



New York **Simmental** Assn. Newsletter

VOL 1

NYSA@NewYorkSimmental.com

607-423-4888

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

www.NewYorkSimmental.com

COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Feb 1	Deadline for entry for NY Sale
Feb 20	Deadline for DIRECTORY
Feb 23-25	Farm Show – Simmental Display
Feb 25	NYJBPA Meeting at Farm Show
Mar 1	Deadline for SEMEN ORDER
Mar 3	NYBPA Central Div Meeting
Mar 31	NYSA Meeting – Simme Valley, 1PM
May 5	Gettysburg Stars & Stripes Sale
June 2-3	Jr Spring Preview Show

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Order your Semen for 2012-2013

Jeanne White will be ordering semen (any breed or club calf) as a group purchase which saves us a lot of money. Semen is shipped to Simme Valley and dispersed from there, or can be picked up at Stars & Stripes Sale, Gettysburg, Pa.

You need to be ordering your semen books and picking your bulls. The **Deadline** will be **March 1st**. You have to be a member of NYSA. I don't think anyone that has order 5 units of a popular bull has saved LESS than their membership fee. It's a win win – the more we get to order, the better our prices will be. Jeanne can get semen from most any stud. If it's an "oddball", she needs a little extra time.

If you have any questions, just call or email.

Jeanne@simmevalley.com 607-423-4888

Next Simmental Meeting

March 31 – Simme Valley Farm, Groton, NY

Pick up your semen.

E-MAIL ADDRESS AND WEB SITE

I need all e-mail & web site addresses to update our directory (hard copy & on-line)

2011 YEAR-END ANNUAL MEETING
•MINUTES OF THE
NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSN. held 1-21-2012

1. Art Reynolds, President called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.
2. Jerry Horton made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in newsletter, Russ Bunal 2nd, passed.
3. Chris Britt gave the 2011 Treasurer's Report and 2012 Proposed Budget.
Shane Meyer made a motion to accept this report & budget, Ken White seconded, passed.
4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. NY Sale - Jeanne White reported the Bull & Heifer sale will be on April 27 at EFD, deadline is 2-1
 - B. NYSF – Ken report that the change in the point system was sent to Patrick Kenney.
 - C. Directory & Newsletter - Sell the most ads & win a free page in Directory. Directory deadline is 2-10
 - D. Art Reynolds announced the slate of Officers: Art Reynolds, Pres. Shane Meyer, V-Pres, Jeanne White, Secretary, & Shawn Murphy, Treasurer. He announced the slate of Directors: Russ Bunal, Ed Koss, Shawn Murphy & Lonny Schaefer.
 - E. Junior Advisors – Chris Britt said the juniors were raffling off a JD Pedal Tractor donated by Hays Acres family/farm.
 - F. Promo – Lonny said Lizz designed a "I love NY Simmental" T-shirt and they are checking into cost to sell them.
5. CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 - A. We received many "Thank You" notes from juniors receiving awards at the Fall Festival
 - B. ASA E-News – if anyone is not getting it, email Jeanne & she will get you on the list.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. Semen & supplies order due by 3-1 – get your semen stud books ordered.
 - B. Lizz has NYSA up & running on Facebook.
 - C. Jeanne reported we had 12 memberships & 2 ads paid thru PayPal. If our members don't have a PayPal account, it costs us 2.9% + \$0.30/transaction. A \$20 membership costs \$0.88. Shawn Murphy made a motion to continue offering the service. Lonny S 2nd, passed.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. There were no nominations from the floor for officers, Jeanne White, Secretary cast 1 ballot for the slate of Officers. There were no additional nominations from the floor for directors, so members voted & ballots were counted. New directors are: Russ Bunal, Ed Koss, & Shawn Murphy.
 - B. Ken White auctioneered our Prime Page Auction:

Back Cover	\$450	Hudson Pines Farm	Page 3	\$325	The Bunal Farm
Inside Front Cover	\$400	Elm Side Farm	Center right page	\$220	Ledge Knoll Farm
Inside Back Cover	\$325	Catskill Cattle Co.	Center left page	\$220	Double RD
Page 1	\$400	Simme Valley	Last Page	\$230	Trowbridge Farms

Ladybug Farm, Ed Koss, Joel Reach & Patnoel Farm all committed to a full page in color at \$125 after the auction.
 - C. Art suggested we raise our dues for 2013. Ken White made a motion to raise our membership dues to \$25/yr, Jerry Horton 2nd, passed.
 - D. Feb Farm Show – Elm Side Farm will have a heifer on display. Simme Valley will help.
 - E. Picnic Meeting – Ledge Knoll Farm volunteered to host the picnic meeting.
 - F. EFD – Simme Valley & Reach Simmentals volunteered to supply the cattle. Lonny & Ed offered to help.
 - G. Semen order – due 3-1-12.
 - H. Next meeting at Simme Valley on 3-31 (Groton City Community Church).
 - I. Lonny S made a motion to adjourn, Jerry Horton 2nd. Adjourned.



Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne White



2011 ANNUAL REPORT & 2012 BUDGET

NY SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION	2011	2011 Annual	2012 Proposed
	Budget	Report	Budget
Balance Forward: as of 1.1.10		\$ 4,888.22	
Petty Cash		\$ 28.08	
Balance Forward: as of 1.1.10		\$ 4,916.30	
Income:			
ASA State Check-Off	\$ 450	\$ 72.75	\$ 100
ASA Cost Share		\$ 2,161.62	\$ 2,850
Directory Ads	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,855.00	\$ 2,200
Newsletter Ads	\$ 1,100	\$ 510.00	\$ 700
Membership Dues – Adult	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 1,400
Membership Dues – Junior		\$ 85.00	
NYSF donations		\$ 50.00	
Semen		\$ 7,988.50	
Credit - Simme Valley		<u>\$ (410.00)</u>	
Yearly Income	\$ 5,200	\$ 13,557.87	\$ 7,250
Expenses:			
Directory 2010-2011		\$ 510.00	
Directory 2011-2012	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,614.00	\$ 1,650
Newsletters		\$ 655.00	\$ 1,200
WEB Service / Maintenance	\$ 600	\$ 383.40	\$ 400
Insurance	\$ 250	\$ 262.00	\$ 250
NYBPA – advertising	\$ 800	\$ 713.75	\$ 800
NYJBPA – Cobleskill		\$ 150.00	\$ 150
Office	\$ 400	\$ 114.85	\$ 200
Postage / Printing	\$ 300	\$ 561.92	\$ 500
EFD	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500
Secretarial (1/2 Amy, 1/2 Jeanne)	\$ 1,000	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000
Directory (Rachel)		\$ 250.00	
Treasurer (Christine)		\$ 250.00	
Newsletters (\$100 Amy, \$75 Jeanne, \$75 Lizz)		\$ 250.00	
NYSF - Open Show Awards		\$ 400.00	\$ 400
Semen		\$ 7,988.50	
Jeanne White - 2010 supplies		\$ 377.79	
Promo & Sale Material	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 100
Misc.		<u>\$ 175.00</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>
Yearly Expenses	\$ 5,200	\$ 15,406.21	\$ 7,250
Petty Cash		\$ 28.08	
Checking account as of 12.31.11		<u>\$ 3,039.88</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 3,067.96	

2012 NEW YORK ALL BREED BULL & HEIFER CONSIGNMENT FORM



Sponsored by NYBPA Sale: Empire Farm Day Site, Lott Farm Seneca Falls, NY

Sale Date: Friday April 27, 2012 7:30 PM

Name & City (as you want listed in catalog) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone(with area code): _____ email: _____

Birth Date	Sex	Breed	Animal Name	Registration #	Tattoo #

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FEBRUARY 1, 2012

1. Consignment fee: \$50.00 per head (non refundable). Must accompany entry.
2. Must be a member of the NYBPA.
3. All consigned cattle will be inspected by the NYBPA Beef Bovine Committee.
4. Bulls must be registered. Born between Sept. 2010- June 2011. Bulls born between Sept.'10-Dec.'10 must be haltered and have solid nose rings. All bulls must be semen checked and have appropriate tests done as per breed defects.
5. Heifers can be registered or commercial. Open yearlings younger than 18 months old are eligible. Females 18 months and older must have calf on side or vet checked pregnant.
6. All Horned cattle must be halter broke and tied.
7. All cattle must have a negative BVD Test, and a NYS A1-61 Health certificate. Vaccinated against IBR, BVD, P13, BRSV, Leptospirosis (9 way vaccine). A negative TB and Brucellous is required.
8. All registered cattle are required to have appropriate tests as per breed for defects.
9. Beef Quality Assurance Certified Producer strongly recommended and will be listed in catalog, but not required.
10. Minimum Body Condition Score 5.0 (<http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/400/400-795/400-795.html>), good overall appearance.
11. Sale Committee has the right to reject animals deemed in poor condition and or poor disposition.
12. Cattle must be delivered to Sale site April 27 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.
13. All cattle **MUST HAVE** at check in, all signed registration papers and Health certificates.

Make checks payable to: NYBPA. Please include copy of registration certificate , EPD's performance data (BW_WW), etc. and extended known pedigree for commercial heifers. Consignment photos must also be sent in, if wanted in catalog.

Mail to: Jeanne White, 6493 Stauber Rd. Groton, NY 13073 Telephone: 607-423-4888

NYBPA **Annual Dues** \$30.00

Membership Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Bovance Announces Second Year of Scholarship Contest:

The \$1,000 scholarship is open to high school seniors and college students in their first or second year of undergraduate study in an agriculture related field. Entries must be received no later than March 1, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding the Bovance scholarship, feel free to contact Diane Broek, general manager of Bovance - diane.broek@transova.com, 1.800.999.3586. [Click here](#) for scholarship details)

Hey there, Juniors - Check out the Member Map:

Are you making plans to cut costs on hauling your cattle to shows this summer? Check out the AJSA member map and see who lives nearby with whom you could carpool! It's quick and easy to do by checking out the newly launched AJSA member map feature at www.juniorsimmental.org; find out where all of your American Junior Simmental friends are located by visiting www.juniorsimmental.org.

It's that time of year again when abnormal calves will be born in our members' herds. ASA has a confidential, free reporting service for all members. If you have an abnormal calf, please call Jerry, Wade, or Marilyn immediately (well, at least during the work day!). We will work with each member to get a diagnosis. Regardless, if the calf is alive or dead, call us before any tissue degradation occurs. We usually ask for photos or video. If any laboratory work is needed, ASA pays all expenses.

Good News for Beef: New Research Demonstrates Lean Beef is Good for Heart Health::

A new study--Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet (BOLD)--published in next month's *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* shows that diets including lean beef every day are as effective in lowering total and LDL "bad" cholesterol as the gold standard of heart-healthy diets (DASH, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension). Researchers at Pennsylvania State University, led by Penny Kris-Etherton, Ph.D., R.D., distinguished professor of nutrition, evaluated adults with moderately elevated cholesterol levels, measuring the impact of diets including varying amounts of lean beef on total and LDL cholesterol levels. Study participants experienced a 10 percent decrease in LDL cholesterol from baseline, while consuming diets containing 4.0 and 5.4 oz. of lean beef daily.



Over the summer, many questions were raised about individual cow and cow herd efficiency. Several meetings were held where this topic was addressed and great discussion was stimulated about how to improve efficiency through genetics and management. However, record-keeping (the most important aspect about being able to make profitable changes) was glanced over in many of those discussions. Maintaining production records has been the cornerstone of Extension education programs in Tennessee for the 100 years of its existence.

There are many ways to keep records on a cow herd. They range from complicated spreadsheets and commercially available software to calving books or notes on the back of a feed tag. More powerful decisions can be made with more detailed records. Remember that “without data, everything else is just an opinion.” Choosing a record-keeping system that is easy to use should result in more dedication to keeping it updated. Even simple records are useful for many different purposes, but a minimum amount of individual cow and calf data is required.

Once the records are in place, making decisions with them can sometimes be as intimidating as setting up the system in the first place. Again, keeping it simple and gradually moving up to more complicated calculations is likely the best way to approach it. Several methods exist to determine cow and calf productivity. This article will address using calf weaning weight records to track productivity of a small cow herd.

Consider this example: Calves are weaned and a total weight is calculated (either by weighing them on the farm or using the pay weight from a marketing facility check). Then, the total pounds of calf weaned are divided by the number of calves weaned:

Basic Weaning Weight = Total Pounds of Calf Weaned / Number of Calves Weaned

This is a decent start, but there are several major flaws in using this simple calculation as an indication of productivity. It does not account for differences in individual calf ages, the number of steers and heifers, weight of the cows, cows that did not calve and calves that died between calving and weaning. It also does not account for shrink if using pay-weights from the marketing facility. While weaning weight is likely the simplest and most widely used, it is also the most abused measure of productivity. So, to begin to get a true understanding of productivity, weaning weights should be adjusted.

One commonly used method to account for age variation is to adjust all weights to 205 days (approximately 7 months). To do this, birth weight and birth dates are needed. These can be estimated for commercial purposes, but actual measurements are ideal and are required for registered cattle. Simply subtract the calf’s birth weight from the actual weaning weight. Then, divide that gain by calf age in days. The resulting number is the Average Daily Gain (ADG) from birth to weaning. Now, multiply the ADG by 205 days for a uniform adjustment. There are other factors that can skew this adjustment, but it is adequate for making basic productivity estimates.

Adjusted Weaning Weight = ((Weaning Weight – Birth Weight) / Days of Age) × 205 Days

Total weaning weight should also be adjusted for the number of steers and heifers in that calf crop. Over a number of years, the sex ratio will usually balance out to be 50:50. But individual years often yield more of one sex than the other. Knowing this is important because, all else being equal, steers weight more at a given age and grow faster than heifers. The first step in adjusting for sex is to calculate the actual difference in weaning weight between the steers and heifers and divide by two.

Then, subtract that adjustment from the individual steer weights and add it to the individual heifer weights.

Adjusted Steer Weights = Individual Steer Weight – ((Avg. Steer Weight – Avg. Heifer Weight) / 2)

Adjusted Heifer Weights = Individual Heifer Weight + ((Avg. Steer Weight – Avg. Heifer Weight) / 2)

So, what should be done with the total or average weaning weight once it is adjusted for individual age and sex of the calf crop? The ideal measurement for most commercial cattlemen will be the “pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed.” Again, a number of factors influence cow and overall herd productivity, including reproductive efficiency, genetics, nutrition and health. These factors are accounted for when the total adjusted weaning weight is divided by the number of cows that were originally exposed during the breeding season, regardless of whether they calved or weaned a calf.

Pounds of Calf Weaned per Cow Exposed = Adjusted Total Weaning Weight / All Cows

If the capability is there to weigh all the cows at weaning, the “pounds of calf weaned per pound of cow exposed” can similarly be determined — an even more powerful tool for determining the production efficiency. At least calculating the pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed gives a commercial cattlemen the power to compare calf crops from year to year to determine how management decisions and changes in the environment (drought, heat, severe winter, hay shortage, etc.) really affected productivity. Having that information makes it easier to know how to improve it. More importantly, when income and expenditures are applied, profitability can be also be analyzed. Without these data, decisions at best are based on an educated guess. Basing decisions that affect profitability and quality of life on an educated guess is not sustainable practice.

Source: Justin Rhinehart, Assistant Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Department of Animal Science, University of Tennessee Extension

Combination deworming programs can pay large dividends

*By Gary Sides, Ph.D., Cattle Nutritionist, Veterinary Operations, Pfizer Animal Health |
Updated: November 10, 2011*

Controlling parasites in the feedlot is not something that we do just for the immune system¹ as there are direct performance benefits as well. In fact, research has shown that parasites could cost the industry up to \$3 billion annually in lost weight gains, poor feed conversion and increased disease.² High feed prices greatly magnify these factors. Using a solid deworming program can help operators take advantage of all possible performance benefits.

Poor decisions surrounding appropriate parasite control product selection can end up costing much more in the long run. As a feedlot operator, think of it this way: It only takes approximately one extra pound of gain to make up for the cost of a complete deworming program.

Depending on your geographic location, feedlot cattle will generally experience the best response when dewormed with a broad-spectrum avermectin product. When evaluating what dewormer will be the most effective on a specific group of cattle, consider the following:

- Make sure the product is labeled to kill inhibited *Ostertagia ostertagi*, one of the most damaging internal parasites — often a weakness of using an oral suspension (drench).
- Injection site lesions — look for a product that leaves little to no trail at the injection site.
- There are no products that are completely effective against all internal and external cattle parasites. There may be cases where an avermectin in combination with an oral suspension may be cost-effective.

To recognize optimal dividends, consider combining a drench and an injectable or pour-on treatment protocol. Your consultants can help you to evaluate if a combination treatment would help improve your cattle’s treatment response.

There are times when there is not any one single parasiticide treatment that will control all parasites

perfectly. Avermectins do an excellent job of controlling external parasites and inhibited *Ostertagia ostertagi*, also known as the brown stomach worm, but may not be as effective against specific intestinal parasites. The oral suspension will do a better job on intestinal parasites and liver flukes, but does a poor job at defending animals against inhibited *Ostertagia* and has no effect on external parasites. If biting lice have historically been an issue or concern for your operation, you should consider using an avermectin pour-on product. These cattle would probably also respond to an added treatment of an albendazole or benzimidazole drench.

If you are unsure which parasites may be endangering your herd the most, consult your local veterinarian before implementing any new treatment procedures.

Trying to save a dollar on parasite control at processing could easily cost you 20 pounds or more at sale time. Cattle values and the inflated cost of feedstuffs are too high not to realize the added performance benefits possible when using a broad-spectrum deworming program. Evaluate your options with your consultants and choose your deworming products carefully to ensure you are getting the full benefit of each dollar spent.



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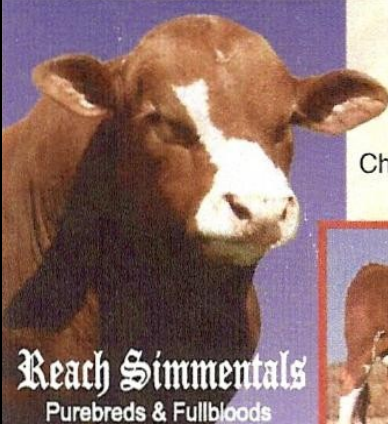
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BLUE SPRINGS, Mo.- Most spring-born beef calves either have been weaned or will be weaned soon. Weaning is the time to start managing beef cows so that they are at the optimum body-condition score (BCS) before the start of the next calving season, said a University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist.

The optimum BCS for cows to become pregnant is 5, said Patrick Davis. Their BCS will likely drop by 1 point from calving to breeding, so they should have a BCS of 6 before the next calving season. Identifying your cows' BCS lets you determine how much they need to gain to reach a BCS of 6. When identifying the body-condition score of your cows, areas to look at are brisket, ribs, backbone and tailhead. If little or no fat is palpated or visually identified in these areas, the cows have a BCS of 3 or 4.

If a moderate amount of fat is palpated or visually identified in these areas, the cows have a BCS of 5. If the cow has ribs covered with fat, a back that appears rounded, has some fat in the tailhead and brisket and has a smooth look throughout, the cow has a BCS of 6, which is optimum for calving.

"One helpful idea is to identify BCS 6 cows in the herd and mold the rest of the herd through management to look like them," Davis said.

Another management strategy is to separate BCS 3 and 4 cows from BCS 5 and 6 cows. The thin cows will need larger feed inputs to reach BCS 6 before the next calving season.

Once you know the BCS of the cattle, it's helpful to identify the nutrient value of the feed resources you are using this winter.

"I would recommend a hay test because that will identify if the hay is deficient in energy or protein and if supplementation is needed to meet the target body-condition score," Davis said. "If supplementation is needed, then corn with corn or soybean byproducts may be useful feedstuffs."

Some suggested supplements are:

- 1/3 corn, 1/3 soybean hulls and 1/3 corn gluten feed.
- 1/2 corn and 1/2 dried distillers grains and solubles.
- 1/2 corn and 1/2 corn gluten feed.
- 2/5 corn, 2/5 soybean hulls and 1/5 dried distillers grains and solubles.

These supplement mixes are similar in protein and energy. "I would recommend feeding these supplements at 6 pounds per head per day on cows that are in BCS 3 and 4," he said. "Cattle in condition score 5 can be fed 6 pounds per head every other day."

The mix of corn and dried distillers grains and solubles has a little more protein and energy than the other mixes, so the feeding level may be decreased by 1 pound in each of the respective feeding strategies. "However, visually appraise the cattle frequently. If the cattle reach their target condition score, cut back on level of supplement."

These supplementation strategies will depend on hay quality, Davis notes. Also, make sure an adequate mineral and vitamin supplement is available for the cattle to ensure they are not deficient in those areas.

For more information about BCS, see the MU Extension publication "Body Condition Scoring of Beef and Dairy Animals" (G2230), available for free download at

www.extension.missouri.edu/G2230.

For more information about feeding and supplementation strategies for your cattle, contact your local MU Extension Center or go to www.extension.missouri.edu and enter "feeding beef cattle" in the search box.



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Barn: 607-865-6888
Cell: 607-434-3058

elmsidefarm@frontiernet.net

Efficient cattlemen and women are a boon for the environment.

“I am absolutely not anti-grass-fed beef. There is a place for every single kind of system: grass-fed, grain-fed, local, organic and so on,” said Jude Capper, Washington State University animal scientist at the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Annual Conference last week. “What I am ‘anti’ is mis-marketing and the perceptions that are passed on to the consumer about what is and isn’t environmentally friendly.”

From farm publications and the *Wall Street Journal* to *Cosmopolitan* and mainstream women’s magazines, there is a constant stream of information about water, land and resource use. Beef is often held under the microscope, Capper told the crowd of more than 500 who gathered at the event in Sunriver, Ore.

“In every part of the world we’re going to face the issues of feeding more people on less land with fewer resources,” she said, citing estimates that by 2050 worldwide population will increase by 50% and we’ll need 70% more food to support that.

“On a global basis people are going to have greater incomes,” Capper said. “As people have more money they want more meat, more milk, more eggs.”

Today’s conversations about sustainability are well founded, she said, but some of the proposed solutions are not.

Take “Meatless Mondays” for example.

“Even if we all went meatless every Monday, if we only ate lentils and tofu and magically didn’t give off any methane ourselves, it’s going to cut our national carbon footprint by less than half a percent,” Capper said.

And then there are important considerations, like where would animal byproducts like leather, tallow and pharmaceuticals come from?

Instead, Capper suggested one proven method for reducing resource use: increase efficiency.

“If we can have our animals on the planet for fewer days before they’re harvested, in total we use less energy, less land and less water per unit of beef,” she said, pointing to examples over the years.

In 1977 it took five animals to produce the same pounds beef that it takes four animals to produce today.

“Beef yield over that time has gone up fairly consistently,” she said, noting carcasses can’t keep getting bigger because of consumer acceptance and processing challenges. “What we can do is improve productivity, improve growth rate.”

The efficiency gains from 1977 to 2010 amount to a 19-percentage-point reduction in feed use, a 12-point decrease in water needed and a 33-point drop in land required per pound (lb.) of beef.

“That’s not because ranchers and feedlot operators have implemented specific environmental technologies,” Capper said. “It’s because they’ve been doing what they do best, to improve productivity.” Yet that story hasn’t caught on.

“The consumer often hears that grass-fed must be best,” she said. Capper and her research team analyzed and compared the environmental impact of three beef production systems: conventional, natural and grass-fed.

Looking at conventional, with its growth-enhancing technologies like implants and ionophores, versus natural production, cattle in the latter system take more days to finish.

“Animals that grow faster and weigh more cut the environmental impact,” she said. That’s magnified when comparing conventional to grass-fed, as average days from birth to harvest increase by 226 and carcass weights drop by 185 lb.

“To convert to an entirely grass-fed system, we’d need to more than double the number of the cows in the U.S. today just to maintain beef supply,” Capper said. Land use would increase by 131 million acres, equivalent to 75% of the area of Texas, and water use would skyrocket by 468 billion gallons.

Capper showed several highly publicized studies containing suspect assumptions about the modern beef industry.

“This is very dangerous because it’s put out there as fact in an international science magazine,” she said of one example. “Potentially, it turns consumers away from beef.”

Ranchers, stockers and feeders need to keep getting better, and talking about it.

Reducing mortality and morbidity is one step.

“It’s important to keep having healthier animals. They’re going to gain better and grow faster,” she said.

Reproduction is another.

“Only about 86% of cows have a live calf every year. If that was 90%, 95% or 99%, that would make a huge improvement in productivity,” Capper said. “If we improve our land, better grasses, better feed, those animals are going to grow faster.”

Good news is found in a recent study showing 94% of worldwide consumers either support or are neutral toward the use of technology in food production.

“Most consumers just want affordable, safe, nutritious food that tastes good,” she said.

To view Capper’s research visit <http://wsu.academia.edu/JudeCapper/Papers>. For more information on the *Certified Angus Beef*® brand Annual Conference, go to www.certifiedangusbeef.com.

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NYJSA Annual Meeting 1-21-12 Syracuse, NY

Hope everyone is having a wonderful New Year! The New York Junior Simmental Association is now finally active with juniors. The new officers are as follows,
President-Nick Britt
Vice President-Clayton Phelps
Treasurer- Nathan Hay
Secretary- Jala Murphy

The NYJSA are selling Pedal tractor raffle tickets to benefit Simmental Junior Nationals in Lima Ohio. All proceeds go directly toward Junior Nationals like gas money, entry fees etc. Each ticket is one dollar. Also ask the juniors about special deals you may receive. The drawing for the pedal tractor will be at the Preview show in June at Niagara County. So help us juniors and buy as many raffle tickets!!

Jala Murphy, Secretary

NEXT NYJBPA MEETING

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Prepare before calving season begins

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension |
Updated: December 5, 2011

Although the spring calving season is still a couple of months away, now is a good time to make the necessary preparations that will come in handy when the first heifer needs help in the middle of the night. Here are some tasks that should be easier to do now when there is ample time to get the job done.

- **Equipment:** Before calving season starts do a “walk-through” of pens, chutes, and calving stalls. Make sure that all are clean, dry, strong, safe, and functioning correctly. This is a lot easier to do on a sunny afternoon than on a cold dark night when you need them.
- **Protocol:** Before calving season starts develop a plan of what to do, when to do it, who to call for help (along with phone numbers), and how to know when you need help. Make sure all family members or helpers are familiar with the plan. It may help to write it out and post copies in convenient places. Talk to the local livestock veterinarian about the protocol and incorporate his/her suggestions. Your veterinarian will be a lot more helpful when you have an emergency during the kids’ school program if you have talked a few times during regular hours.
- **Lubrication:** Purchase or locate lubricants to use on the obstetrical sleeves. Many different lubricants have been used and one of the best lubricants is probably the simplest – non-detergent soap and warm water.
- **Supplies:** The stockman should always have in his medicine chest the following: disposable obstetrical sleeves, non-irritant antiseptic, lubricant, obstetrical chains (60 inch and/or two 30 inch chains), two obstetrical handles, mechanical calf pullers, and injectable antibiotics. Do not forget the simple things like a good flashlight with extra batteries and some old towels or a roll of paper towels. It may be helpful for you to have all these things and other items you may want to include packed into a 5 gallon bucket to make up an obstetrical kit so you can grab everything at once.

These ideas and many more are available in the Oklahoma State University Extension publication: [Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers; E-1006](#).

(Jeanne's note: The following Oklahoma Univ report should be read by ALL-- several times.)
<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5171/E-1006web.pdf>

Dietary adaptation sets the tone for the entire feeding period

South Dakota State University Extension | Updated: December 8, 2011

When cattle are received into feedlots, they usually are entering a totally new environment. Similar to when kids first go to school, or freshmen enter college, cattle will be exposed to new facilities, climates (in some cases), penmates, pathogens, water sources, and diets. All of these just add to the stress of marketing and shipping and must be adapted to in order for cattle to perform well in the feedlot. Most often before cattle enter feedlots, they have been consuming diets with relatively low energy. These diets are usually based on grass or hay, but when we receive them in feedlots, we’ll be expecting them to consume diets that are primarily grain or concentrate and are very high in energy. The rumen contains a complex ecosystem of microorganisms that can be effective in utilizing each of these diet types, but microbial populations cannot readily switch back in forth. Bacteria that digest forages thrive at a higher pH than occurs when high grain is fed. Therefore, a rapid switch from forage to grain can result in an unstable microbial population, subacute or acute ruminal acidosis, and cattle going off feed. To ensure that this does not happen, cattle feeders should closely manage feed delivery after cattle arrival and during dietary adaptation. When cattle are adapted from high roughage to high grain diets in less than 14 days, animal performance throughout the entire feeding period is decreased. But even 14 days may not be long for some animals. For this reason, we utilize step-up diets so that each increase in dietary energy concentration is relatively small, and we allow the rumen microbial population to catch up. Ideally, we might like to use a dozen or more step-up diets so that each adjustment is a small one, but because of logistics of mixing batches and delivering feed, most feedlots use 4 to 5 step-up diets

and feed each one for 3 to 7 days.

When managing feed deliveries during dietary adaptation, it is important to realize that cattle on low-energy diets quit eating when they are physically full, but cattle on high-energy diets stop eating when chemical feedback tells them they have consumed sufficient energy. It takes some time for this mechanism to adjust, and often cattle will continue to eat until they are physically full on diets that have too much energy. On the bunk sheet, this is evident when intakes drop a few days after cattle get on the final diet. In order to prevent this, consider determining a maximum level of intake that can occur on each step-up diet. Another good idea would be to feed the same amount of energy, not the same pounds of feed, when stepping up from a lower to higher energy diet. For example, if cattle were eating 20 lb (dry matter basis) of a 55 mCal NEg/cwt diet, consider feeding only 18.9 lb (dry matter basis) the first day of a 58 mCal NEg/cwt diet. Finally, do not switch diets until all the cattle in a pen are ready. If some animals are sick or in the hospital pen, it is probably worth waiting on them to get back on feed before switching to the next step.

Dietary adaptation can set the stage for the entire feeding period, and it is important that management is dialed up during that time. Contact an SDSU Extension Specialist or Field Specialist for help with determining an adaptation program that is right for your cattle and feedlot.

Source: Ben Holland

Focus on body condition for maintaining health in winter

Novartis | Updated: November 16, 2011

Winter weather brings a unique set of challenges for beef producers and their livestock. Once again, producers throughout the Great Plains and Midwest can expect their share of heavy snow and below-normal temperatures. Harsh weather—cold, damp and windy conditions—can be as tough on cattle as it is on those charged with keeping them healthy and in good condition.

Dr. Dennis Hermes, professional services veterinarian, Novartis Animal Health, offers several important reminders for maintaining cow health in cold winter conditions.

“Cattle generally maintain body condition with temperatures above the 30-degree range,” said Hermes. “But when temperatures dip below freezing they need more energy to maintain their condition. In winter grazing conditions this translates to increased protein levels, so the rumen bugs can produce more energy from forages. Cows may not be able to utilize energy from forages efficiently if protein is inadequate. Producers who haven’t already should talk to their veterinarian or nutritionist to determine protein supplements needed and feed intake levels required for excessively cold conditions.”

Hermes adds that when cattle are stressed by cold, their metabolic rate increases in order to maintain body temperature. “The effect of this is that more feed or fat reserves are used for heat production and less is available for gain,” he said. “Weekly body condition scoring can help monitor this loss. Body condition scoring 20-30 head on a random basis once weekly can be a good indicator of whether protein levels are adequate for maintenance and gain,” said Hermes. “Adding 1.5 to 2 lbs. of crude protein per head every two days will complement marginal forages of late-winter grazing.”

Access to open water is critical as well, reminds Hermes. “Making sure water sources are open and easily accessible to cattle is one of the most overlooked aspects of winter management,” he adds. “If cattle don’t maintain hydration levels, digestion of nutrients slows and energy production drops.”

Maintaining body condition is of utmost importance to pregnant animals, especially heifers, adds Hermes. “Pregnant cows will use a significant amount of their energy to generate heat, rather than on the developing calf,” he said. “And when an inordinate amount of nutrients are used to produce heat, body condition begins to drop. This is especially detrimental to heifers and can lead to a reduction in the **quantity of colostrum**, which is one of the biggest reasons we see an increase in baby calf disease after harsh winters.”

“Working with your veterinarian and nutritionist to ensure feed and facilities are optimized for winter nutrition and cow comfort will help you to protect your herd—especially pregnant heifers and cows—from the negative affects of harsh winter conditions and set the stage for a more profitable new year,” said Hermes.

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This week at the [National Institute for Animal Agriculture's](#) Antibiotic Use in Food Animals: A Dialogue for a Common Purpose conference in Chicago, Ron Phillips, vice president, government and public affairs for the [Animal Health Institute](#), said consumers are confused and concerned about antibiotics used on the farm. "They have been told they are not necessary if farmers would just change their production practices," he said.

Speaking to a group of over 160 scientists, veterinarians, producers and industry-affiliated groups, Phillips said the terminology, which veterinarians, scientists and those in the industry understand such as therapeutic and subtherapeutic uses of antibiotics, is not well-understood by consumers. "The underlying facts that we need to give consumers are that antibiotics used in food animals are highly regulated and prudently used," he said.

Layers of protection

What is often misunderstood are the layers of regulation and oversight of antibiotics. "The regulatory system offers several layers of protection pre-market and post-market," explained Phillips. Pre-market, antibiotics are reviewed by FDA under the same laws and standards as those used in humans. The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires all antibiotics proven to be safe and effective.

Food animal antibiotics require data packages submitted by sponsors demonstrating safety on three levels – safety for the animals, the environment and the animal product safe for human consumption. There must be efficacy data to show the drug works as it was intended. The quality and ability to manufacture it that is consistent with FDA standards must also be proven.

In 2003, FDA implemented another safety measure to help prevent the development of antibiotic resistance, and that was [Guidance 152](#) for all new antibiotics and existing products.

On the post-marketing safety side, withdrawal times have been established that must be observed. USDA-FSIS tests meat and poultry to ensure compliance, efficacy and prevent residues. The [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System](#) (NARMS) with FDA and CDC tracks antibiotic resistance in animals, humans and meat. HACCP sets standards for hygienic slaughter and has reduced foodborne pathogens on meat products.

With collaboration from other groups, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed guidelines for safe and responsible use of antimicrobials and minimizing the need for antibiotic use. See AVMA prudent use guidelines for antibiotics in cattle [here](#).

"Most consumers are unaware of the care taken on-farm to protect the health of animals," Phillips said. "Antibiotics are not the first or the sole line of defense used to protect animal health. They are only one tool in a larger tool box to protect animal health."



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New York Agri-Women is a state affiliate of American Agri-Women, a national coalition of women in agriculture that provides a forum for communication and the promotion of agriculture.

New York Agri-Women affords women in New York State an opportunity to network and share views and potential solutions to common concerns. Its primary purpose is to educate elected representatives, consumers and members of the agricultural community. Additional information about New York Agri-Women and American Agri-Women is available at www.newyorkagriwomen.com and www.americanagriwomen.org.

Most people's connotation of rabies is a snarling mad dog, foaming at the mouth. But livestock are also susceptible, and the symptoms easily can be mistaken for some other problem. Unfortunately, the result is often human exposure when the owner or veterinarian tries to examine or treat the animal. Rabies can occur in all warm-blooded animals and is always fatal. Caused by a virus that affects the nervous system, it's transmitted by saliva of an infected animal – usually via a bite, by saliva coming in contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth) or an opening in the skin.

Rabies is uncommon in cattle but there are always a few livestock cases when wildlife cases increase, as there are more opportunities for exposure.

This year in Texas, for instance, reports of rabid animals rose dramatically as the summer became hot and dry, and wildlife migrated closer to human habitation to find food and water. James Alexander, Regional Zoonosis Control Veterinarian, Texas Department of State Health Services, Canyon, TX, says cases in livestock and horses are much higher than usual this year.

Missy Looney, a vet technician with Central Plains Vet Clinic in Plainview, TX, says she saw six cases in the first three months of 2011, and almost 40 by July.

"Most of these were in skunks, but now we're seeing spillover into other species. A rabid cow 60 miles east of us exposed at least six people, and a horse was brought to our clinic with neurological signs," she says.

Alexander stresses that livestock owners need to pay attention to animal behavior. An animal acting out of character is a clue, as rabies symptoms in cattle and horses are unpredictable. For instance, a normally gentle or tame animal may suddenly become skittish or aggressive. Or, a typically wild animal may be unafraid.

A big clue is an animal having trouble eating or drinking because it can't swallow, a condition often mistaken for an obstruction in the mouth or throat.

"We've heard of many veterinarians or feedlot cowboys who think a certain animal is choking and try to get their hands down the throat to resolve it. We've also heard about a calf that wouldn't take a bottle, and some friends/neighbors tried to help the family get the calf to suck. Both cases turned out to be rabies and all those people had to be treated," Alexander says.

Looney says one vet in her clinic, while in vet school, worked with a show steer exhibiting neurological signs and not swallowing properly. Numerous students and veterinarians were exposed because they thought there was something caught in the mouth or throat. The animal wasn't eating and when it was put down a week later, it tested positive for rabies. She reminds livestock owners that if an animal is put down, don't shoot it in the head. The brain must be intact to send for testing.

In Texas, most cases of rabies are spread by skunks, but occasionally by coyotes, foxes or bats. Alexander has also seen cattle come from Mexico that developed vampire bat rabies.

"Incubation time in large animals can be weeks or months, depending on the bite location. The virus works its way along the nerves to the brain. If a horse or cow is curious about a skunk and gets bitten on the nose, this would result in a shorter incubation time than if bitten on the hind leg," he explains.

Most pets are vaccinated for rabies, to protect both the animals and their owners. The American Association of Equine Practitioners now recommends all horses be vaccinated for rabies, listing it as a "core" vaccine in every vaccination program.

Cattle, however, are rarely vaccinated. But, in regions where rabies cases occur, valuable animals should be vaccinated, along with any cattle handled by people. Alexander recommends vaccination for 4-H, FFA and other show animals.

Alexander points out that in a herd of cattle, generally only one animal becomes infected. It's rare to have multiple cases.

"The worst situation I know of was a herd of registered Shorthorns west of San Angelo during a surge of fox rabies a few years ago. One rancher lost seven head. A fox or bobcat probably went berserk and bit numerous animals in that herd," he says. Or, since cattle will sometimes attack a predator to protect calves, the cows might have grouped around it attempting to chase it off.

Heather Smith Thomas is a Salmon, ID-based rancher and freelancer.

The Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) has been a focus of mine for some time. While I strongly support animal welfare, I am opposed to animal rights and, more specifically, to groups such as HSUS that try to cloud the distinction between animal welfare and animal rights.

HSUS is known for releasing “reports” that have a tendency to foreshadow its lobbying and ballot initiative efforts. Some examples of these reports would include: “The Welfare of Animals in the Egg Industry,” “Welfare Issues with Gestation Crates for Pregnant Sows,” and “The Welfare of Sows Used for Breeding in the Pig Industry.” Even though this magazine’s focus is beef cattle, most of us are surely aware of the ballot initiatives HSUS has pushed that pertain to swine, chicken and egg production.

I mention these reports and the ballot initiatives that followed because HSUS released a report this summer entitled “The Welfare of Calves in the Beef Industry.” You can access the report at

www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/farm/welfare_calves.pdf.

So, it’s now official – the vegan-promoting, anti-animal agriculture group has set its sights on the beef industry. Obviously, this comes as no surprise.

This latest HSUS document is 23 pages long – nine pages constitute the text of the report, while the other 14 pages are bibliography. The bibliography contains 275 references, which is misleading, because most of the references are used multiple times. For instance, a single paper written by Lay, et al, is listed 13 different times in the bibliography.

In the report, “Abrupt Weaning,” “Painful Mutilations” and “Calf Transport” are the main topics discussed.

In the “Abrupt Weaning” section, HSUS quotes a reference that states that calves will “wean naturally” at 7-14 months of age. HSUS also references studies on fence-line weaning and “two-step” weaning. When the subject of early weaning (1½-5 months of age) is discussed, HSUS states this “may be economically desirable to producers since cows can be re-impregnated earlier.” Since when is weaning required before a cow can be re-bred?

The section on “Painful Mutilations” refers to castration, dehorning and branding of calves. While these practices are discussed with reasonable accuracy, “mutilate” or some form of the word is used 12 times in the discussion.

This is obviously an attempt to sway the reader’s emotions, especially when these practices are compared to common human neonate practices (such as circumcision), the terminology suddenly changes to “surgery.”

This change in terminology is probably due to the fact that many HSUS donors may have had a son circumcised. Thus, accusing their donors of “mutilating” their children would most likely have a negative effect on HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle’s pension fund. Incidentally, **HSUS puts five times more money in its pension fund than it does in pet shelters.**

HSUS puts five times more money in its pension fund than it does in pet shelters.

The “Calf Transport” section references many industry-generated scientific papers that detail calf stress during transport, the immune competence of calves when transported, and the effects that preconditioning has on post-transport health of calves. HSUS also believes the 28-hour transport law, which limits the length of time animals can be hauled before they must be unloaded and offered feed, water and rest, is under-enforced.

The conclusion HSUS draws from this body of work is that the beef industry should “address the welfare issues in beef production.” I consider this conclusion to be an amazing grasp of the obvious.

HSUS references many scientific papers generated by scientists within our industry, thereby proving that the industry is working to address these issues. Then it states that the beef industry needs to address these issues?

Hmmm. They surely wouldn’t use the scientific work our industry has generated to raise money for themselves, would they?



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Do relationships exist between cow size, nutrient requirements and production capability?

Producing heavy feeders that perform and provide quality carcasses start with cows that are able to produce that type of calf, and still work in the ranching environment, says Ken Olson, South Dakota State University Extension beef specialist.

Addressing the recent Range Beef Cow Symposium in Mitchell, NE, Olson began by talking about feeder cattle. He cited work by Kansas State University's Justin Waggoner, who is involved in an ongoing feedlot project called 'Focus on Feedlots.' The project has amassed 20 years of data from Kansas feedyards varying in size from 10,000-head to 75,000-head capacities.

"There is a steady trend upward over the 20 years for both steers and heifers, and we're putting on an additional 150-170 lbs. at finishing today. That equates to about 14% larger weights. They do spend about eight more days to get there, but their average daily gains are about 60% faster, and they're more efficient," Olson says.

He says this data demonstrates how the industry has maintained steady beef production with a third less cows than in 1974.

"When you put all that information together, and divide the weight of beef slaughtered by the number of cows, we have a very steady trend line over time of increasing the amount of beef produced per cow. There's about an 18% improvement over that same 20-year period."

To comprehend how much cow size has increased, Olson provided EPD numbers as one indicator. For the Angus breed, yearling weight, which is considered a reliable indicator of mature weight, has increased 96 lbs. since the early 1970s. In that same time period, Angus steer weights have increased 300 lbs., and heifers are up 239 lbs., on average.

"Another source of information on mature cow size weights comes from actual research data from USDA's Germplasm Evaluation Program. They conducted a direct, head-to-head comparison of nine sire breeds, all representing the character of those sire breeds when bred to common genetic resource cows and allowed to grow to full genetic maturity, and weighed at five years old as a measure of mature weight," Olson explains.

The average cow size across all breeds was 1,390 lbs., with less than 100 lbs. separating the heaviest and lightest breeds. Herefords came in heaviest, at 1,419 lbs., followed by Angus at 1,410 lbs., then Red Angus at 1,409 lbs. In the middle were Simmental cows at 1,404 lbs., and the lightest three breeds were Gelbvieh at 1,323 lbs., Limousin at 1,391 lbs. and Charolais at 1,371 lbs.

"It looks upside down when you start putting the breeds with numbers. The British breeds have aggressively chased growth and added a lot of growth potential and size to their breeds. The continental breeds have probably focused on other traits, and while they've had growth trending upward, it's not at nearly as steep a rate," commented Olson on the findings.

"So, cows have gotten bigger, and we've documented how much bigger, and we want to stay in that 1,200-1,400 lb. range. That's where management comes into play in terms of a producer deciding where his perfect range is, where he wants to be within that range, and what would provide acceptable carcass sizes," Olson notes.

Knowing actual cow size is a critical first step in managing cow weight, he continues. While many ranchers don't have access to a scale, Olson encourages getting a mature cow weight if at all possible. Looking at cull-cow weights, and adjusting that weight based on how those cows compared to a herd's average, is another way ranchers can get a general idea of how big their cows are.

The winter season is upon beef cattle producers in the upper Midwest. Winter feeding management is critical as winter feed costs are the single largest expense in a cow/calf operation. A winter feeding program will vary for each operation depending on the quality of forage being fed, cost and availability of winter feed supplements, animal type (mature cow, replacement heifer or back-grounded calves) body condition of that animal and calving date, if applicable. In the upper Midwest, a large percent of winter feeding includes the middle and last trimester of gestation and a portion of the first stages of lactation in spring calving herds. To choose a winter feeding program that is the most viable for your operation, know what type of animal you are feeding, stage of pregnancy (if the animal is in production), body condition, available feed resources and feed prices. For example, dry cows require feed lower in quality than nursing cows and young females require feed higher in quality than mature cows.

Generally, winter feeding is accomplished with harvested forages, mainly hay and silage. One can estimate, based on dry matter (DM) intake/head/day, how much winter feed is needed per animal during the winter feeding period. A 1350-lb. pregnant beef cow will typically require 25 to 30 lbs. DM/day which equates to approximately one round bale of hay (1000 lb. bale) per head per month. Grazing crop residues may also be utilized as well, but may not be a feasible option for areas that receive significant amounts of snowfall during the early winter months. Research has shown that cows will graze through deep snow (up to 9 inches) for high quality forages, but grazing can become difficult and reduce forage intake with as little as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of ice covering the snow. Besides limiting the grazing of crop residues, winter conditions will decrease the feed's nutritional value by reducing the digestibility of dry matter and protein. Not only does winter precipitation need to be taken into account, adjustments for cold temperatures need to be considered as well. A practical rule of thumb is to increase energy intake by 1% for every degree of coldness below the lower critical temperature of a cow. As an example, a 20° F temperature can be used as the lower critical temperature. Thus, if the outside temperature is 0° F with calm wind speed, then energy intake will need to be adjusted 20%. If the daily TDN (total digestible nutrient; a measure of energy) requirement is 11.2 lb, then an additional 2.24 lb TDN are required to prevent environmental stress or weight loss on the cow.

Regardless of whether you feed stored forages or graze crop residues, the cow's diet must be sufficient throughout the winter months to uphold a body condition score (BCS) of 5 to 6 (9-point scale; 1 = emaciated and 9 = obese). It is generally accepted that a BCS of 5 to 6 is optimum for reproduction. At this level of condition, a cow is able to maintain its body weight and support production functions such as lactation and fetal growth. During the last trimester of gestation (223 to 283 d of gestation), fetal growth can account for 55% to 70% of total fetal weight, thus maintaining adequate body condition in pregnant cattle is crucial in the two to three months prior to calving.

Depending on forage quality, supplementing beef cows may be necessary when nutrient demands are not met by the basic diet the cow is offered. Typically, diets of late gestating beef cows will meet nutrient needs if they contain a minimum of 55% TDN and 8% crude protein (CP). However, lactating cow minimum requirements during the winter increase to 62% TDN and 11% CP, such as with fall calving cows. When feeding pregnant first- and second-calf heifers, due to calve in the spring, maintaining diet TDN at 60% and CP at 11% from the beginning of winter through early lactation should be sufficient for maintaining a BCS 5 to 6. Those requirements will increase (TDN = 66-70%; CP = 11-13%) for fall calving first- and second-calf heifers during the winter months.

When requiring a TDN or CP supplement, compare nutrient intake of the diet with nutrient requirements of the cow (based on animal type and pregnancy status) and determine what additional nutrient(s) are needed for supplementation. Throughout the winter, evaluate cow performance (i.e. body weight and condition changes) as a result of your winter feeding program, especially if additional nutrient supplementation was needed in the diet. This will tell you if you are correctly supplementing your cattle through the winter and preparing those spring calving herds for the calving season.

One management practice that producers tend to oversee is pregnancy determination in spring calving herds prior to winter. One might ask why this is of any importance to winter feeding strategies in beef cattle. We know that winter feed costs can account for up to 60 – 70 % of all yearly feeding costs. When

producers feed open cows during the winter, feed costs become substantially higher when there is no return on those open cows. Identifying those open cows early in the fall will allow a producer to market those animals when market prices permit. Typically cow prices are higher in late December through early February, so if a producer has a carry-over of summer and fall forages, holding those open cows to market in late December through early February may be an option to increase profit on those open cows, if feed cost per animal is minimal. Otherwise, selling those open cows early in the fall will prevent feeding additional winter feed.

Source: Beka Gill and Dr. Ryon Walker, University of Minnesota Beef Team

How does cold stress affect the energy needs of a beef cow?

South Dakota State University Extension | Updated: December 12, 2011

Most beef producers know intuitively that when the weather gets colder their cows need more energy to maintain their condition and productivity. The questions are when do cows start experiencing cold stress and then how much more energy do they need?

When we're considering cold stress, we need to factor in both the actual temperature and the wind speed to determine the effective temperature. In Table 1 you can see wind speed can dramatically lower the effective temperature the cattle experience. Any kind of available protection, whether natural or man-made, can be very valuable in reducing the amount of wind chill.

Table 1. Wind Chill Temperature, Degrees F

Wind Speed	10°F	0°F	10°F	20°F	30°F
5	-16	-6	3	13	23
10	-21	-11	-1	8	18
20	-30	-20	-10	0	9
30	-46	-36	-27	-16	-6

Table 2. Lower Critical Temperatures for Beef Cattle

Coat Condition	Critical Temperature, Degrees F
Wet or Summer Coat	59
Dry, Fall Coat	45
Dry, Winter Coat	32
Dry, Heavy Winter Coat	18

The second consideration is just exactly when does a cow begin to feel cold stress? The point of cold stress, or lower critical temperature, depends in large part on the amount of insulation provided by the hair coat. As shown in Table 2, that insulation value changes depending on the thickness of the hair coat and whether it is dry or wet.

As a general rule, for every degree that the effective temperature is below the lower critical temperature, the cow's energy needs increase by 1 percent. For instance if it is 15° F with a 5 mph wind, the energy needs of a cow with a heavy winter coat are about 10% higher than they would be under more moderate conditions. That requirement jumps up to 50% higher if the hair coat is completely wet or matted down with mud so there's no insulation value.

Ignoring the energy costs of long-term cold stress greatly increases the risk of problems down the road during calving and subsequent re-breeding performance.

Also, any steps that we can take to lower the cold stress the cows have to contend with will lower her maintenance requirements and costs.

Source: Warren Rusche



Beef producers can't be everywhere

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NEXT MEETING

The next NYSA meeting will be on 3-31-12 at Groton City Community Church near Simme Valley, Groton, NY. **The semen, AI supplies, eartags, needles & syringes will be ready for pick-up.**

DIRECTIONS: N. or S. on I-81, take exit 12 to Rt 281, turn right on Rt 281, about ¾ mile turn left on Rt 90. Go about 5.5 miles to a VERY small town of Summerhill. Turn left at first cross-road after Summerhill sign (Salt Rd – it's at the top of the hill), then take 2nd left, go down the hill & across creek. Simme Valley is 1st place on the left. Continue to church, go straight to "T", turn right, take next left, church is on the right.

OR – Rt 38 to Groton, East on Rt 222 to TOP of hill, turn left on Salt Rd, take 3rd right. Simme Valley is 1st place on the left.

Meeting will start at 1:00 PM

Everyone is invited to visit & view Simme Valley's new calves after the meeting. Bring appropriate BOOTS & dress for the weather (we're usually colder).

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Are very reasonable:

Directory:

Full Page	\$ 85 B&W
Full Page	\$125 Color
½ Page	\$ 50
¼ Page	\$ 30

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Business Card \$6

Let me know if you want to
place a new ad or renew your
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Jeanne 607-838-3670
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What bull are you going to use? ORDER YOUR SEMEN SIRE BOOKS NOW! And group order with NYSA

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Deadlines Coming Soon
Do you have your semen
picked out? (3-1-12)
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NEW YORK
Simmental
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APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Farm Name _____

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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Type of farm operation _____

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**\$20/Yr Farm or Individual
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NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION
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**2012 Dues
Notice**

Membership/renewal \$20 by 1/1 _____

Late Membership renewal \$25 _____

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New Jr. Membership \$5 _____

Sign up a buyer \$20 (provide info) _____

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1/2 Page Ad \$20 (x 5=\$100) _____

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Directory Ads:

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1/2 Page Ad: \$50 _____

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TOTAL DUE: _____

**Mail all information to:
Jeanne White
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Groton, NY 13073-9430**

Web site: www.NewYorkSimmental.com

Simmental

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- Calving data collected by Montana State University on over 2,000 British heifers prove that Simmental sires, when selected for calving ease, can be used successfully on heifers.
- Simmental sires now calve easier than Herefords and comparable to Angus (within 2%) when used on cows*
- Simmental females calve easier than any Continental or British breed*

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- Based on data from the industry's largest structured-carcass-testing program (more than 30,000 females bred to date), Simmental x Angus carcasses average 76% Choice or higher with a 2.7 Yield Grade.
- Simmental is the #1 Continental breed for marbling*
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- No other breed grows faster to weaning*
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* Based on USDA Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) data.

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Newsletter

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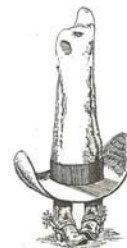
January-February Issue
News in by - Jan 15

April-May Issue
News in by - Apr 1

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