates?

\*This will be important for the vet to know for pregnancy checking accurately.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which month in the Spring is the most advantageous for you to work your cattle? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Decisions that play into this is:

When do you have help? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning to cull any of the open cows, if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

How early can the vet pregnancy check all the cows in the group (30 days after the bull's removal)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning on bringing the cattle through multiple times? \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to think about efficacy of external parasite strategies when planning herd work.

Please call the office to set up your herd work as early as you nail down a time frame!

4. Are you planning to cull any cattle? Yes or No

\*Please think about this ahead of time of the herd work if possible

\*Decisions that go into this should involve:

What is your maximum stocking density? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider to be an OLD cow? (My answer is over 12) \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you are interested in having any of your cows aged at the time of herd work, just let us know.

Have you had cows with chronic lameness or unresolved health issues this year?

\_\_\_\_\_ If so, make a list of their numbers before herd work.

A veterinary friend of mine once told a group of vet students "You choose your keeper cows like you choose your girlfriends: Feet and legs, good body condition, and udders."

That quote always makes me laugh, but there is a lot of truth to it!

Another good policy to use regarding culling is the 3 Strikes, You're Out policy...it's as easy as it seems. The 3 strikes could be anything from the size of the calf they produce, to the fact that she has very few teeth left, to the fact that she rolled your truck into a pond when you tried to tag her calf!

## 5. What respiratory/reproductive vaccines are you planning to use for the cows?

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\*Any products listed in this document will be chosen because they are included in the CVCA drug deal, except the Bayer drugs.

If the cows are pregnant it is always safest to use Killed vaccine. Triangle 10 HB and CattleMaster Gold FP5L5. Always be sure brood cows are receiving Lepto in any vaccine given!

If the cows are open, you can use a Modified Live or Killed vaccine. The two appropriate for cows are: Express 10 and Bovi-Shield Gold FP5L5. If the cow is open AND a cull, do not put any vaccine in her, as it has a 21-day meat withdrawal.

## 6. What respiratory vaccines are you planning to use for the calves?

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\*This is heavily dependent on the age of the calves at the time of processing and if the calves have had any vaccinations.

\*It is also important to consider how you are going to market your calves! There are MANY options in this regard and different sales have different requirements. Contact your extension agent or Steve Hopkins ([hopyy@vt.edu](mailto:hopyy@vt.edu)) at the CVCA if you need help finding requirements for a particular sale.

If your calves had Inforce-3 intranasal at birth, it is definitely time to use a 5-way respiratory vaccine now. Those include: Pyramid 5 and Bovi-Shield 5, if you are keeping a lot of replacement heifers be sure and use Express 10 or Bovi-Shield 5 FP5L5 (so that Lepto is included.)

If your calves have not had any vaccine yet and are having stressful procedures (like castrating or dehorning) done you may want to start with Inforce 3 intranasal.

If your calves are being sold in a double vaccinated sale you will need to plan a time to bring the calves back through for a booster vaccination in approximately 4 weeks. At this time, you'll need to include the shipping fever component into the vaccine so you'll

need: Pyramid 5 plus Presponse Or Bovi-Shield with One Shot. These vaccines will give the calves a fever, so weather needs to be considered for the booster!

7. What 7-way Clostridial (Blackleg) product are you going to use?

\_\_\_\_\_

\*All the cattle that you are keeping will need a 7-way vaccination! They get these bacteria from the dirt, so everyone needs it, and it is cheap so NO excuses. It is also important to remember if you are castrating or dehorning at this time, you will want an 8-way vaccine to include tetanus.

\*There are 2 cc 7-way shots and 5 cc 7-way shots. Be sure to shake this vaccine gently and mix thoroughly. They can leave injection site lesions otherwise.

\*There are MANY products in this category. 2 cc dosages include: Caliber 7 and Ultrachoice. 5 cc dosages include: BarVac 7 and Ultrabac.

8. Are you going to vaccinate for pinkeye and if so, what product are you going to use? \_\_\_\_\_

\*I generally encourage producers to vaccinate for pinkeye because it is beneficial in helping to prevent the disease.

There are many products available for purchase, however, the Central Virginia Regional pinkeye vaccine is the only one that includes *Mycoplasma bovoculi* and is made from the eye cultures of cows right here in Central Virginia. You would need to purchase this from a CVCA participating veterinarian and it is always helpful to pre-order to ensure availability. This vaccine does call for a booster shot, boosters can also be given in the face of an outbreak to lessen the severity of pinkeye in cattle not already affected.

We are looking at purchasing a single dose custom made pinkeye product for 2021. Please let us know at your Spring herd work if you would be interested in using a single dose product.

9. Is there any benefit to using an injectable trace mineral supplement on the cattle? Choose for yourself: Yes or No

Producers that have used Multi-Min 90 in the past continue to use the product, which to me speaks to its efficacy. We are definitely Selenium deficient in Virginia and selenium is a key player in the cow's immune system. Also, I believe there is much more Copper deficiency in our region than we realize. Copper is another key player in the cow's immune and reproductive systems.

Cattle that received Multi-Min 90 at last year's herd work did seem to fare better with diseases like pinkeye and Theileria.

This product is also beneficial to calves when given prior to weaning to help abate the stress and immune challenges around the time of weaning.

10. What type of dewormer are you planning to use in the Spring?

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There are MANY types of dewormers available. I would encourage you to steer clear of generic dewormers, they are not studied and not supported by the company.

Here are a few of your choices and considerations:

\*Pour-on dewormers: Eprinex and Dectomax are 2 examples. They are popular because they help control internal and external parasites and they are easy to apply as the cattle are coming through the chute. Eprinex has zero meat withdrawal so if you need to apply it to a cull cow with lice you can. Some people feel there is no point in deworming adult cattle, but a pour-on of some sort is necessary for external parasite control.

\*Injectable dewormers: Long-range and Dectomax are 2 examples and they also control both internal and external parasites. Sucking lice and ticks can be defeated by Long-Range. The Long-Range works in the system for several months. Most clients report that its greatest benefit is on ruminating (over 3-month-old calves) grazing on the pasture before they are sold after weaning. It is always important when choosing a dewormer that you make sure you get the bang for your buck. If you deworm a calf on its way off the farm, only the next person gets the benefit.

\*Oral dewormers: Synanthic is an example. These dewormers can be a bit difficult for some producers to administer. They are excellent on helping to eradicate internal parasites on young cattle however, and I believe this is where they have their greatest value.

11. What products are you planning on using for external parasites: Flies, Ticks, and Lice? \_\_\_\_\_

If the cattle are heavily infested with lice coming through in the Spring, there is an excellent Bayer product called Clean Up II that will kill the lice. Pour-on dewormers are only really for the prevention of lice. Clean Up II will also offer your cattle tick protection for a few months as well.

Pour-on dewormers do offer about 8 weeks of fly protection for the cattle.

Fly tags offer 3 months of face fly and tick protection for cattle. There are two types: Permethrin based and Organophosphate (OP) based. Here at LVS we usually use the Permethrin based ones two years in a row and then move to OPs. Rotating is important to prevent resistance. If you had issues with ticks last year in your cattle herd, I do believe the fly tags will be important for your cattle. But remember: they do wear off before tick season ends!

In the mid to late summer when all your external abatement strategies begin to fail it is important to get out there and spray your cattle. There is an excellent product called Permethrin CDS and it can be applied topically or out of a pump sprayer in the field. It is a nice product because you can spray the cattle thoroughly and it is oily and sticks to them. Sometimes in the late part of the summer cattle must be sprayed every 2-3 weeks to knock down the flies and ticks.

Unfortunately, there is no one right answer on how to approach external parasite control in your herd. Many of these strategies need to be used in combination to achieve the greatest success!

12. How are you going to keep your records at Spring herd work time?  
Paper or Computer???

\*Record keeping is SO important! As is being able to compare records from past years. If you do not have enough help to keep records, please let us know and I will bring an extra person to help keep records.

I.D. of all animals is necessary. Please have number tags ready at the time of herd work for any cattle missing tags.



Having a spread sheet is helpful to a lot of our clients with any pertinent notes from last year's herd work. For instance, if a cow had a growth starting on her eye or had hardened fat on rectal palpation.

13. Are your cattle pens and handling facility in safe, working order before the day of the herd work? Yes or No

\*Remember, most veterinarians charge by time, so it is helpful if your boards are strong enough to hold the cattle in and your head gate is sprayed for bees and well-oiled.

\*If you do not have a safe head chute with a palpation gate, just let us know and we will be happy to bring our portable For-Most chute along.

14. Please use this space to note any unanswered questions or concerns you have for the veterinarians.

15. Please remember if you need mineral medicated with CTC to help prevent tick borne illnesses, such as Anaplasmosis and Theileria, call the office in March. We will put the 6-month prescription in by computer. This takes some time so please do not call at the last minute. Also, please call the place you are picking it up to make sure they have received the mineral and have the product in stock.

## *Friendly Reminders for Our Small Ruminant Clients Heading into Birthing Season...*



- Now is the time when nutrition is key for the does and ewes that are about to deliver babies in the next month- 70% of the fetal growth occurs in the last 30-40 days of gestation! Remember to increase the concentrated feed accordingly and feed your **best** second cut hay. Keep the water fresh and clean!
- Remember to have Bo-Se on hand for newborns and does with retained placentas. As mentioned above, there are some supply chain issues due to the pandemic (so far not with selenium), so **plan ahead**.
- Refresh your lambing and kidding kit supplies. Make sure to wear gloves to assist **any** birth! This year is especially important because the hand sanitizers are causing hands to have cracked skin and there is an uptick in abortive diseases in sheep already. Many of these abortive diseases are zoonotic and some cause symptoms similar to COVID-19.
- Remember to schedule disbudding approximately 7-10 days after birth. We will likely be having at least one disbudding afternoon per week here at the office starting in March.

## Interested in Becoming A Pot-Bellied Pig Owner???

Recently in Central Virginia there have been several large-scale pot-bellied pig seizures due to situations that got out of hand. Because of this there are **many** pot-bellied pigs looking for new homes. Many of them are being removed from the properties by legitimate pot-bellied pig rescue groups and are being vetted upon removal.

Owning a pot-bellied pig is an **important** responsibility, not to be taken lightly. These pigs would require proper outdoor pens and weight management. There are many online resources that explain the proper care of a pot-bellied pig. You should consult a credible resource so that you know what is involved before rescuing a pig.

If you are seriously interested in adopting a pig please contact:  
Laura Li Pulliam at 434-465-3050

This past year I was involved in an animal cruelty case in which a pot-bellied pig had to be removed and brought to my home for a short period of veterinary rehab before being adopted. My client Allison adopted the pig and named him Tuck. She has done a **wonderful** job with Tuck and I am grateful to her for being willing to give him a forever home!



\*Pictured are Lucy and Tuck (L) and Allison and Tuck (R)

# New Producer Rebates Announced on Draxxin...

As some of you already know, Draxxin, the potent, expensive respiratory antibiotic is going generic in 2021. For this reason, Zoetis is going to offer **lucrative** producer rebates to try and keep client's business.

An important thing to remember about generic drugs is that they typically are not studied scientifically, and they are not supported by the company. Below is an instruction page of how to get your rebate just by using your cell phone!



**Draxxin**  
(tulathromycin)  
Injectable Solution

- 1 Simply text **DRAXXIN** to **24272** or scan the QR code below  
(By texting, you agree to the mobile opt-in conditions below)
- 2 Access the link, snap a pic of your receipt\* to upload
- 3 Get your rebate via PayPal®, Venmo® or paper check

**REBATE of \$100\*** on 100mL of DRAXXIN

**REBATE of \$200\*** on 250mL of DRAXXIN

**REBATE of \$400\*** on 500mL of DRAXXIN

Please see eligibility criteria below.

 **STAY AHEAD OF YOUR HERD'S HEALTH**

Eligibility criteria: Leaders' Edge™ customers are not eligible for this offer. Contact your Zoetis representative for alternative offers.

\* Receipts must be itemized (include product name, package size, and price). Credit card receipts are not valid. One receipt per image.

The following terms and conditions apply:

Customers can claim the rebate on multiple purchases during the program period, but each individual purchase is eligible for the rebate one time. Rebate payments will be made via PayPal, Venmo or paper check. Offer valid from 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 on purchases made between 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021.

Mobile opt-in: By participating, you agree to the terms and privacy policy (www.DraxxinRewards.com/ruled) for automated marketing messages from Zoetis to the phone number that you provide. No consent required to buy. Message and data rates may apply.

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