



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Spring 2019

HAY!?? Don't forget about the cattle

Well, we all know the last year has been one of the wettest on record; and therefore, one of the most stressful – both mentally and physically. I've heard many conversations about hay, and the at the quality has suffered due to the weather. It may be missing the nutritional content in terms of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. This is likely to have an impact on the cattle in multiple ways.

We are tending to see the cattle struggle to maintain body condition. This can also impact overall health and reproductive performance. While we can't "fix" our hay quality, we CAN help the cattle meet their mineral requirements. Even when providing loose or block minerals to cattle, they can be deficient. MultiMin 90 is an injectable product that provides Copper, Selenium, Zinc and Manganese.

These trace minerals play a critical role in immune function, overall health and reproductive performance. In an injectable form you can guarantee each animal receives these minerals. Many studies have shown this product to improve health and reproductive rates in cattle.

We all know the cattle have been stressed this past year and if you're considering ways to help, this product is a great option. If you any questions about the product feel free to contact Louisa Vet Service. There is also informative information found on the website at MultiMinusa.com



Pinkeye Vaccine Update: The vaccine will be the same custom mix as was available last year. We are well stocked, but I would still recommend getting your entire order at one time to ensure you are able to have it for this season. Feel free to call us and come pick up your order soon. The new order of our vaccine will take 6 weeks to come in, so plan ahead.



SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS ONLINE
WWW.VVMA.ORG/PETPICS



3 winners will be chosen quarterly

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A \$50
CREDIT TOWARDS THEIR NEXT
VETERINARY VISIT*

*exclusions apply; for more information,
please visit www.vvma.org/petpics

Don't forget to schedule
my next vet appointment!



Contest winners are picked quarterly, next one is in April. Get those baby pictures in to win!

Go to vvma.org/petpics to fill out the form and submit the picture.

New to the team....



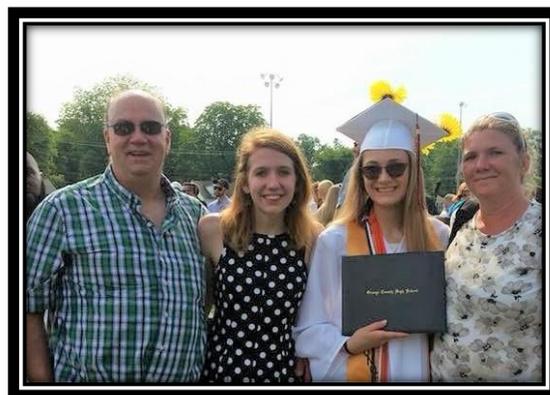
Julie Capozella

I'm married and live in Louisa with my 4 boys and am active in the local 4H program. Family, Church and Farm are the highlights of my life.

This new position with LVS connects the dots from farming to livestock care!

Heidi Akers

For the past 13+ years Randy and I have managed a commercial cow/ calf operation. We have one pet show pig, "Cha-cha" and bred her for show pigs. Our personal herd is registered Angus. We have two daughters in college, Rebecca & Roxanne. I enjoy gardening, spending time with the piglets & baby calves, and watching my daughter(s) show cattle.



What is Animal Cruelty???

We often hear the term “animal cruelty” thrown around in the newspapers, on the news, and on social media, but what does the term really mean and how does it affect you as a farmer? In today’s world many people have very different ideas of how animals should be taken care of, we are going to explore what things are just a difference of opinion with another person and when the treatment of an animal becomes punishable by law.

The definition of animal cruelty in a legal dictionary is:

The crime of inflicting physical pain, suffering or death on an animal, usually a tame one, beyond necessity for normal discipline. It can include neglect that is so monstrous (withholding food and water) that the animal has suffered, died or been put in imminent danger of death.

In the Code of Virginia section 3.2-6570 it clearly lays out all the acts and/or activities involving animals that are considered cruel and how they are punishable by law. I am going to point out one that pertains directly to you as a farmer.

(ii) deprives any animal of necessary food, drink, shelter or emergency veterinary treatment

This is the code section I end up in court for repeatedly. Occasionally for starvation - and, yes, feeding only hay that is 10% crude protein counts as starvation! Rarely do we see a lack of water, but sometimes there is not enough water provided or it’s filthy. The shelter part only really becomes an issue when you have an animal that can’t get itself out of the weather. You are not required by law to have a barn necessarily, but you are **required** to make at least a temporary shelter over an animal that is laying out in the hot sun, rain, or snow. And finally, the emergency veterinary treatment portion. Usually the way these people surface is that they call the vet’s office. They’ll say they have an emergency, but decide the veterinary care is too expensive and then do nothing except let the animal die slowly. There are times when the veterinary care may be a lot more than the market price of the animal, but as the owner of the animal you either do what it takes to get them help **OR** humanely euthanize them yourself. There is nothing criminal about humanely euthanizing your own animal. That said, I would be careful about performing that act right beside a busy road!

If you are convicted of animal cruelty for a production animal it is a Class 1 misdemeanor, if it’s your second conviction it is a Class 6 felony. Mostly, you would just get a large fine and you wouldn’t be able to own animals for some amount of time determined by the judge. A felony can carry jail time and if there are any dogs and cats involved - those are always felonies.

I am certainly NOT writing this to scare you, it is designed to help you stay out of trouble with the law. It is important to remember...only 2% of us in this country are involved in agriculture and only 1% is involved in animal agriculture. There are hardly any agricultural educational programs in the school systems anymore.

A few tips for staying out of trouble with animal control:

- 1) Host a training session with animal control at your farm and teach them about common farming practices. This gives you the opportunity to meet law enforcement on good terms and educate them.

- 2) If animal control calls you and says they have had a complaint about you invite them to come by and check things out. Show them your operation and your other animals. DO NOT get defensive with them!
- 3) Make sure if you have old, lame, or thin animals to keep them away from the road because they raise repeated questions. These animals should ideally be kept in a group of their own and be fed and cared for separately.
- 4) If you do have a thin animal because of a health issue or heavy production keep good records, especially vet records handy. Animal control loves to see records to prove the animal is being cared for properly.
- 5) If you have a down animal have food and water available for it 24-7. If there are other animals in the field partition them away from the down animal so they have no competition. Try to do your best to keep them sitting up or prop them up. See picture examples below!

This cow will easily bloat and die in this position, regardless of its medical condition.



This down cow has been given support by the hay roll to stay sternal, hay and fresh water available.



- 6) One thing we do here at LVS is donate money to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, a program run by VA Farm Bureau to educate students about agriculture using retired school teachers. We do this in memory of our producers that pass away instead of flowers. I have been very impressed with this program.
- 7) Do not hesitate to call us if you have had a complaint called in on you. We are happy to speak to the animal control officers and vouch for you. If we haven't been out to your farm for several years this will require us coming out to evaluate a situation. Also, your medical records are kept by us for 7-10 years so that may be helpful as well.

I hope you find this article to be helpful. This is a very important topic, especially with the terrible weather we have had this fall and winter. You have no control over the environment and the market prices for animals, but you do have control over the care you provide for your animals. Work hard to do your best for them, be consistent, and have a good working relationship with your veterinarian and your local law enforcement.

Dr. Melinda

Coccidia

Stomach Worms

Which species are affected?	Cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, pigs, poultry, horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles (i.e. everyone!...even <i>humans</i> *)	Sheep, goats , llamas, alpacas, cattle
What will I see if my animals are infected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea (can have mucous or appear bloody), weight loss, decreased appetite, unthriftiness, fever • Most often affects younger animals, may become a herd/flock problem if animals are stressed - stress suppresses the immune system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anemia (pale mucous membranes, FAMACHA scores 3-5 in sheep and goats), bottle jaw, unthriftiness, weakness, diarrhea, weight loss, sudden death - may present more commonly as diarrhea in cattle, llamas, and alpacas
What is the vet looking for to make a diagnosis?	<p>We may take a stool sample, either directly from the animal or find a fresh pile on the ground to look for eggs under the microscope.</p>  <p><i>Eimeria</i> spp. oocysts (eggs) in sheep fecal sample</p>	 <p><i>Haemonchus contortus</i> eggs in a goat fecal sample</p>
How are they spread?	Fecal-oral route Oocysts (eggs) are consumed directly from the environment	Fecal-oral route Eggs pass through feces and hatch into larvae in pasture, then larvae are ingested to start the cycle over again
How do I treat an infection?	Supportive therapy - fluids to treat dehydration and antibiotics to prevent any secondary infection may be part of treatment. Products like Corid (Amprolium) and Ponazuril are commonly used to treat clinical cases. Consult your veterinarian for treatment advice.	There are a wide variety of dewormers out on the market. Consult your veterinarian regarding decisions on which product is most efficacious and economical for your herd/flock. We also have insight on resistance patterns to certain dewormers in the area.
How do I prevent future infections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water and feed, free of fecal material • Prevent overcrowding • Clean and disinfect holding areas for new animals - drying and exposing to sunlight helps kill eggs • Restrict grazing near streams/creeks/ponds • Prevent overgrazing - eating closer to the ground increases the number of parasites that animals pick up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent overcrowding • Use strategic deworming (especially in small ruminants) - Only deworm animals with clinical signs (pale mucous membranes, high FAMACHA scores in small ruminants, weight loss, diarrhea, etc.) • Only use one product to deworm - repeated use of dewormers increases the chance for resistance, using multiple products is a gamble and may quickly leave you with no effective dewormers

*Humans can contract coccidia from animals, usually associated with the *Isospora* species. It causes similar symptoms in humans as in animals. While infection in humans is not common, it is always a good idea to practice good hygiene when dealing with any animal fecal material.

More resources:

[American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control](#)

[Current Strategies in Parasite Control in Virginia Beef Cattle](#), Virginia Cooperative Extension

[Parasite Management in Camelids](#), Stacey Byers, DVM, MS, Dipl ACVIM

[Handbook for the Control of Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats](#), University of Guelph, Canada (different climate from central VA, but relevant information on lifecycle and disease process)