

March/April 2010

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Where caring for your animals is our top priority

Stop Playing Russian Roulette with Your Calf Crop

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Wish you had a few more calves to sell?

Bulls have the most influence on your herd's reproductive performance. Twenty percent of all bulls have fertility problems. Last year 1 out of every 8 mature herd bulls that were tested at Willow Creek Veterinary Service were classified as unsatisfactory breeders. Because of this we recommend that all bulls receive a breeding soundness exam (BSE) every year.

The breeding soundness exam is designed to identify sub-fertile bulls. After the examination your bull will be classified as satisfactory, unsatisfactory or deferred.

By Dr. Sherri Merrill

We recommend that bulls classified as deferred be retested, usually in a month.

The BSE includes a general physical exam, scrotal measurement, exam of reproductive organs and a semen evaluation. The BSE does not evaluate the bull for libido, mating ability or social dominance. It is most accurate at the time of the test and is designed to identify sub-fertile bulls, not which bull is the most fertile.

During the general physical exam we pay particular attention to the bulls' feet, legs, eyes, and body condition. Bulls should be selected for good confirmation especially of the

hind feet and legs. Sound feet and legs are extremely important if a bull is to perform throughout the breeding season. We will examine the bull not only for lameness but also for the presence of old injuries and conformational problems that may limit the bulls' soundness during the breeding season.

We also examine both eyes. Bulls detect cows in heat by observing mounting behavior. Poor eyesight diminish a bull's ability to be a successful breeder and are grounds for failure.

Body condition is also very important. Body condition is

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Important Dates:

March 22 - National Goof Off Day

March 30 - Take a Walk in the Park Day

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 2 - National Walk to Work Day

April 10 - National Siblings Day

April 13 - Blame Someone Else Day

April 17 - Pet Owners Independence Day - apparently you are to switch roles with your pet on this day

Animal Shelters by Nicole Koehler

Are you thinking about getting a new pet? Have you thought about adopting from a shelter? There are many benefits from adopting a pet once left unwanted. The list of benefits include: they are already spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations, free of fleas, "vet-approved" with a health check, microchipped, de-wormed, already tested for certain diseases, and have had

many hours of contact time with people. Many people don't realize how much work a new puppy or kitty can be, but when you adopt from a shelter, you know that most of that work is done. Of course adopting from a shelter is not for everyone and there is no guarantee you'll find what you're looking for, but looking at a shelter is a good start. There are certain things to

consider when looking at a shelter. Don't be fooled by low-quality facilities. Most shelters are completely operated off of adoption fees and donations, most of their employees are volunteers, the facility should be inspected often and have certain standards of care they have to follow, and each pet should have at least these things:

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Russian Roulette continued



Corkscrew Claw

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measured on a scale from one to nine. One is extremely thin; nine extremely fat. A bull should be a body condition score six prior to the breeding season. This will allow him to perform athletically and have adequate energy reserves for the work season. Bulls that are too thin will not be able to perform as needed. Bulls that are too fat, risk injury to feet, legs and back, and will not be in athletic condition.

Next the reproductive organs will be examined. The scrotum will be measured and the testis will be palpated to ensure that there are no abnormalities. Scrotal measurement is very important particularly in young bulls. Scrotal circumference is related to the age at which his heifers will reach puberty. The larger the scrotal circumference, the earlier his heifers will mature. This is an important trait to evaluate when selecting bulls for purchase and can have a significant impact of the reproductive success of your herd and the longevity of replacement heifers.

The bulls are palpated rectally to examine the internal reproductive organs. The penis and the prepuce are examined to make sure that there are no abnormalities and a semen sample is then collected.

The semen is evaluated for motility. Bulls must have a minimum of 30%

progressively motile sperm to be classified as satisfactory. Next we look at individual sperm cells to determine how many have normal morphology (are shaped correctly). 70% of the sperm cells must be shaped normally to be classified as a satisfactory breeder. We also examine the semen sample for the presence of other cells, such as white blood cells.

After a thorough BSE the bulls are classified as Satisfactory, Deferred or Unsatisfactory. Bulls that do not meet the minimum standards are classified as unsatisfactory or deferred. If we feel that the bull has a chance of recovery he will be classified as deferred and retested. If there are permanent abnormalities detected then the bull will be classified as unsatisfactory.

While the bulls are in the chute we also recommend vaccinating and deworming them. Specific products are selected based on your needs. Most bulls receive Virashield 6 VL5 or PregGaurd Gold FP10 for reproductive diseases, a 7-way with Pinkeye, Fusogard for footrot, and a pour-on for internal and external parasite control.

We can also test for reproductive diseases, such as Trichomoniasis, if indicated. Samples can also be collected for genetic testing if needed. These samples can be stored for future use as well, if parentage information may be needed in the future.

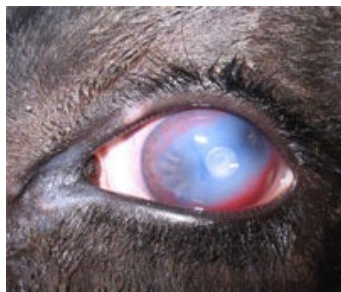
The best time to test bulls is 45 to 60 days prior to the

breeding season. Bulls test better close to the breeding season. We also like to wait until after the extremely cold days of winter in case of frostbite. However, time needs to be allowed for retesting and finding replacement bulls if necessary.

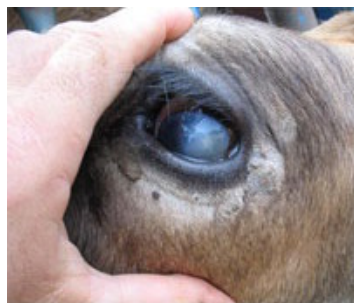
Finally, there are just a few other things to consider.

- Good restraint of the bulls is needed to perform a thorough examination. For this reason we suggest taking advantage of the hydraulic chute at our haul in facility.
- Decent weather is preferred when performing the exams. Unfortunately, our electrical equipment does not like moisture. The bulls also test better when it is above 20 degrees.
- All sale bulls must have permanent identification. We prefer that all bulls be identified in some way so that records can be accurately maintained.

In summary: we strongly recommend testing all bulls yearly. Twenty percent of bulls have fertility problems. In these tough economic times everyone is trying to spend money wisely and cut out any unnecessary expenses. Testing your bulls is a good investment. It is the best assurance of bull fertility and a good pregnancy percentage.



Active



Inactive

Calf Vaccinations by Kris Nelsen

With Calving well underway some of you may be thinking ahead to grass time. Here are some of the vaccinations that we carry and recommend. Remember that every farm/ranch is a little different and may go by a different vaccination protocol.

Modified Live Vaccines

One Shot Ultra 7 2 ml under the skin
 Pasturella (Quick Pneumonia)
 7 way (Black Leg)
 Bottle size 50 dose and 10 dose

One Shot 2 ml under the skin
 Pasturella (Quick Pneumonia)
 Bottle size 50 dose, 10 dose and 5 dose

BoviShield 5 Gold 2 ml under the skin
 IBR, BVD type 1 and 2, BRSV, PI3 (red nose)
 Bottle size 50 dose, 10 dose, and 5 dose

Nasalgen IP 2 ml intranasally
 BRSV (red Nose)
 Bottle size 50 dose and 10 dose

Non-modified Live

Vision 7 20/20 2 ml under the skin
 7 way (Black Leg)
 Moraxella Bovis (Pinkeye)
 Bottle size 50 dose and 10 dose

Trivalent-1 2 ml under the skin
 Moraxella Bovis (Pinkeye)
 Bottle size 50 dose and 10 dose

UltraChoice 7 2 ml under the skin
 7 way (Black leg)
 Bottle size 250 dose, 50 dose, 10 dose

Cavalry 9 2 ml under the skin
 7 way (Black Leg)
 Tetanus

Care of all vaccinations to maintain its effectiveness

- **Once product is mixed must be used within 4 hours**
- **Keep product out of direct sunlight**
- **Keep product in cooler/or in refrigerator**

These are just a few of the vaccinations available. We like to use these and have had good success with them. If you have a question on a specific product please call us.

We also recommend ordering ahead of time to ensure that we have it in stock for you, some days the products leave here pretty fast in the morning. Thank you and we hope you have a great calving season!

A nimal Shelters continued

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veterinary exam, spay/neutered, de-wormed, flea-treatment, and current for a rabies vaccination and a distemper vaccination.

Already have a pet, but want to help? There are many advertisements that want you to donate your money, but how do you know your money is really going to help the animals? We did all the

research for you....if you really want to see your money put to work, donate locally where you can see and visit the facilities. If you donate to the local shelter, it is also easier for you to see if it is a true shelter where most of the money given to them is for the pets and not themselves. You can also volunteer your time at a shelter or participate in fund-raising events. Please keep in mind that the Humane Society

of the United States donates very little of the money they raise to shelters-most of the money is used to promote political campaigns. Please do NOT donate any money to them, it's not worth it. The American Humane Society is nationally based and helps promote shelters. It helps give shelters the knowledge they need to be self-sustaining and they help set certain standards of care. Have you heard the statement: "No animals were harmed during the making of this movie?", the American Humane Society help put those

standards into the making of all movies...cool huh?

The best way you can help animals is by being responsible. Get your pet spayed/neutered. Every year 3-4 million perfectly healthy, happy pets are euthanized only because nobody wanted them or took care of them. Believe it or not but it happens right here in the little town of Pierce. Please be a responsible pet owner for your pet and your community.

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Art Show

In Honor of National Kids & Pets Day

The picture needs to include Dogs, Cats, Horses, Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, or anything just pertaining to animals.

Then, bring your child and the picture to our office. He/She will be able to choose where to hang the portrait and then receive a candy bar from Willow Creek Veterinary Clinic.

**Don't forget to stop in and check out
all the pictures from our local artists!!**

Inventory and New Product News

Nuflor Gold

- Has a different carrier than regular Nuflor
- Can give up to 15 cc in one spot with out having a problem
- Dose is 6 cc per 100 pounds under the skin.
- Slaughter withdrawal is 44 days.
- Also has a claim for treatment of Bovine Mycoplasma.
- Bottle size 100 ml, 250 ml, or 500ml.

Resflor Gold

- A combination of Nuflor Gold and Banamine
- No more than 10 cc in one spot
- Dose is 6 cc per 100 pounds under the skin.
- Slaughter withdrawal is 38 days.
- Bottle sizes 100 ml, 250 ml, 500 ml.

Fly tags

Cyguard

- Contains 87% more of the active ingredient than Cylence Ultra
- Controls face flies, horn flies, Gulf Coast ticks, and spinose ear ticks, up to 5 months
- Kills and repels face flies, the vector of Moraxella bovis (the bacteria that causes pinkeye in cattle).
- Use on beef and dairy cattle, including lactating cows.
- For optimum control, attach two tags per mature animal, and attach one per calf.

Corathon

- Contains 25% more active ingredient that the Co-Ral plus
- Controls horn flies, face flies, Gulf Coast ticks and spinose ear ticks up to 5 months.
- Controls face flies, the vector of Moraxella bovis (the bacteria that causes pinkeye in cattle).
- For use on beef and non-lactating dairy cattle
- For optimum control attach two per mature animal and one per calf.

Fly tags will be priced at \$2.10 per tag until March 31, after that the price will increase to \$2.25 per tag.

You can purchase these fly tags early and we can store them for you. That way you can benefit from the lesser price.

Please contact us if you have any questions or to place your order.