

The BovLine[®]

From the desks of Angela M. Daniels, DVM & Dan Tracy, DVM, MS
Circle H Animal Health LLC & CAVL Diagnostics
angela@circleanimalhealth.com dan@circleanimalhealth.com www.circleanimalhealth.com

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Our Texas Premises ID Number (TPIN) is 00778MM

What is yours? Do you know what a TPIN is? We can help!

Premises identification is the first step towards a national animal identification system. Registration of your premises is voluntary at this time. However, it is important to know that after July 1, 2006, registration will be mandatory and will cost \$10 per year. By registering now, no renewal will be necessary until July 1, 2008.

Registering is easy. We have forms available in our office. Or on-line registration can be done by going to www.tahc.state.tx.us On the left side of the screen click the link "Premises & Animal Registration"

Is Bedding Really Necessary?

By: Angela M. Daniels, DVM,

Winter is here. Albeit extremely mild this far, the snow will fly in 2006. We get asked many questions about bedding. Often the attitude is that bedding is optional for adult cows. They are wearing fur coats, after all. The thermocomfort zone for animals is dependent on many factors. Some of these include body condition score, lactation status, moisture in the air, wind speed, energy in the diet and pregnancy status.

If a cow has a good winter coat, she is fine until the temperature drops below 20 to 30 degrees. At this point, she must increase heat production to maintain body temperature. In turn, her caloric needs increase in a linear fashion to the drop temperature. It is also at this point when performance begins to decline.

A North Dakota study on steer performance demonstrates the importance of bedding. Group 1 got no bedding, group 2 got normal bedding (defined as 200 pounds per head per season) and group 3 got extra bedding (defined as 400 pounds per head per season). Results are summarized below.

	No bedding	Normal Bedding	Extra Bedding
Bedding \$/hd	0	3.11	6.22
\$/# gain	0.284	0.255	0.268
\$ return/hd	48.15	91.05	84.79
\$ return/hd/GY	43.42	92.97	95.69

The return on using normal bedding verses none was 1.89 times greater. The use of extra bedding was not justified in this study. While this study was in a much colder climate than Dalhart, TX, the trends are most like applicable.

Our best advice is to budget for adequate bedding in all ages of animals. Bed according to the temperature and expected weather patterns. Dry, fluffy hair traps body heat in tiny air spaces between the hairs, creating a blanket of insulation of between the cow's body and air. Once the hair is completely wet, it loses its insulation capacity. During severe wind chill and wet conditions, it is impossible to provide enough energy for her to stay warm. Therefore, shelter and bedding is necessary.



On-line

www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_id/2005Dec_Animal_ID_FactSheet.pdf
Fact sheet from the Texas Animal Health Commission Premises Identification Proposed Regulations

www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/diseases/johnes/TVJDP.pdf

www.johnes.org/index.shtml
Useful information pertaining to Johnes's Disease and control programs.

Update on Johne's Disease

Dan Tracy DVM,MS
Johne's Certified Veterinarian

There has been some recent developments concerning Johne's disease, and I thought I would take this time to catch our clients up on what has been "printed". Here are some excerpts that have appeared in various publications that may have an impact on the dairy industry:

Culture of Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis from the blood of patients with Crohn's disease.

September 21, 2004; *Lancet*

"Viable MAP was cultured from the blood of 14 (50%) patients with Crohn's disease, two (22%) with ulcerative colitis, and none of the individuals without inflammatory bowel disease."

Feedstuffs [Johne's-Crohn's link gains ground](#) Sally Schuff, Feedstuffs, September 19, 2005.

M. paratuberculosis found in U.S. milk

"Viable (living) M. paratuberculosis organisms (the mycobacterium that causes Johne's disease), were found in low numbers in commercially pasteurized milk purchased from stores in California, Minnesota and Wisconsin according to research conducted by Dr. Jay Ellingson, Marshfield Clinic Laboratories, Marshfield, WI, USA"

Currently there is still a lack of sufficient evidence to support the relationship between M. paratuberculosis and Crohn's disease. However, there is a scientific assumption that believes that some individuals may be genetically more susceptible to contract and suffer from disease related to M. paratuberculosis. While there is not an immediate pressure to address Johne's disease on the dairy, I am of the opinion that the dairy industry needs to be proactive and initiate control programs on the farm, and not wait until there is public outcry to do so. It also needs to be remembered that public perception of food safety rules agricultural economics no matter what exists in reality. In addition, there are also production and performance benefits from reducing the incidence of Johne's disease by way of increased milk production, reduction of SCC, and reduction of premature culling. In my experience with setting up farms on the Johne's control program, there was other benefits to implementing the program than just reducing the transmission of Johne's disease. The process of developing and implementing the program also creates management habits to reduce the incidence of other diseases because the program provides a means for farms to appreciate the importance of bio-security.

What is Currently Available

Texas Voluntary Johne's Control Program

Special funds from USDA-APHIS are presently available to help producers who wish to enroll in the program. The TAHC reimburses Johne's Certified Veterinarians a base fee for development of the herd plan and up to \$16 per animal for diagnostic tests. Funds are available for a limited time, so producers interested in participating should contact their veterinarian soon.

For more information contact:

Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.
Designated Johne's Coordinator
800-687-4603 (office)
andys@tahc.state.tx.us

Or visit:

-http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/diseases/johnes/
TVJDP.pdf
-<http://www.johnes.org/index.shtml>

