



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Spring 2022

OFFICE



Please welcome Bekah Ritchie who is joining our staff later this month. Bekah will be full time and helping on calls with Dr. McCall and in the office when she is not needed on the road.

Bekah (Ritchie) is from the Richmond area but is a country girl at heart. She lived in Gum Spring for several years and hopes to return to country living soon. She has been around animals all her life and couldn't imagine not working with them. She has worked at a spay and neuter clinic as well as a full-service veterinary clinic, volunteers for a feral cat organization, and is a member of Louisa CART. Even though she has mainly worked with small animals, she is looking forward to the new and exciting world of large veterinary medicine. She lives with her boyfriend of 13 years and an array of rescues, including bearded dragons and a one-legged chicken.

Beginning March 10th, Cecilia will be on medical leave for 3 weeks. During that time, Bekah will be working, but she may not be physically present in the office. We ask that you **plan ahead**. If you need medications or supplies, we may be able to drop ship what you need, or when you call, we can arrange a time for you to pick up what you need. If you wish to drop off a sample or payment, please call ahead to let us know to look in the cooler for it. Cecilia is planning to return part time in April, and back to full time in May.

VFD and Medicated Minerals...

All VFDs are done electronically and sent automatically to the feed store of your choice. There is a \$20 charge for each VFD, so having accurate information is extremely important.

The information we will need to be able to file your prescription is the **number of cows and calves you will be feeding**, and **which feed store** you will be buying from.

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 from to make sure they have received the prescription and have the product in stock.



DRAXXIN REBATE

Zoetis is offering a rebate on purchases of all sizes of Draxxin made between January 1 and December 31, 2022. A copy of the rebate form is available by following this link https://9d6edd8a-0e54-4520-95cc-67efbd6143e2.usrfiles.com/ugd/9d6edd_7f6cdfbc445a4ae8a99cbd30104fcace.pdf. You can mail in the rebate form or scan the QR code and file on-line. Rebates for CVCA members will be done automatically through the CVCA.

DELAYS AND MORE DELAYS

Like everyone else, Covid 19 has affected the veterinary industry. Finding vaccines, medications and supplies can be a challenge this year. Continuing problems in the supply chain from sourcing raw materials to transportation are affecting our ability to get overnight shipping on supplies and making some products unavailable. If you will be getting your supplies through us this year, please give us **plenty of time** to get what you need. If there is an issue with getting a particular product, we can probably recommend another that will give you the same result.

Another affected area is the postal service. A number of checks mailed to us in December still have not arrived. If you have questions about the balance on your account, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can always pay by credit card over the phone if you don't trust the postal service.

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?

*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? _____

*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 (hobby@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 or 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 will need to include the shipping fever component into the vaccinate 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 2023. 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? _____

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 to use 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!

When figuring out what you will need to do your spring herd work, don't forget your fly tags. If you are following our fly tag program, we will be using organo-phosphate tags this year and **only stocking what clients have pre-ordered by Mid-March**. Remember it is 2 fly tags per cow and 1 fly tag per calf.

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.

NEWS FROM THE STATE LAB



The Virginia state laboratory is working on 2 new panels that may be of interest. One is a Ruminant Abortion panel, the other is a Bovine Respiratory panel. These panels are still in the verification stage. What does that mean, you ask? When we submit samples for testing, the state will run the samples, but they will also send them out to their outside reference lab so they can compare results. After a certain number of samples have been run by both labs and the results confirmed, the equipment and procedures used by the state are considered to be correct.

The sample needed for the Bovine Respiratory panel is lung tissue taken during a necropsy. Once the verification process is complete, nasal or tracheal swabs and tracheal fluid will be accepted. For the Ruminant Abortion panel verification, the state is looking for fetal or placental tissue. Once verification is complete for this panel, fetal stomach fluids, liver, spleen, and/or heart samples will be accepted for testing.

If you would like to participate in helping the state get these panels verified and available to all, and have an animal you think may qualify for the testing, please let us know and we will be happy to come and collect the necessary samples.

