



Offering leadership to the local beef cattle industry@

Winter, 2009

Dear Fairfield County Cattlemen,

With the holidays behind us now, you all know the first few months of the year is meeting season. Throughout this newsletter you will find mention of several meetings that may be of interest in addition to the annual **Fairfield County Cattlemen's Banquet** slated for February 25 at Alley Park near Lancaster.

Secondly, as many of you enter calving season a few timely reminders. Remember there are 3 basic stages for your cows. Taken from a presentation by Feeder Creek Vet Clinic.

Stage 1: When the cow is preparing for delivery. Her uterus is toning up and the cervix is dilating. Often she will be restless. Getting up and down repeatedly, separates herself from the herd. Usually will eat less or not at all. This stage lasts about 2-8 hours and is easily missed unless you check your cows closely. If this stage would happen to last more than 12 hours she should be checked for a possible breach.

Stage 2: The actual delivery of the calf. She is in definite labor, up and down and the abdomen is definitely contracting. Within 1 to 1.5 hours after the start of this labor either membranes, a foot, nose or tail should be visible. If the calf is not delivered or at least making definite progress after 2 hours then the need for assistance has arrived.

Stage 3: Expulsion of the placenta. Should occur in 8-12 hours.

Think, before you act. Take deliberate, calm and thoughtful actions. This will protect the welfare of you and your cows. If you are unsure the best course of action; call your vet.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support during the last year. We have added some positive things for our members. This newsletter is very informative with

the help of many but with special thanks to Connie and Stan Smith. The ability to sample your forage and be able to better gauge the nutrition your cattle receive is a great benefit funded through the steak trailer proceeds. Also, FCCA continues the support of our youth through scholarships and the county fair, and support of the industry through local promotions of beef.

Lisa Burnworth, FCCA President

Ohio Cattlemen's District meeting slated for January 22

The Ohio Cattlemen's District 9 meeting will be held on January 22, 2009 at the Fairfield County Ag Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments provided by the Fairfield County Cattlemen. Dr Francis Fluharty will speak on Managing Co- and By Product Feeds. For details, contact Emily Agle at 614.873.6736 for details.

Private Pesticide Recertification

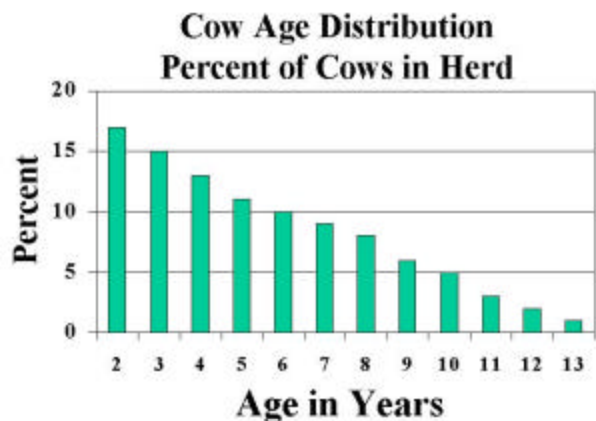
Now is a good time to check your pesticide license to see if this is the year for renewal. If so, pesticide recertification opportunities begin in January. The first recertification program will be on January 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Top Hat Restaurant in Junction City. Contact Ted Wiseman @ 740.743.1602 for details. The Fairfield County recertification class will be held on February 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at OSU Extension in Fairfield County. A third session is slated for February 16 at the Laurelville Sr. Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. The fourth and final session will be an evening session at the Ag Center in Fairfield County beginning at 6:30 p.m. on February 18. Contact OSU Extension in Fairfield County if you have questions at 740-653-5419.

Understanding the New Farm Program

A New Year, a New Farm program . . . what decisions need to be made, when? To help answer these questions and more, Aaron Stockberger and the Fairfield Co. FSA staff will host a meeting on January 27, 2009 at the Ag Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. A second meeting will be held on February 3, 2009 also at 9:30 a.m. to answer your questions. For more details please contact the Fairfield County FSA office at 740.653.4012.

Sorting Cows for Efficient Winter Feeding

Sound sorting concepts of the spring-calving beef cow herd should improve the efficiency of the feeding program throughout the winter. Before we divide up the herd, it makes some sense to inventory the cows to be divided. How many cows of each age group do we have? Every herd will be a little bit different, but a Research Station Herd in North Dakota can give us data to use as a guideline. Dr. Kris Ringwall of the North Dakota State University Dickinson Research Extension Center reported recently on the average percentage of cows in their herd (by age group) over the last 20 years. This is depicted graphically below:



This data points out that 17% of this herd over the years was in the "first-calf heifer" category. The also noted that 11% of the herd was 10 years of age and older. Fifteen (15%) percent of the cows were 2nd calf 3 year-olds. From this data they formulated three logical groups of cows to be pastured together for feeding efficiency.

Group 1: The two-year old first calf heifers. They have higher nutrient needs than other cows that are not

growing. They are too small to compete with larger, older, boss cows for the supplement.

Group 2: The old cows (10 years and older) and the 2nd calf heifers. In addition, this group should include any of the middle aged cows that were thin and needed extra supplement. Cows that were Body Condition Score 4 or less would be considered.

Group 3: The remaining cow herd. This is the group that is mature in size and in adequate condition to enter the winter feeding period as at least Body Condition Score 5.

If only two groups are possible, putting groups 1 and 2 together would be the logical other combination. Cattlemen then want to be certain that the feeding program is adequate to have cows in each group calve as BCS 5 or 6 next spring. Visit with the local County Extension Office for more detailed information about winter feeding recommendations.

Don't Forget about the Benefits of Cattlemen's Association Memberships

Local Cattlemen Offer Forage Testing

The Fairfield County Cattlemen recently announced a partnership with OSU Extension and Holmes Lab in Millersburg to provide each member of the Fairfield County Cattlemen's with a free forage testing analysis. The analysis will be a foundation for FCCA members to understand the forages that are being fed to their herds to improve nutrition. FCCA directors hope this is the first in a building block of helping their members improve the quality of forage and level of nutrition to the herds and feedlots.

FCCA provides a kit that has instructions for the process and OSU Extension serves as a guide during the process and interprets the results for members.

To date, few samples have been submitted, but from those that have been, the *average* of them WILL NOT support a cow late in gestation, and certainly not after calving, without some supplemental energy being offered. This is particularly true of any first cutting hay that was made after early June in 2008!

OCA Ends Successful 08 Membership Year

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association closed its books for the 2008 membership year with an increase in members over the previous four years. Membership numbers for 2008 included a 4 percent increase over 2007 and a gain of 365 new members.

"Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and that is no exception for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association," said Mike Carper, OCA President. "We are very excited that so many of Ohio's beef producers have recognized the importance of belonging to OCA."

OCA also announced the members of its 2008 Top Hand Club on Aug. 31, 2008, at the end of its 2008 membership recruitment season. The members will be recognized at OCA's Annual Meeting on Jan. 17, 2009. This year's Top Hand Club, which includes 27 of OCA's most active members, was responsible for recruiting 199 new members. Other membership growth was witnessed through the OCA BEST Program, a youth sanctioned show and leadership program, and through beef producers joining to participate in OCA's beef improvement activities.

OCA members can join the Top Hand Club by recruiting five new OCA members. Members are recognized based on the number of new members they recruit. Local area Top Hand Club members who recruited at least five new members include: Brad Linden, Jake Wolfinger and Stan Smith.

For more information about joining the Ohio Cattlemen's Association or the Top Hand Club please call the Ohio Cattlemen's Association office at (614) 873-6736 or visit www.ohiocattle.org

Join NCBA or Recruit, Get Free Dewormer

In a new membership offer, cattlemen who join NCBA or recruit others to join will receive a free 500mL bottle of Cydectin Pour-On dewormers compliments of Fort Dodge Animal Health. The dewormer has a value of \$60; an NCBA membership would cost less than that for many cattlemen. "It is one more economical reason for cattlemen to help build strength in numbers," says Melville Montana cow-calf producer Bill Donald who chairs the NCBA Policy Division. "Along with the Cydectin offer, members also have exclusive benefits from John Deere, Cabela's and Caterpillar. There is no

better time to join than now! The Cydectin offer extends for new members (not renewing) members, but supplies are limited. For information about this offer, please contact Sheryl Slagle at 303-694-0305 or sslagle@beef.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Beef Feed Management and Technology School

If you own and feed a beef animal, plan to enroll in the 2009 Ohio State University Beef Feed Management and Technology School. In fact, considering the remarkable changes in the industry over only the past year, even if you've attended this course previously, its time to attend again. This school provides cattlemen with an excellent educational opportunity to increase knowledge about all aspects of ruminant feed management including the latest on efficiently managing the by- and co-products cattlemen presently have access to for inclusion in rations.

Dr. Francis L. Fluharty, Department of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University will be the instructor for the 8 week course. Classes will be held on 8 consecutive Tuesdays starting on January 13 and running through March 3, 2009. The classes will be 3 hours per night (6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.) for a total 24 hours of instruction. Those completing the course will earn the requirements for designation as an Ohio Professional Beef Producer.

The following is a list of some of the major topics that will be taught in the school: Overview of Factors Affecting Profitability; Industry Challenges; Anatomy and Function of the Ruminant Digestive System; USDA Quality and Yield Grades and Beef Carcass Characteristics; Feeder Calf Grades, Weaning Management Strategies, and Factors Affecting Price; Feedlot Receiving Period Strategies for Keeping Newly Arrived Calves Healthy; Growing and Finishing Systems for Calves versus Yearlings; Grain Processing Methods; Utilizing Distiller's Grains and Other By-Product Feeds; Feed Bunk Management and Feed Intake Control Strategies to Optimize Feed Efficiency and Minimize Metabolic Disorders; Factors Affecting Price Received for Finished Cattle; Understanding Grid Pricing, and Feeding for Grids ; Economic Analyses and Breakeven Calculations; Using Prediction Equations for Gain and

Intake to Assist in Marketing Decisions.

The school will be held at the New Lexington High School Vo Ag Room. The cost of registration for the school is \$50.00 for the first person from an operation plus \$10 for each additional person from that operation. Registration includes a resource notebook and refreshments.

To enroll in the school contact Ted Wiseman at the Perry County Extension Office (740-743-1602) or wiseman.15@osu.edu. In this time of extraordinary feed costs, and significant premiums for the highest quality cattle, don't miss this opportunity to improve your feed management skills.

Managing Dynamic Change in the Beef Cattle Industry

No one can deny the past year and a half in the beef cattle business can be characterized as quickly changing and rapidly evolving. Along with rapid change come management issues many have seldom dealt with in the past. As Ohio's cattlemen look to the future, understanding and carefully managing these tumultuous times will be paramount to sustainability within the industry.

With these thoughts in mind, a series of four February meetings entitled Managing Dynamic Change in the Beef Cattle Industry will be hosted on consecutive Wednesday's and Thursday's in two different locations in the heart of "cow country." Insightful and Nationally recognized speakers will guide participants through the process of gaining an understanding of today's beef cattle business realities, reviewing strategies which will optimize whole herd profitability, and looking at the alternatives for buying, selling and merchandising cattle. The series will conclude with a look into planning for the future during a session entitled "Trends, habits and winds of change."

Featured presenters will include beef cattle economist Nevil Speer from the University of Western Kentucky, Manager of Analyst Services from Cattle-Fax in Colorado Duane Lenz, Ed Smolder from West Virginia University Extension, and Tom Field of National Cattleman's Beef Association. Also on the program will be The Ohio State University Extension's own Matt Roberts, Francis Fluharty, John Grimes and Dan Frobose.

The program will be hosted on each Wednesday

evening during February beginning at 6 p.m. in the Highland County Training & Employment Center, Hillsboro and again on consecutive Thursday evenings at 6 p.m., also in February, at the Alexander H.S. at Albany in Athens County. Plan to come straight from the calving pasture to either location if you must since each evening will begin with supper promptly at 6 p.m. followed immediately by the program.

Managing Dynamic Change in the Beef Cattle Industry is sponsored by The Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Cattleman's Association with financial support from the Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation.

Patterned in the image of the Ohio Feed Management & Technology and also the Ohio Cow/Calf Schools, these will be fast moving and forward thinking "must attend" sessions for cattlemen planning to stay on the cutting edge of a rapidly changing industry. Registration cost will be \$50 for the first person from an operation, and \$25 for each additional person from that same operation. Reservations may be made by contacting the Ohio Cattleman's Association. Call the local Extension office (740.653.5419), OCA (614.873.6736), John Grimes, Highland County Ag Educator (937.393.1918) or Rory Lewandowski, Athens County Ag Educator (740.593.8555) for more detailed information.

As reservations are made, in Fairfield and nearby Counties we will be attempting to assemble some 'car pools' for local attendees. Call the Extension office (740.653.5419) for more details regarding car-pooling.

Questions, comments, suggestions . . .

Contact your FCCA Directors:
Lisa Burnworth, Jake Wolfinger, Brad & Doreen Linden, Dee Jepsen, Cheryl Majors, Clayton Cook, Matt Henwood, Mick Ritchie, Randy Keeran, Steve Gorby .

*With the turning of each calendar page in 2009,
let's try to take a moment to
Give thanks for all we have, Our work and way of
livin', For friends and family who mean so
much, and all that we've been given.
Best Wishes for a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!*