

# River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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## News and Upcoming Events:

- Be watching for our upcoming Calving School in January!
- Need a VFD? Give us a call if your VFD is expiring soon!

*Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter!  
This newsletter is designed to provide cattle producers with  
timely information and education on a variety of topics.*

*Got a topic? Let us know!*

*Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM*

## Calving Season and Health Precautions

(Adapted from Heather Smith-Thomas, March 7, 2017, Tri-State Livestock News)

Calving season is just around the corner, again! With that in mind, there is a human health precaution that needs reminding in relation to placental management and calf handling. This especially becomes important with retained placentas, aborted feti, and dystocias.

Dr. Jim Logan, Wyoming State Veterinarian says several diseases can cause retained placenta, including Brucellosis. "Sometimes there's no rhyme or reason that we can figure out regarding a retained placenta; it just happens. The key thing to be aware of, however, is that it could be an infectious cause; keep in mind that you need to protect yourself when handling that cow or placenta." If the cow was aborting because of Brucellosis, for instance, this disease can be spread to other animals and to humans who come into contact with the birth fluids or aborted fetus or membranes.

"Use protective gloves when handling a dystocia or any kind of birth problem, or a placenta," says Logan. When the fetus is aborted or the placenta shed, these tissues should always be properly disposed of rather than left lying there, in case it was an infectious situation.

"Be aware of the possibility of zoonotic diseases that could potentially be spread from an aborted fetus (such as Brucellosis or leptospirosis) or even from a live calf. Any placenta—whether it's retained or one you happen to find—it's a good idea to properly dispose of it because the placenta can be a source of infection," says Logan.

Many infections can be spread through broken skin. Gloves will provide a protective barrier. If you need gloves (including OB gloves) or have questions, please call us at 309.848.9093! At Calving School 2018, we will be talking more about retained placenta and their management!