

River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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News and Upcoming Events:

- AI/Breeding School is scheduled for April 19 at 6 pm at the Cordova Civic Center! RSVP to 309.848.9093 or email us at rvvscustomerservice@gmail.com to save your spot!

*Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter,
designed to provide cattle producers with
timely information and education on a variety of topics.
Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM*

5 tips to do now to prepare for breeding success this summer

(Adapted from Beef Magazine; Amanda Radke 1 | Mar 02, 2016)

Did you know that the decisions you make and the management strategies you follow during calving season will ultimately determine your success for conception rates and reproductive health in the upcoming breeding season? Here are five tips from Les Anderson, University of Kentucky Extension professor, for preparing for a successful breeding season now, as featured in the Ohio State University Extension Beef newsletter.

1. Evaluate and manage body condition scores (BCS)

Reproductive management begins with evaluation and management of BCS, writes Anderson. Rebreding performance of cows is greatly influenced by BCS at calving. Cows that are thin at calving take longer to resume estrous cycles and therefore are delayed in their ability to rebreed. Research has clearly demonstrated that as precalving BCS decreases, the number of days from one calving to the next (calving interval) increases in beef cows.

2. Respond to calving problems early

Dystocia (calving problems) can severely delay the onset of estrus after calving, warns Anderson. Research shows that for every hour a female is in stage two active labor, there is a four day delay in the resumption of estrous cycles after calving. The best method is to reduce the incidence of dystocia via selection but early calving assistance will increase the opportunity of cows to rebreed.

3. Don't forget breeding soundness exams for the herd bulls

These exams are a low-cost method of insuring that your bull is not infertile. Bulls should be examined for breeding soundness about 30 days before they are turned out.

4. Vaccinate against reproductive diseases

Several diseases such as leptospirosis, BVD, vibriosis and trichinella are associated with reproductive losses. These losses can be avoided if cattlemen vaccinate their herds against these reproductive diseases. Anderson writes that the main problem is that most reproductive loss due to disease is subtle and ranchers don't notice the loss unless they have a massive failure. Most cattlemen are not aware of their losses due to abortion. Ranchers need to work with their local veterinarian to develop an annual vaccination plan to enhance reproductive success.

5. Offer extra care to first-calf heifers and late-calving cows

After each calving, cows undergo a period of time when they do not come into estrus. This anestrous period can be as short as 17 days but can also last as long as 150 days depending upon a number of factors. Pregnancy rates will actually be increased in these females because inducing estrus will increase the number of opportunities these cows have to conceive in the breeding season.

Keep these tips in mind now during calving season in order to have a more successful breeding season this summer