



# WRVC NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2016

# See What's New at WRVC!

## Annual Vaccine Sale



Get a **7%** discount on **ALL** cattle vaccines purchased with cash or check from **Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – 23rd**



## Farrier Days

September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, & October 13<sup>th</sup>



## Pocket Pets



Rabbits! Chinchillas! Hamsters!

OH MY! WRVC now carries a variety of pocket pet supplies



## Chutes for SALE

We have a new or a used foremost chute and a used Silencer chute for sale. Contact Victoria at the WRVC for further information.

## Legacy Room

Located at our new location, is available for community use

## Horse and Sheep/Goat Deworming Package



All your deworming needs packaged up for an easy to use method of deworming. Package includes a detailed deworming protocol

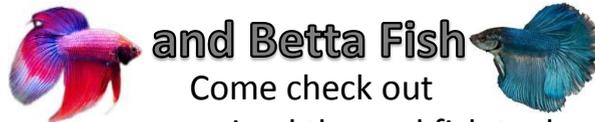
## Canine Rattlesnake

### Vaccine

Protect your furry friends. WRVC now offers a rattlesnake vaccine



## Animal Themed Fish Tank



and Betta Fish  
Come check out our new animal themed fish tank and the beautiful Betta's we have for sale



## Storage Units Available for Rent

Units are located at our old location. Please contact the clinic for more details

203 Hwy 12 E  
Hettinger, ND 57639  
Phone: (701) 567-4333  
<http://westrivervet.com/>  
Check us out on Facebook!

Dr. Ethan Andress,  
Dr. Lisa Henderson,  
Dr. Jenna Innes,  
Dr. Bleaux Johnson,  
Dr. Don Safratowich,  
Dr. Lindy West

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# Drought Effects on Nutrition and Health

Ethan Andress, DVM

Drought conditions can have significant effects on growth, fertility and health in our cattle herds. These systems require a steady supply of vitamins and minerals to function properly. While the body can store some of these nutrients for long periods, drought conditions frequently reduce the amount of these nutrients in our grass. In addition, droughts force us into situations where we must be creative feeders, using older, lower quality feeds in addition to the drought stricken hay.

Common nutrients that are deficient on our pastures and in drought stricken hay are copper, zinc, selenium, vitamin A and Vitamin E. Deficiency in any or all of these nutrients can lead to compromise of the immune system resulting in sickness, poor response to vaccine, poor fertility and production of low quality colostrum.

While on grass for the summer, cattle consume and store many of the nutrients they will need for the winter months. As the winter lingers on, cattle burn up these stores of vitamins and minerals to maintain their blood levels. This allows them to survive on feed of limited quality. At some point, the levels become low enough that without supplementation, the cow or calf's performance suffers. Initial signs include poor weight gain, low vigor, and rough appearance. As they become more deficient, animals can see significant reductions in fertility and abortion, and severe immune system failure with respiratory and other disease breaks. Dr. Jeff Hall of Utah State has shown that 92% of the fall pneumonia involves some type of mineral deficiency.



In addition, drought commonly leads to increased salt levels in water. As salt is the common driver of our mineral consumption, we may see decreased intake of mineral on already mineral deficient pastures. Poor water quality can be high in sulfates which can bind with some minerals including copper.

After a summer on poor pastures, a fall grazing deficient forages and in a winter being fed drought stricken hay, cattle will need additional supplementation. Cattle deficient in vitamins and minerals give birth to calves deficient in vitamins and minerals. These cows will have low quality colostrum and will respond poorly to vaccines intended to improve the colostrum. Calves with these deficiencies are prone to infections including scours and pneumonia.

With improved genetics, cattle performance is reaching maximum potential. Failure to provide the necessary nutrients to run at this production level will result in stress and biologic failure evidenced by poor performance, decreased fertility or sickness. As our industry is being pressured to decrease our use of antibiotics, proper management and nutrition are going to become ever more important. Please contact your nutritionist for assistance or contact WRVC and we will help line up a nutrition consultation for your operation.

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# Pregnancy Checking Cattle - Is It Worth It?

Jenna Innes, DVM

Fall is fast approaching and we will soon see the leaves and temperatures drop; while we have come to expect this yearly change, few are as prepared for crop yields and cattle prices to drop with them. With drought conditions effecting so many in the cattle industry, investing in pregnancy checking is more important now than ever. Successfully managing drought conditions not only requires careful monitoring of pastures, but management should also take into account the *productive* cow herd size. Knowing the pregnancy status of the cow essentially gives us a glimpse into the future so that management options can be analyzed, implemented and/or changed.

Although winter feed costs represent 60 to 70 percent of the expense of maintaining a beef cow, less than 20 percent of U.S. beef producers perform a pregnancy check in their herds, according to 2007-08 National Animal Health Monitoring System data. When one compares the roughly \$3 - 6/head cost of pregnancy checking with the \$100-200/head cost of hay alone to feed an open cow through the winter, pregnancy testing quickly pays for itself. This doesn't include mineral, supplemental feed, and dewormers that add additional carrying costs.



While most producers realize that maintaining an open cow for a year is rarely a sound business decision, there are many other benefits to pregnancy detection, which often go overlooked. Knowing which cows are open gives a rancher alternatives; one can wean calves early to sell open cows at peak market prices, sort off thin cows to fatten before selling, or check early and sell open heifers when they will still bring top dollar. "Historical cull-cow markets reach a low point in November, which coincides with the time most producers would wean calves and pregnancy check cows. Based on the average cull-cow market price for 2005 to 2010, the price difference between selling in August or November is roughly \$8 per hundredweight, which equates to a difference of \$108 when selling a 1,350-pound cow" (Dahlen). Not only are cattle prices better earlier in the season, but cows nursing calves will typically lose weight from August through weaning due to decreased nutritive value of forage.

Furthermore, pregnancy checking can provide more information than just pregnant/open, such as age, sex, incidence of twins, viability of the fetus, and the possibility of abortive disease. In many cases, the age of the calf and the likely calving date can be estimated, along with the sex of the calf. Cows can then be grouped based on calving date, or sorted based on the sex of the calf. This can provide useful information if culling is necessary to reduce herd size, perhaps in times of feed shortage. Various anatomical abnormalities responsible for infertility in cows can be identified, along with disease and management problems. For example, low pregnancy rates in one particular group may indicate problems with an individual bull or nutritional problems, including bad water. Poor fertility throughout the whole herd might be caused by an infectious disease, or perhaps inadequate nutrition prior to breeding.

Ultrasounding timeline:

- 35 – 100 days post breeding – age of calf/calving dates can be determined
- 60 – 90 days post breeding – Sex of calf can be determined, earlier is better
- > 100 days post breeding – Only preg/open can be determined



Pregnancy detection is one of the best investments one can make for the cow herd as it allows producers to increase reproductive efficiency and profitability of their operation. It can also allow for early detection of disease or other herd fertility problems, which can then be discussed with your herd veterinarian. For further information regarding the benefits of pregnancy checking, or to schedule your appointment, please contact the clinic.

Resources:

Dahlen, Carl. Consider Pregnancy Checking Cattle Early. North Dakota State University, 2011. Web. 20 August 2016 <https://www.ext.nodak.edu:8089/news/newsreleases/2011/aug-15-2011/consider-pregnancy-checking-cattle-early/>

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# Killer Grass

Bleaux Johnson, DVM

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This year has been a trying one to say the least. With inadequate rainfall for much of the year we have seen pastures turning brown and being grazed down much quicker than previous years. Because of this many producers have looked to alternative grazing solutions. Just be aware that there may be the potential for the grass to cause pneumonia in cows when we move them from poor forage to an improved pasture.

Acute Interstitial Pneumonia or AIP is a respiratory disease that can occur within 10 days of moving onto improved “lush” pastures. The grazing condition may not be that the whole pasture is lush but even having low areas that are more lush in growth can trigger AIP. AIP occurs as an amino acid L-tryptophan is converted to 3-methyl indole. 3-methyl indole is then absorbed into the blood stream and causes toxic changes to the lungs. So this is a non-infectious type of pneumonia. 3-methyl indole is seen at its highest levels within 3-4 days of being on the pasture and declines to normal within 10 days.

AIP is often observed as a sudden onset of respiratory disease that is unresponsive to antibiotics. Cows are almost always affected with calves, yearlings, and sheep being less likely to develop disease. Cows may be seen with their neck stretched out, open mouth breathing, salivating, and a notable “grunt” when trying to exhale. These animals are often reluctant to move and can die very acutely.



This disease typically does not affect the entire herd but can affect 50% or more, and around a 30% fatality rate. Unfortunately there is no known treatment that is particularly effective. Drugs such as Furosemide (Lasix), Banamine, and antibiotics have been used.

Because the clinical signs of this illness are often quick and abrupt to producers there are some things that we can do prior to movement onto these pastures to help reduce the risk. Two options in prevention deal with dietary management and medical management.

## Dietary Management options:

- Feed a full diet of high quality hay for 2-3 weeks before movement to lush pasture
- Limit the grazing to a few hours a day, gradually increase grazing time over 10-14 days
- Feed 2-3lbs of low quality hay per head/day for the first 10 days while on new pasture
  - This may be difficult to accomplish as they are reluctant to eat the hay
- Graze the pasture with yearlings or sheep first as they are at a low risk
- Limit access to low areas with rotational grazing situations

## Medial Management

- 200mg Monensin per head per day starting 1 day prior to movement and 10 days after movement
- 200mg Lasolocid per head per day starting 6 days before movement and for 10 days after.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding AIP please do not hesitate to call WRVC to speak to a veterinarian regarding this or other diseases in your herd.



# Your Pup and Parvo

Lisa Henderson, DVM

Parvovirus is an extremely contagious viral infection that causes gastrointestinal disease in dogs and puppies. Symptoms owners typically see are vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and poor appetite. Vomiting is usually persistent and the diarrhea may contain blood. These animals can become dehydrated very quickly and should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

A puppy infected with parvovirus usually needs to be hospitalized and placed on intravenous (IV) fluids along with IV medications to help control vomiting. IV antibiotics are also given to prevent and/or treat secondary bacterial infections that may take advantage of the puppy's debilitated state. The treatment is supportive and there is no "cure" for this disease.



**Vaccinations for the prevention of parvovirus are available and are so important. Many puppies die from this disease without proper vaccination. Puppies should start vaccinations between 6-8 weeks of age, and booster vaccinations need to be given 3-4 weeks apart until the puppy is at least 16 weeks of age for full protection against this virus.** *Most of the puppies that contract parvovirus infection have not been vaccinated or have only received one vaccination.* One vaccination is NOT enough to prevent this disease.

Because of the contagious nature of parvovirus, a puppy being treated for this disease needs to be isolated when hospitalized. Patients that survive the first few days of treatment are more likely to fully recover. Puppies that take longer to respond have a poorer prognosis.

Parvovirus is found in the feces of infected animals and can remain in the environment for extended periods of time during many types of conditions. It is resistant to many common disinfectants, but household bleach that is diluted 1:20 can deactivate the virus. Contact time with the virus should be at least 10 minutes. The virus can be carried on inanimate objects such as clothing and shoes. The puppies usually ingest the virus which is the most common form of transmission.



Parvovirus is a disease that is much less expensive to prevent than to treat. The cost of treatment can reach up to \$800-\$1,000, since many of these patients remain hospitalized for over a week. Vaccinations, along with boosters, generally cost around \$70 altogether.

If you have any questions regarding this topic or any other pet health topic please call the West River Veterinary Clinic.

Reference source: Morgan, Rhea V., DVM: Small Animal Practice, Client Handouts: Maryland Heights, MO, Saunders Elsevier, 2011.

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# 10 Tips for Reducing Your Horse's West Nile Risk

Lindy West, DVM

Since first being recognized in the United States in 1999, West Nile virus (WNV) has posed a serious threat to horses and humans alike. In the equine population, the virus is transmitted when a mosquito takes a blood meal from a bird infected with WNV, then feeds on a horse. While many horses exposed to WNV experience no signs of illness, the virus can cause inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. In some cases, especially in older horses, WNV can be fatal.

As a horse owner, prevention is the key to reducing your horse's risk of contracting WNV. Follow these guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to protect your horse against WNV:

1. Consider vaccinating your horse against the disease. In February 2003, a vaccine was licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics for use in healthy horses as an aid in the prevention of the disease. Talk with your veterinarian about the most appropriate vaccination schedule for your horse.

2. Eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites. Dispose of old receptacles, tires and containers; and eliminate areas of standing water.

3. Thoroughly clean livestock watering troughs at least monthly.

4. Use larvicides to control mosquito populations when it is not possible to eliminate particular breeding sites.

5. Keep your horse indoors during the peak mosquito activity periods of dusk to dawn.

6. Screen stalls if possible or at least install fans over your horse to help deter mosquitoes.

7. Avoid turning on lights inside the stable during the evening or overnight.

8. Use insect repellants on your horse that are designed to repel mosquitoes or help reduce the chance of being bitten.

9. Remove any birds, including chickens, located in or close to a stable.

10. Don't forget to protect yourself as well. When outdoors in the evening, wear clothing that covers your skin; and apply plenty of mosquito repellent.

For more information about the virus, ask your veterinarian.



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