

Discussion

Panel Discussion

Question: You made the statement that you make a specific charge for each vaccination. Are their people doing this or are you doing all of this?

Answer: Well, it doesn't make any difference as long as I get it marked down on the chart. I have a little asterisk that I mark down with a syringe fee included in it. But I need a record of what they did, the number, and if they got it from somebody else or some other source. I at least want to know what the date was when they did it.

Question: You're talking about the vaccination. In other words, do you individually or do your people do all this vaccinating or do the ranch people do it?

Answer: I find that, especially with large outfits, the more deeply we get involved with the herd the more we do, or at least I provide people to do it. They get a little reluctant to have their people do a lot of these things if we are working big numbers. Of course, here again, if we combine enough procedures and do enough things at one time, which we attempt to do to minimize the times through the chute, they would rather have us there. We try to process the cows, for example, three times through the chute at the maximum. We only catch them in the chute once. The other two times just in the alleyway.

Question: Have you treated acute anaplasmosis with this product before?

Dr. Roby: I'm glad you asked that, Dr. Benson, because I failed to touch on it. The question was whether this long-acting oxytetracycline has been used to treat acute anaplasmosis? I have not myself, but Texas A&M at College Station, Texas, has done some experimental treatment with this same product in acute anaplasmosis and I believe at the same dose, 20 mg per kg, and their results in experimentally-infected animals and treatment in the parasitemic stage as compared to liquamycin 50 were that one injection of the long-acting oxytetracycline was equivalent to about three repeated daily injections of liquamycin 50.

Question: What is the withdrawal time on that product?

Dr. Roby: I cannot really answer that question. There is a Dr. Bentley here that might be able to.

Dr. Bentley: Well, the submission has been made to FDA and it's just speculation as to what the withdrawal time will be, but probably it will be in the neighborhood of 28-30 days. The data that we have show that the tissue clearance is just about the same as the products that are available now. So, we don't anticipate a problem.

Question: Do you check on routine autopsies for internal parasites?

Answer: Yes, we find them. Our level at this point seems to be very low. We do quite a bit of evaluation on the basis of fecal exams, also, and we have picked out some groups of cows that we have wormed, maybe some that had particularly poor nutrition, and we felt it might be beneficial and we routinely find enough of an infection level to worm at the feedlot. But the incidence is pretty low. All those pastures are pretty new and the entire area has been reseeded to new grasses. The management has been pretty good up to this point.

Question: You said you were thinking about taking the BVD out and then you said you put it back in. Are you putting it back in to your pre-weaning program too or are you just waiting and putting it in through your herd replacement heifer program prior to breeding?

Answer: Well, we're putting it in after 8 months of age. On the basis of most of the recommendations, you should be getting a maternal immunity that will pretty well protect that calf up to 8 months of age and then we repeat it, then repeat it again pre-

breeding and we will repeat it pre-breeding on cows every year as we go through. There are some people that do not agree with me on that.

Question: Is there a considerable amount of bovine leukemia being found in cow herds?

Answer: We have a pretty close association with the National Animal Disease Center and those researchers there got me informed on bovine leukemia. They were interested in our herd because we were using a lot of dairy bulls. They wondered if maybe the beef man wasn't making a mistake by using dairy bulls and introducing bovine leukemia. In a beef cow herd everyone thought it was fairly free. So we began testing a lot of our beef cows and we found an incidence of zero up to this point, then all of a sudden we started a program of research on twinning and they put out a notice that they wanted to buy cows that had a history of having had twins. Well most of those histories came out of Wisconsin and Indiana and areas where there is a lot of bovine leukemia and we had 70 of those cows bought and still in quarantine when I woke up to what might be happening. We tested that particular group of cows and we sold half of them. We kept testing until we seem to have the incidence down now to zero. We're going to put those cows in with the rest of our cow herd, but we have not found a positive bovine leukemia reactor in any of our beef cows and most of that herd was put together from calves bought at sale barns at North Platte, Lexington, Alliance and the sand hills area of Nebraska.

Remarks: The question was the cycling, recycling, and age of puberty, I assume, on the F-1 longhorn cross heifer and I have no experience with that.

Question: The question is do we use F-1 black baldy (black-white face) mothers in our country and the answer is, yes, definitely. Our large established herds in Nebraska are primarily Herefords. It is a conservative country and it's been that way forever and I'm not for sure it is even going to stay that way even in spite of the marketability and all this that we're hearing about now. A lot of these straight bred are going out there into their second or third cuts for replacements or their second and third and fourth cuts of heifers are being used for replacements by people for crossbreeding. But, yes, we have an extensive heterosis program in the sand hills, but not as much on the major ranches. I didn't show any slide, but on the east side of the ranch those 5000 acres are all black baldy except one little pasture. We actually got some Angus bulls that came from this area. I believe Wyatt Plantation was the name of the place. They went down to A&M and they got a group of Brangus. One group was sent out to the ranch—about 6 or 7 bulls, I remember. I know that three quarters are supposed to sire small calves, and then there were 2 or 3 of those others that will sire larger calves. You breed them for two-year-olds and for the second calf as three-year-old. And when I found out that one of them bulls was from up in this area and they insured him for a couple hundred thousand dollars, I sent him back to A&M. I put him out in the pasture and never looked at him. Those steer calves this year weighed 611 lbs. in October without any feed, born in February and March and with one born in the last of January. Now they are the best mother cows and for a commercial operator there are lots of people who have Hereford cattle in our area and in the trans Pecos area out around Marfa and Alpine. They have black baldies but they've got them in the interior pastures where you don't see them. Now that is the truth if I ever told it. That's right.

Remark: You ought to know Carl's daddy? How old is he now?

Answer: He was 88 years old August 2. He's 88 years old and his health is real bad now but not too many years ago he was very active and pure German and very obstinate. I think the best story Carl tells on him is when he came back and started managing the ranch. His dad and his mother took a vacation and when they came back, Carl had sold all the bulls, some of the cows and all of the goats. His dad never took another vacation!

One thing I want to clarify on leukemia: All the dairy blood was brought in by artificial insemination and they were concerned about the transmission of leukemia through artificial insemination. Since that time we have purchased, but we have a quarantined test program to test any bulls we buy for leukemia.

Question: Do all of the AI studs test for bovine leukemia in their bulls and what do they do with them when they find one?

Answer: Some do and some don't.

Question: How good is the test?

Answer: There is some controversy on that too. The people that I work with are pretty confident in what they are doing. On heterosis, of course, the genetics people at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Dr. Cundiff, Dr. Gregory and Dr. Cook, have genetic research going back several generations on heterosis of the Angus and Hereford breeds and I think if any of you are really interested it is a classic piece of research and shows some real advantages to utilizing heterosis in the cow-calf operation. Just write the Meat Animal Research Center and ask for the reports on heterosis. Clay Center, Nebraska, is the address and it's pretty well

documented.

Dr. Benson: Well, I certainly thank you for coming. I think maybe we should review what we've covered this afternoon. Karl Martin discussed the mechanics of improving a herd of mother cows. It requires individual records on each cow and production records on that cow and a good set of standards that you stick to. Dr. Bolender discussed the selling of a herd health program and the way you keep it sold. And I think it should be of interest to you, when I went upstairs to get the overhead for Dr. Roby, Dr. Mackey, who is a consultant dairy veterinarian from Canada, was penciling out how he sold a herd health program for dairy cows by showing additional profits he could make the man. And that is exactly what it takes. You've got to show you can make his money and then you can sell the program. Dr. Kvasnicka gave us some mechanics of a herd health program the way they actually do it there and then Dr. Roby gave us some promise of a new product that, if our friends at FDA ever act on, will be a good tool for the treatment and prevention of anaplasmosis. And I can see some other uses for that, too. We thank you for coming. We hope it was worthwhile to you and we enjoyed putting on the program for you.