

The BovLine

From the desk of Angela M. Daniels, DVM Circle H Animal Health LLC/CattleLac Services LLC

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Organizational



The dairy and other consulting (feedyard, cow/calf, swine) business entities of the Dalhart Animal Hospital are now managed by Circle H Animal Health LLC. The business manager for Circle H Animal Health is Angela Daniels. CattleLac Services LLC is also housed in our facility. We believe this positive change will allow us to provide better customer service to our clients. Our contact information is:

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“

Quote of the quarter

“Today we received word from USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Iowa that a single Holstein cow from Washington State has tested as presumptive positive for BSE or what is widely known as mad cow disease.”

Agriculture Secretary
Ann M. Veneman



Health—Tuberculosis in Texas!?!?

The State-Federal cooperative program to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in cattle began in 1917 to reduce the 5 percent reactor rate in cattle and to address the human health concerns. In November 2000, most of Texas gained cattle tuberculosis accredited-free status. In June 2002, Texas was downgraded to modified accredited advanced status, due to the detection of two infected herds since summer 2001.

In November 2000, portions of El Paso and Hudspeth counties were zoned out of Texas and had a positive TB status. A beef herd from Fayette County had a TB reactor at slaughter during the summer of 2001. Of the 26 adults in the herd, 16 tested positive and 10 of the reactors on the comparative test were necropsies and confirmed positive with lesions. The entire herd of 44 head was depopulated. Area testing was done and no additional positive cattle were identified. Trace-in herds were identified and found negative.

Then in December 2001, a dairy-beef herd in Pecos County was depopulated after 67 of 167 head tested positive. All of the 67 head had TB confirmed postmortem. The remainder of the dairy herd was depopulated in January of 2001. A beef herd that commingled their herd with the

dry cows from the dairy also tested positive. All cattle, sheep and goats were depopulated in February of 2001. At this point all area and trace-in herds were negative. Investigations in these two outbreaks pointed towards imported feeder and rodeo cattle as the infection source.

The newest positive herd turned up in Zavala County in a beef herd in May 2003. A packing house placed a trace on a suspicious carcass. The herd tested positive and was depopulated. One area herd tested positive, and the investigation continues.

Many angry producers are considering this issue as a dairy problem. However, data would show that the dairy industry has done a good job of cleaning up TB. From 1983-2002, TB was found in 14 dairies and 5 purebred beef herds. But from 1993-2002, Only 5 dairies and 3 purebred beef herds were positive.

Other states have also met challenges with
(article continues on page 2)

On-Line



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Website for the U.S. Animal Health Association; a government website providing good information on animal health, food safety and disease control www.usaha.gov

Milk & Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Center website. This organization provides manuals, guides, and educational materials for employees of dairies to promote food safety and proper animal welfare.
www.dqacenter.org

Website for the National Mastitis Council; an organization of dairy professionals that meets annually and provides educational materials, research and materials to improve udder health and milk quality
www.nmconline.org



New Year's Resolutions?

Like many well managed operations, you have no doubt set goals for the new year. Did any of your goals involve employee training?

We have watched with interest the power that animal activist groups have had on our business. Some specific examples include the outlaw of farrowing crates in the state of Florida and more recently, the proposal specifying crate sizes for veal calves. Was one of your goals to become proactive?

One way to have proactive employee training is to DQA certify your employees. Topics include animal care, residue prevention, antibiotic use and others. Call us to discuss how we can customize presentations to your operations.

Matters of fact:

- The holes in Swiss cheese originate from trapped carbon dioxide during the fermentation process
- Old cows in India have their own nursing homes
- Limburger cheese takes 2 months to develop its staggering smell. This odor is caused by yeast and bacterium linens decomposing milk protein
- Cows can hear lower and higher frequencies better than humans
- The Holstein breed originated in the Netherlands. Other names for the breed include Holstein-Friesian, American Friesian & Dutch Black Pied
- Status within a cow herd or pen is not based on intelligence necessarily but the ability to push and shove



Research Briefs

- The Food Animal Avoidance Databank (FARAD) recently published withdrawal information on some extra-label drugs used in dairies. Flunixin Meglumine (Banamine® and generic counterparts) is not labeled for use in lactating dairy cattle in the U.S. On the basis of tissue depletion studies, FARAD recommends an extralabel milk withdrawal of 72 hours and a slaughter withdrawal of 4 days. Because of excessive injection site lesions and prolonged clearance, this product should only be used IV. Oxytetracycline extralabel use intravaginal has a suggested milk withdrawal of 72 hours for no more than a 2 gram dose. In addition, FARAD recommends testing milk as there was much variability in the oxytetracycline data. The slaughter withdrawal is 28 days. Xylazine (Rompin® and generic counterparts) is a common sedative used in dairy cattle. The previous withdrawal of 10 days has been shortened to 4 days for slaughter and 24 hours after IM administration. IV administration values are 8 days and 48 hours for slaughter and milk withdrawals, respectively. Your drug labels will soon reflect these changes!
- More protein means more growth for calves. While this is not a new finding, in recent years what has been learned is that a 20/20 milk replacer fed at the recommended level will not support a 1.5 pounds per day growth rate. This is especially true in the winter months! At this level, it would take nearly 25 percent protein. Fat levels need not be higher than 20 percent.

Health (cont. from page 1)

controlling TB. Both Michigan and California, and most recently New Mexico have been downgraded from accredited-free status. In Michigan White-tailed deer have been found to be a reservoir for TB. From 1989 to 2003, 25 cattle herds have been found infected. In Kansas, a Longhorn herd was found infected and not much information is yet available regarding details. In New Mexico, two infected dairies in the Clovis-Portales milk shed were identified. Some 75,000 cattle have been tested to date as a result. In California, three dairies were found infected in 2002. Since this time 394,000 cattle have been tested and some 380,000 additional will be tested.

So to address a somewhat moving target, some 150,000 head move interstate annually, the USDA constructed a plan focusing on 6 risk areas. First, ID and test breeding cattle imported from Texas. This will address spread of TB interstate. Second, improve slaughter surveillance on cows and bulls. This is believed to be the most cost-effective surveillance method. A bonus program was put in place to reward inspectors for doing what they are essentially already paid for—to identify and trace disease. Third, place enhanced surveillance on dairies and beef seedstock. Therefore to identify one positive herd out of one thousand, it was determined that all 880 dairies and 2400 or the 7650 estimated purebred beef herds should be TB tested, based on the performance of the tests available. Fourth, control TB in Mexican-origin feeder cattle. There have been significant numbers of cases in feeders from 1999-2002. This information has not been widely talked about, but there were 109 fed cattle cases in 1997-2001 and 58 cases in 2002 alone. The USDA set out to regulate Mexican cattle by identifying approved feedlots and pastures. With the advent of NAFTA, enforcement of this approval has been delayed. Mexico has cited unfair trade rules. This leaves the industry responsible for preventing contact between Mexican and US breeding cattle. Mexico points out that TB slaughter lesions have declined since 1993 in Mexican origin cattle. Fifth, control TB in Mexican rodeo and roping cattle. The new plan is to have all imported cattle tested at port and quarantined on premise for retests at 60-120 days after entry into the U.S. Annual retests are then mandatory.