River View Veterinary Service Newsletter
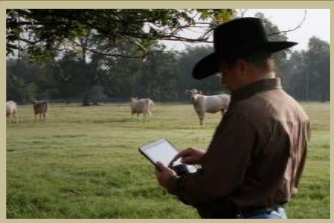
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News and Upcoming Events:

- Calving season has begun! It's time to start preparing for breeding season. Be watching for our upcoming breeding school!
- Check out the CowCalf 5 app for your smartphone for easy, cow-side records that we can help you manage!

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

Record-Keeping Made Easier

Records can either be a nemesis or close friend to a producer. The thought of collecting individual animal data and making use of it can be quite daunting. Most cow-calf operations could benefit from better recordkeeping, but it doesn't have to be complicated. The Six Number System, advocated by doctors Tom and Jim Furman of the Animal Center in Alliance, Nebraska, is a great starting point for records. In this system, producers need to keep track of six values for every calf crop. These are:

1) The number of cows exposed to a bull or artificially inseminated.

2) The number of cows bred at preg check time.

3) The number of live calves born during the subsequent calving season.

4) The number of calves that were worked (vaccinated).

5) The number of calves weaned.

6) The number of calves sold or fed out.

The first value functions as the denominator for the other five values, culminating in the calf crop value (number of calves weaned per number of cows exposed). The point of these values is to identify where breakdowns in creating the sellable commodity (the weaned calf) occurred. Once an issue is identified, we can address issues at the time they are recognized and not several months down the road.

Cattle records don't have to be complicated. Start simply with the Six Number System and work up from there! If you need help, give us a call!