SINCE 1929

Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc.

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
**PAID**
Permit No. 80
Staunton, VA

**AUGUSTA COOPERATIVE FARM BUREAU, INC.**
**1205B RICHMOND RD.**
**STAUNTON, VA 24401**

AUGUSTACOOP.COM
/ AUGUSTACOOPERATIVEFARMBUREAU
/ AUGUSTACOOPFB

# AGRONOMY & BEEF BULLETIN

November 2023

SINCE 1929

Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc.

# TEN WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS ON YOUR BEEF CATTLE OPERATION

## MITIGATE THE RISK OF RESPIRATORY DISEASE WITH SOUND STRESS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

Quality colostrum and vaccination can get animals off to a great start, but even in a vaccinated animal, stress can compromise their immune system and make them susceptible to respiratory disease.

"We need to be considerate of all the different stress factors that can set an animal up for the onset of disease," said Joe Gillespie, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim. "How we manage livestock during their growth phase is really important. We must be diligent and proactive on all fronts in order to protect calves."

Implementing the following management practices can help mitigate stress and prevent disease in your herd:

- Screen incoming calves for bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) and remove persistently infected calves from the herd.
- Shield cattle from harsh weather conditions and give them plenty of bunk space.
- Avoid overcrowding, as it causes stress and promotes the spread of disease.
- Bed cattle frequently. Bedding provides added warmth, improved comfort and a barrier between cattle and the ground below, which can contain pathogens.
- Maintain proper ventilation to keep cattle from inhaling dust and harmful BRD-causing pathogens.
- Ensure cattle have access to water and a properly balanced diet. This is necessary for healthy immune function and proper growth.
- Clean water sources, feed bunks or other heavy-use areas regularly.
- Minimize the commingling of animals from different sources. If unavoidable, use a preconditioning program.
- Practice low-stress handling to ensure the moving process goes smoothly for both producers and the cattle. Low-stress handling techniques include presenting a calm disposition, avoiding loud noises, reducing the use of cattle prods, and removing visual distractions.
- Work with a veterinarian to implement a deworming protocol for parasite protection. Clinical or subclinical parasitism decreases the animal's ability to fight disease, and may negatively affect response to vaccination by competing with the immune system for protein and energy.



Even with the best management practices in place, some stressful events, such as shipping, are unavoidable. "When producers know that animals are about to experience a stressful event, metaphylaxis is an option to explore," noted Dr. Gillespie. Administering metaphylaxis, or a group antibiotic treatment, for at-risk animals can help reduce morbidity and mortality on beef operations.

"Talk with a veterinarian about finding an antibiotic for metaphylaxis that works best for your specific class of cattle," emphasized Dr. Gillespie. "Typically, several factors should be evaluated, such as spectrum of activity, speed of action, and post-metaphylactic interval, or the length of time the antibiotic is at effective levels in the bloodstream before another dose is required. Because a number of different bacteria can be involved with respiratory disease, it's also important to choose a broad-spectrum antibiotic that reaches the lungs quickly."

BRD is the costliest cause of sickness and death in the beef industry and implementing a holistic approach to battling the disease could help to provide the protection producers are looking for, concluded Dr. Gillespie. "With the right management strategies, producers can put their cattle on track for lifelong productivity and well-being."

*Beef Magazine*



# FOCUS ON BULL RECOVERY AFTER BREEDING SEASON

## TAKE CARE OF YOUR BULLS SO THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR COWS.

As fall approaches, it is important to keep in mind proper nutrition and care of the herd sires after the breeding season. This is especially true for bulls under two years of age, according to Iowa Beef Center research scientist Garland Dahlke.

"It is common for a young sire to drop one to two body condition scores during the breeding season, so bringing the bull back into condition is the focus in the off season," he says. "The bull is not a feedlot steer so a steady improvement with a moderate weight gain over the next few months is appropriate."

Nutrition is dependent on the age of bulls and the amount of weight lost during the breeding season. High quality forage alone or a lower quality forage with some grain supplementation can work in re-establishing body weight.



*continued on page 2*

For effective management, group bulls with similar nutritional needs during the winter. This also includes adequate bunk or feeder space, so the submissive bulls have a fighting chance.

Typically, mature bulls in fairly good condition can be managed on an all-roughage diet without supplementation during the winter months, Dahlke explains. Hay quality should have 8%-10% crude protein and be fed at 2% of their body weight.

For young bulls, rations should be formulated to gain half a pound to 2 pounds per day based on age, size, and desired weight gain. Young bulls typically lose 50-200 pounds during their first breeding season, so prioritizing protein and energy in their diet will promote growth and subsequent reproductive health.

Young bulls fed 3 to 6 pounds of grain in the winter, roughage at 2% of body weight, and total diet protein content of 10%-11% often reach the target rate of gain. For bulls used in both spring and fall calving herds, young bulls typically need to gain more with a target of 2 to 2.5 pounds per day to recover from weight loss.

Iowa State University extension beef specialist Chris Clark, who also is a veterinarian, says post-breeding season can be a good time to do an overall health evaluation.

“Hopefully producers have been checking regularly throughout the breeding season and catching things like injuries, lameness, pinkeye, and other diseases,” he says. “There shouldn’t be any big surprises when bulls are pulled from the cows.”

Depending on the processing schedule, this may be a good time to vaccinate and treat for parasites, Clark said. Efficacy of external parasite control often has waned by the end of breeding season and bulls may have picked up internal parasites while grazing, so it may be beneficial to apply some kind of antiparasitic treatment.

Herd biosecurity is another top health priority.

“It may be worthwhile to test for things like trichomonas,” Clark says. “In a relatively closed herd, this probably isn’t a big concern, but if the bulls have had contact with neighboring herds or if new open cows were added to the herd prior to or during the breeding season, testing is wise.”

IBC extension cow-calf specialist Randie Culbertson says focusing on your older bull is helpful now.

“This is also a good time to evaluate your older bull’s performance through last year’s calf crop,” she says. “Did his calves perform as you expected? Will you consider keeping his daughters as replacements? And the bigger question is, did his calves have any calving issues?

“A bull’s value is in the performance of his calves, and if his calves are not performing the way you would want, it may be time to consider replacing that bull,” Culbertson adds.

*Beef Magazine*

# TIMING, PRODUCT KEY TO FALL CATTLE LICE TREATMENTS

## USING THE WRONG PRODUCTS AT THE WRONG TIME CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

Treating cattle for lice when it is convenient—usually during preconditioning and preg-checking—isn’t necessarily the most effective approach.

While late summer and early fall endectocide (drugs that kill both internal and external parasitic insects) treatment may work on most internal parasites and horn flies, lice may escape.

Cattle are usually infested with more than one species of lice, and calves, yearlings and older poor-conditioned cattle usually have the heaviest lice infestations. Heavy louse populations can lower milk production, stunt growth, cause hair loss, an unthrifty appearance and anemia.

University of Nebraska and other studies indicate heavy lice populations (more than 10 lice/inch2) may reduce calf weight gains by as much as 0.21 lb./day. These studies also indicate calves fed at a higher nutrition level had lower lice populations and were affected less severely by lice than calves fed a maintenance ration.



## Timing of cattle lice control

Cattle lice are cold weather insects, thriving during wintery conditions. During summer months cattle lice undergo a period of dormancy called estivation, when their reproduction is reduced significantly. Temperatures above 78° F in September, October and November will suppress louse development, because the cattle skin temperature will exceed 100° F.

If endectocide treatments are applied too early during a warm extended fall, like in 2021 and 2022, lice will develop slowly and can


*continued on page 3*

largely escape the endectocide treatment.

Later, when cold weather does set in, lice outbreaks can occur if the endectocide has broken down. Livestock producers who use a fall treatment strategy should monitor their cattle for signs of lice, especially during December, January, and February, and consider re-treating. However, using the wrong products at the wrong time can do more harm than good.



## Cattle lice treatment options

Cattle lice treatment products fall into several categories: animal sprays, non-systemic (contact) pour-on, and endectocides (systemic pour-on, absorbed internally and systemic injectable). Some non-systemic pour-ons require just one application and some require two applications spaced 14 days apart. Systemic injectables work better on the three species of sucking lice than on the little red chewing louse. A systemic pour-on can effectively kill both chewing and sucking lice.

Insecticide treatments, regardless of application method, should be rotated through insecticide Mode of Action groups (MoA) as outlined by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee, to reduce the likelihood of developing resistance. The IRAC website offers an app to download or a web-based database that outlines which insecticides are in which groups. Since there are 36 different groups, it's best to check the classifications prior to investing in an insecticide strategy.

Continual use of products from a single numbered group against a pest species can lead to reduced control (resistance to all products in the group). The recommended management practice to manage resistance is to alternate insecticide classes, and that applies to animal sprays, dusts, non-systemic pour-ons, and endectocides (injectable and pour-on formulations).

To reduce control failures due to insecticide resistance, do not apply pesticides within the same group number repeatedly, and always follow label directions. Insecticides and endectocides are an investment of time, money and cattle stress, and there are real costs to insect infestations. Putting a few extra minutes into correctly applying these tools can make all the difference between an effective and ineffective insect control program.

When applying any insecticide control product, please read and follow label directions.

*Beef Magazine*



# BEST PRACTICES FOR VACCINATING CALVES, HANDLING VACCINES

## GOOD PROTOCOLS CAN ENSURE ANIMALS GET THE MOST BENEFIT FROM HEALTH THERAPIES.

Fall weaning and transportation can be a high-stress period for calves that may be transitioning from one operation to another. As animal care providers, it's our job to take that into consideration and do all we can to reduce the stress load on these animals.

First, let's think of the period in which cattle are being transported as them running a marathon. A past BQA survey indicated that feeder calves traveling to Texas or Nebraska feedyards traveled up to 468 miles. When those animals step off the truck, they are likely exhausted, nutritionally depleted, and susceptible to an illness.

If we immediately run them through a chute, the stress of weaning or of transportation may influence how the animal's immune system reacts to an immune challenge brought on by a vaccine.

To make sure animals get the most benefit from any health therapies at receiving, producers can utilize basic Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Best Management Practices (BMPs).

## Receiving and vaccinating cattle

- As animals walk off the truck, evaluate and document the animals' condition and anything that needs immediate attention.
- Allow freshly received animals to rest for 24-72 hours before processing. They should have access to long-stem hay and unlimited fresh, clean water. This rest period allows time for the animals to settle and adjust to their new environment, whether that's a dedicated "receiving" pen or the animals' home pen.
- Vaccinate after animals have rested and had a chance to eat and drink, dropping their stress level and giving their immune system a chance to





*continued on page 4*

recover and prepare for responding to the vaccine.

- Vaccines should be given in front of the shoulder unless otherwise directed by the label.
- All animal health treatments should be recorded and documented.
- No animal should be marketed until all animal health product withdrawal periods have passed.

## Vaccine Care

- Read the label and follow directions for uses, storage guidelines, administration, dosage and other instructions.
- Do not expose vaccines to conditions outside the labeled temperature ranges, including freezing, or to sunlight.
- Light-sensitive animal health products should be transported and stored chute-side in a cooler with ice packs, if necessary. Use a towel or cardboard divider to keep the products from coming into contact with the ice packs, which can cause slushing/freezing.
- Some animal health products can be frozen and thawed safely, but others release endotoxins if they are frozen and thawed, which can be harmful and cause serious complications, including death.
- Anytime the vaccine gun is not being used, it should be stored in the cooler, or at least out of the sunlight.
- If the vaccine or animal health product needs to be mixed, mix only what can be used in an hour or less. Some products are viable for a limited time once mixed, so mixing it as you use it helps ensure its effectiveness and that you don't waste product when unforeseen delays happen.
- Use caution when shaking/mixing animal health products, even when instructed to "mix well" by the label. Shaking vigorously can damage the product, releasing endotoxins. The best way to mix it is to roll it between your hands, swishing it around in the vial, both clockwise and counterclockwise, and turning it upside-down several times.



## Syringes

- Label your syringes and have separate syringes assigned for specific products. Inadvertently mixing animal health products or subjecting products to cross-contamination from syringes can have adverse implications.
- Never mix animal health products in the same syringe to reduce the number of injections. This is prohibited by federal law for producers.
- Sanitize syringes and reusable equipment using heat—boiling water or steam. Do not use detergents (soaps) or disinfectants (alcohols) to clean syringes. These products may leave a residue that can damage or destroy animal health products on the next use.

## Needles

- Always use a new, sterile needle when drawing up animal health products, to avoid contaminating the product left in the bottle, which may make it useless.
- Change needles every 10-15 head and/or every time you refill the syringe, or if the needles are contaminated, dull, develop a bur, or bend. Needles are cheap, compared to the cost of vaccines and animal health.

*Beef Magazine*

## Creep Feeder Available to Rent

### Dixie Classic Creep Feeder

SKU PMWMW816

3 Ton Capacity • EZ-Use Feed Agitator
8 FT. Long Feed Pan • Adjustable Feed Door
Panels/Rain Shields • Panel Hold-Down Bracket

**Scan QR code to learn more!**

# Vendor Day

Wednesday, February 21 • 4 PM - 8 PM
Augusta Expo - Multipurpose Building
277 Expo Rd • Fishersville, VA 22939

The largest farming brands on site in one location! Book your 2024 items at drastically reduced rates at our annual vendor day. Door prizes, food, educational seminars and much more!

Boehringer Ingelheim
zoetis
BUSINESS IS BUILT ON Madison Wood
GALLAGHER
STAY-TUFF
TARTER FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT

Visit AugustaCoop.com for more details

## JOIN US FOR OUR BLACK FRIDAY SALE - NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH

STAUNTON LOCATION ONLY.

AUGUSTA True Value
HOMETOWN REWARDS

# 30% OFF ALL CLOTHING

ONLY NOV. 3RD & 4TH






In-stock items only. Excludes clearance.

## EVENTS / CALENDAR

TO VIEW ALL CALENDAR EVENTS,
SCAN THE QR CODE.

### ROAD TO THE RING

**Wednesday, November 1 | 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Blue Ridge Community College – Plecker Center
1 College Ln. | Weyers Cave, VA 24486

A hands on experience designed for all 4-H/FFA Livestock Showmen. Presenters will inspire you to obtain the skills and techniques needed for success in the show ring! Become a better livestock showman, marketer, herdsman and learn the latest in nutrition and overall animal health.

RSVP required to Allison Bagley ABagley@AugustaCoop.com. Dinner will be provided.

**Please note: Road to the Ring will be hosted at a NEW location this year.**

### BLACK FRIDAY SALE

**Friday & Saturday, November 3-4**

Augusta Co-op - Staunton location only
1205B Richmond Ave | Staunton, VA 24401
30% off all clothing.

### AGRONOMY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

**Friday, February 9 | 11 AM - 2 PM**

Augusta Expo - Building 2
277 Expo Rd, | Fishersville, VA 22939
Additional information: RSVP to Staci Alger at (540) 885-1265 x 253 or SAlger@AugustaCoop.com

### VENDOR DAY

**Wednesday, February 21 | 4 PM - 8 PM**

Augusta Expo - Multipurpose Building
277 Expo Rd, | Fishersville, VA 22939
The largest farming brands on site in one location! Book your 2024 items at drastically reduced rates at our annual vendor day! Door prizes, food, educational seminars and much more! Visit AugustaCoop.com for more details. *Full list of sale items available February 9, 2024 on AugustaCoop.com/events.

---

Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc.

ROAD To The ring

# 5TH ANNUAL

# AUGUSTA CO-OP 'ROAD TO THE RING'

**A hands on experience designed for all 4-H / FFA Livestock Showmen. Presenters will inspire you to obtain the skills and techniques needed for success in the show ring! Become a better livestock showman, marketer, herdsman and learn the latest in nutrition and overall animal health.**

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

## 5:30 PM - 8 PM

## BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - PLECKER CENTER

## 1 College Ln. - Weyers Cave, VA 24486

**RSVP REQUIRED - www.AugustaCoop.com/events or scan QR code**

***New breakout session format***

# 4TH IN THE NATION

## among ag banks and the 30th largest agricultural lender among all U.S. commercial banks.

**Keith Phillips**
Harrisonburg

**Bradley Webb**
Harrisonburg | NMLS# 491101

**David Kiracofe**
Bridgewater | NMLS# 491081

**Ashlie Howell**
Verona | NMLS# 571338

**Emma Brown**
Harrisonburg | NMLS# 1687152

**Bradley Dunsmore**
Staunton | NMLS# 1040561

**Josh Phillips**
Harrisonburg

**Sheldon Waldron**
Harrisonburg

*Our local, experienced team is here to assist you with the financial needs of your operation.*

First Bank & Trust Company

**First Bank and Trust Company offers flexible financing solutions for Agricultural Operations.**

✓ Land and Real-estate Loans ✓ Equipment Loans ✓ Loans for Livestock and other operations ✓ Operating Lines of Credit ✓ Mortgage Loans: Construction-to-Permanent, Rural Development, Renovation and more.

**Bridgewater**
610 B North Main St.
540-246-0003

**Harrisonburg**
120 University Blvd.
540-437-0604

**Staunton**
1030 Richmond Rd.
540-885-8000

**Verona**
1563 Commerce Rd.
540-248-7700

**www.firstbank.com/ag** | Member FDIC |

**Ag loans and loans secured by farmland equal or exceed 25 percent of total loans. FDIC Data as of June 30 2022.*