Herd Health Planning: Protecting your Cow Herd

Russ Daly, DVM, MS, DACVPM (Epidemiology)
Extension Veterinarian

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1

Herd Health Gone Wrong - #1
Eastern South Dakota Cow-Calf Herd

- Spring 2017 – Sick 4-year old cow
  - Progressive weight loss & diarrhea
  - Vet diagnoses Johne's Disease
  - Purchased as bred heifer 2 years ago
- Fall 2017 – whole herd fecal test = 16% positive

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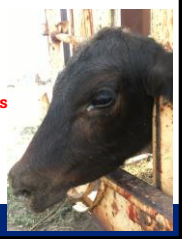
2

Herd Health Gone Wrong - #2
Southwest South Dakota Cow-Calf Herd

- Closed herd w/no vaccine program
- May 2021 – 5-10% of calves sick
  - Post-mortems = pneumonia
  - Vaccinate and treat w/antibiotics
- June 2021 – no new cases but sick getting sicker
- July 2021 – death losses mount
  - Vet sends calf to diagnostic lab: **BVD virus**



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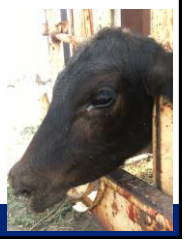
3

Herd Health Gone Wrong - #2
Southwest South Dakota Cow-Calf Herd

- Test all calves for BVD persistent infection
- 120/277 calves = persistently infected
  - Euthanized
  - In addition to 88 calves previously died
- 470 cows & bulls tested = all negative (no persistent infections)
- Source = remains unknown



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4

Herd Health Gone Wrong - #3

Assignment Scenario #9 **VET 403** **Fall 2023**
Deadline: Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 AM 30 points total
Submit completed assignment to D2L dropbox prior to deadline (individual assignment)

3. Describe a personal experience with animals you have worked with or observed, in which one of those interventions worked well – or did not work as hoped – in keeping animals free from the effects of disease. (7 pts)

Last spring my parents' calves were hit with a scours infection that we figured out was brought in from replacement heifers we had purchased the previous winter. It was hard to figure out the issue at first because we assumed the calves were being infected from their mothers (our cows) because they were not in the same pens as the replacement heifers and their calves. After testing from the diagnostic laboratory our vet decided that the heifers contaminated the area the calves were born in. When we received the heifers from the sale, they had stayed in the same barn that months later we calved our cows out in.

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5

Herd Health Framework

A. Know and control disease risk from incoming animals
B. Detect and diagnose problems promptly
C. Use vaccines as a safety net
D. Pay attention to everyday chores that affect animal health

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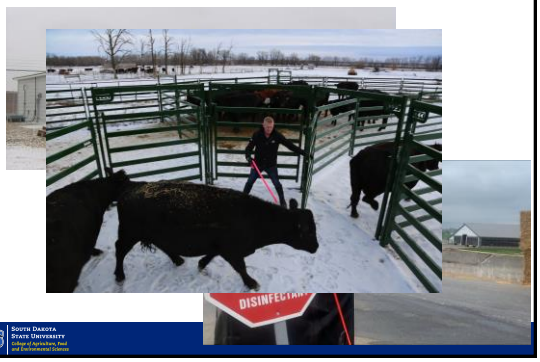
6

A. Manage Incoming Animals



7

A. Manage Incoming Animals

1. Risk management **prior to** purchase
   - Knowing the source herd
     - Disease awareness
     - Vaccine programs
   - Herd testing: e.g., Johne's Disease
   - Individual animal testing: e.g., BVD-PI

8

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9

A. Manage Incoming Animals

2. Risk management **<u>after</u>** purchase
   - 30 – 60 days isolation from existing herd
     - Time for incubating diseases to appear
     - Time for stressed animals to stop shedding pathogens
     - Time for diagnostic testing
     - Time for vaccinations, deworming, antibiotic treatments
   - Bred cows/heifers: Isolate until calving

10

A. Manage Incoming Animals

2. Risk management **<u>after</u>** purchase
   - 30 – 60 days isolation from existing herd


11

A. Manage Incoming Animals: Planning Steps

- Homework on herd of origin
  - Johne's Disease herd testing
- Pre-sale Individual animal testing?
  - BVD-PI – Anaplasmosis – Neospora – Trich
- Designate isolation area & plan for care
- Schedule vaccines and treatments for new cattle
- Plan for post-sale testing

12

B. Promptly Detect Problems

- Cow illness & death loss
- Calf scours
- Pasture respiratory disease in calves
- Reproductive failure



13

B. Promptly Detect Problems: Planning Steps

- Plan for routine observations
  - Summer pastures
- Contingencies for relocating cattle
- Discuss interventions with veterinarian
  - Threshold for herd treatments
  - Diagnostic testing
- Schedule routine pregnancy & bull testing exams

14

C. Use Vaccines as a Safety Net

- Respiratory viruses & bacteria in calves
- Reproductive viruses & bacteria in heifers and cows
- Colostrum improvement – vaccinating bred cows & heifers for scours germs
- Pasture-based diseases
  - Clostridial diseases
  - Anthrax

15

C. Use Vaccines as a Safety Net

- Respiratory viruses & bacteria in calves
- Reproductive effects of IBR, BVDV & leptospirosis
- Colostrum improvement – vaccinating bred cows & heifers for scours germs
- Pasture-based diseases
  - Clostridial diseases
  - Anthrax


16

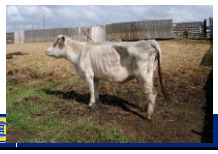
C. Use Vaccines as a Safety Net: Planning Steps

- Schedule a day to review your program
- Schedule time with your vet to discuss:
  - Appropriateness of your current program – based on your risks
  - What could be missing?
  - Vaccine timing & boosters
  - New developments
- Check refrigerators
- Replace and repair syringes & equipment

17

D. Pay Attention to Everyday Chores

- Keep cattle environments clean and dry
- Internal and external parasite control
- Nutrition/pasture management
- Genetics and breeding programs
- Recordkeeping
- Treatment protocols




18

Herd Health is:

- Different for every operation
- More than just a vaccine schedule
  - Managing new animals
  - Promptly detecting problems
  - Understand the role of vaccines
  - Everyday chores affect health
- Worth a time investment in forward planning

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19

20