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Farm Focus - Spring 2009

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Spring 2009

Farm Focus

YOUR FIELD SERVICE AUTHORITY

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Spring Brings Calving Season and Sleepless Nights for Some Farmers.

While most cattle do not need help calving, animal owners must be prepared to offer assistance without delay when a cow is experiencing trouble. In order to provide rapid and effective assistance you must: 1. OBSERVE, 2. EXAMINE, 3. ASSIST and 4. BE PREPARED TO CALL for help.

OBSERVE: Heifers should begin calving about 20-30 days before cows. They are not yet fully grown and by calving early they have extra time to gain weight prior to the breeding season. Pregnant cattle must be watched closely; preferably four to six times daily but at least twice daily. Heifers need to be checked more often. Move "heavy springers" to permanent pastures with catch facilities. Cows should calve on clean pasture with shelter available (woods, wind break, etc.).

Throughout the labor, a cow should make significant progress every 30 minutes, and a heifer should do the same in 30 to 60 minutes. The second stage of labor (delivery of the calf) may take between 30 minutes and three hours. Extended time during delivery without significant progress puts undue stress on the calf and the cow, reducing the likelihood of a positive outcome for both.

EXAMINE AND ASSIST: If a cow or heifer is not making significant progress take her into the barn to assess the situation. Adequate facilities help ensure your safety and that of the animal. Keep essential supplies ready during calving season:

1. Soap or non-irritating disinfectant to wash the genital area of the cow.
2. Plastic sleeves for the person assisting the cow.
3. Lubricant for birth canal and plastic sleeve.
4. Sanitary nylon rope or obstetrical chains with handles.
5. A calving jack or mechanical calf puller for emergencies.

Clean the cow's vulva to help prevent infection, and wear a well-lubricated obstetrical sleeve while performing a vaginal exam. Many situations can be corrected, resulting in the calf 's delivery. However, if the calf is in an abnormal position, use experience and judgment to determine if you can correct the situation or need to call for aid.

CALL: Don't hesitate to call your veterinarian for help when you encounter an unfamiliar situation, a problem, or if 30 minutes have elapsed without significant progress delivering the calf.

(continued on page 3)

CLEARER PICTURES

Thanks to a generous private donation, UTCVM's field service veterinarians have another state-of-the-art diagnostic tool to use on the farm. The Eklin Mark III Digital Radiograph machine is vital in the evaluation of lameness, other injuries and pre-purchase exams. The technology enables veterinarians to take radiographs on the farm, instantly visualize them, discuss their findings with the clients and give the client a copy of the radiographs on a CD. Additionally, a board-certified radiologist at UTCVM evaluates the radiographs at no extra cost.

HORSIN' AROUND

Want to learn more about horses?

UTCVM is there to help. The college's Large Animal Clinical Sciences department will host a conference for horse owners and potential horse owners Saturday, May 9. The conference will cover topics such as acupuncture, chiropractic, endocrine diseases, reproduction, wound care, hoof care, dental care, colic treatment, and de-worming and vaccination recommendations. There will also be a question and answer period.

Registration is **$25 for the first family member** and **$10 for each additional member**. The registration fee includes lunch and snacks. For additional information and/or to register, call (865) 974-5703 or email **chance1@utk.edu**. Find our brochure at **www.vet.utk.edu/continuing_ed**.

MEET YOUR TEAM...

Eric Etheridge
DVM

Amy Plummer
DVM, DACVS

Maria E Prado
MV, PhD, DACVIM

Kristie J.Steuer
DVM

Matt Welborn
DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Brian Whitlock
DVM, DACT

ERIC ETHERIDGE, DVM

Dr. Eric Etheridge was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida, he attended UTCVM. Following graduation, Dr. Etheridge worked for several years as a mixed animal practitioner near Memphis. Now back at UT, he enjoys spending time with his young daughter, Zoe, and his wife, Lydia, who is a resident in veterinary anesthesia at UTCVM.

AMY PLUMMER, DVM, DACVS

Dr. Amy Plummer received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and her veterinary degree from The Ohio State University. Following vet school, she completed a one-year large animal internship and a three-year large animal surgery residency at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Plummer joined the faculty at UTCVM in the summer of 2006, first serving as an emergency clinician and then as an equine field service clinician. After passing her board exam last winter, she became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in February 2008. Dr. Plummer's special interests include lameness and equine sports medicine as well as surgical conditions. She resides in Louisville with her four-legged family.

MARIA E. PRADO, MV, PhD, DACVIM

Dr. Maria Prado was born and raised in Maracaibo, Venezuela where she obtained her degree in veterinary medicine. Following two years of bovine-exclusive private practice, Dr. Prado came to the United States to further her education. She completed an internship and a residency in Food Animal Medicine & Surgery at Oklahoma State University and obtained board certification in internal medicine. Dr. Prado also holds a PhD from OSU where she studied a bacterium that causes respiratory disease in cattle. Dr. Prado is married to Dr. Tulio Prado, a theriogenologist at UTCVM, and they have an 8-year-old son, Daniel.

KRISTIE J. STEUER, DVM

Dr. Kristie Steuer joined UTCVM's Field Service team last summer as an intern. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, Dr. Steuer worked as a substitute teacher and led horseback pack trips into the Teton Wilderness in Wyoming before attending veterinary college at Colorado State University. After completing her internship at UTCVM, Dr. Steuer hopes to return to Wyoming to work as a large animal practitioner. She shares her home with a horse, two dogs, and two sugar gliders.

MATT WELBORN, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Dr. Matt Welborn grew up on a small beef farm in southern Mississippi. He graduated from Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine and worked for one year in a private practice near his home, before returning to LSU for additional training in food animal production medicine. Dr. Welborn has worked in the Field Services section since 1990, and has recently returned after a year's abscence. He earned his Master of Public Health from UT in 2003, and is board certified in veterinary preventive medicine. He enjoys working with students, clients and their livestock. Dr. Welborn has been married for 21 years to his wife, Nancy Welborn, a 1990 graduate of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. They have one daughter, Ashley.

BRIAN WHITLOCK, DVM, DACT

After being raised on a small tobacco and dairy farm in central Kentucky, Dr. Brian Whitlock attended Michigan State University where he earned his Master's degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in dairy nutrition. After earning his veterinary degree from Auburn University, Dr. Whitlock worked as a large animal veterinarian in central Michigan. He recently completed a residency at Auburn in Theriogenology and will defend his Ph.D. with an emphasis in reproductive endocrinology this spring. Dr. Whitlock and his wife, Lynette, have boy/girl twins, Grayson and Lydia, who will be four in May.

DOUBLE THE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

Special limited time UT matching gift opportunity

The University of Tennessee will match, dollar-for-dollar, gifts and pledges of at least $12,500 to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The funds will be used to help construct and equip the Large Animal Hospital renovation and expansion. Help us build a new large animal hospital to better serve you and the animal industries of Tennessee. Please contact Claire Eldridge, UTCVM Development Director, at (865) 974-6477 or celdridge@utk.edu

Pledges must be paid in full by March 15, 2011 to qualify for matching funds.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
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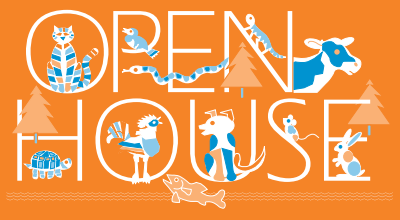

Our House is Your House!

You are invited to join us Saturday, April 18 from 9am-5pm for our annual Open House, a free, family-oriented event.

For more information visit www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse or call (865) 974-7377

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(continued from page 1)

Veterinarians are perfectly happy with clients who have all their calves born unassisted or with limited help from the owner. However, they are also glad to assist you with those more difficult cases to help ensure a live cow and calf.

NUTRITION AND MANAGEMENT: After birth, calves must receive adequate colostrum. The calf should be nursing aggressively within 4-6 hours of birth. Dairy calves need 10% of their body weight in the first 24 hours of life. For example, an 80 lb. calf needs 8 lbs of colostrum. Give 4 pints initially and repeat in 6 hours. Beef calves may need less, as the colostrum from their dams is more concentrated. During calving season, you should have frozen colostrum or colostrum replacement. Obtain one or two gallons of colostrum from a local dairy (if possible) and freeze for later use. If you are unable to obtain colostrum or are concerned about acquiring infectious diseases from another farm, purchase colostrum replacement at a local livestock supply or Co-op. You should also have an esophageal feeder to force feed calves that are unable to nurse the mother or a bottle. Monitor calves for scours. Work with your veterinarian to diagnose causes of diarrhea (scours) in order to better treat or prevent future cases. Dip calves' navels within 4 hours of birth—the earlier the better.

After calving, separate cows with calves from pregnant cows and increase feed to insure re-breeding. Thin cows are much slower to get pregnant. Body condition scoring is helpful. Ask your county agent or veterinarian for guidelines. To keep costs down, utilize winter pasture if available. Have hay tested, and supplement based on test results. Other items such as scales, ID tags, castration equipment, growth implants, and dehorning equipment should also be available for processing baby calves. These items can be purchased from a local retailer or veterinarian.

Castrate and dehorn calves during the first week of life. Implant steers at time of castration. Implant heifers that will not be used for breeding. Don't forget to record the calf ID, calving date, sex, dam and sire. Weigh the calf, and record any problems.

Since many producers have busy schedules, keep in mind one advantage of a "short" calving season is that a person can wait until all the calves are on the ground, then castrate, dehorn and implant all of them while they are still less than two months of age. Additionally, all the calves will have the same implant date and can be re-implanted on schedule.

Here to Service You...

Your UTCVM Field Services

EQUINE AND FOOD ANIMALS:

- **Herd Health/Production Medicine:** Blood Work, Deworming, Health Papers, Herd Disease Investigations, Nutrition Evaluations and Recommendations, Vaccination, etc.
- **Field Restraint:** Anesthesia, Portable Chute, etc.
- **Field Medicine & Surgery:** Gastrointestinal, Musculoskeletal, Reproductive, Wound Management, etc.
- **Reproduction:** Artificial Insemination, Assess Fetal Sex, Breeding Soundness Exams, Pregnancy Exams (Including Ultrasound), etc.
- **24 Hour Emergency Care:** Birthing Assistance, Choke, Colic, Down Animal, Founder, Wounds, etc.

EQUINE SPECIFIC SERVICES:

- **Acupuncture**
- **Dental Work** (Including Mechanical Teeth Float)
- **Endoscopy, Insurance Exams**
- **Lameness Workup** (Including Digital X-Ray Capabilities)
- **Pre-Purchase Exams**

CALL **865-974-8387** FOR ALL YOUR LARGE ANIMAL NEEDS

HOT ISSUE!

Officials Investigate Contagious Disease Outbreak

Forty-five states were tracing and testing horses that may have been exposed to *Taylorella equigenitalis*, the causative organism of contagious equine metritis (CEM), as of mid-March. Thirteen stallions and three mares have been confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories as positive for *T. equigenitalis* and an additional 635 horses have been exposed (an exposed horse is one that was bred, either naturally or via artificial insemination, to a horse positive for *T. equigenitalis*, or one that is otherwise epidemiologically linked to a positive horse).

This highly contagious disease can be transmitted during breeding or artificial insemination and can cause temporary infertility of horses. The disease, not known to affect humans, was last detected in the United States nearly 30 years ago.

The outbreak began in mid-December 2008 when CEM infection was detected in a Quarter Horse stallion in Kentucky during routine testing of an international semen shipment. The USDA and Kentucky animal health authorities quickly started an epidemiologic investigation, leading to the testing of more horses.

Those 651 test-positive or exposed horses comprise 94 stallions and 557 mares located in 17 and 44 states, respectively. There are three additional exposed stallions and nine additional exposed mares still actively being traced. All located horses are under quarantine or hold order. Testing and, when appropriate, treatment protocols were being put into action for them as well by state animal health authorities.

Eleven stallions (10 exposed and 1 formerly positive) have now completed their entire testing and treatment protocol and been determined to be negative for *T. equigenitalis*; another 55 exposed stallions have had at least one set of negative cultures. A total of 199 exposed mares have completed their testing and treatment protocol and are negative for *T. equigenitalis*. At least another 249 exposed mares are pregnant and will not complete their protocols until after foaling.

For more info regarding CEM, visit ***www.aphis.usda.gov*** and click on the contagious equine metritis item under "Hot Issues."

(USDA; March 10, 2009)

IT'S IN THE BAG!

Pegasus Paper Products produces more than pretty packages. While providing horse-themed gift bags, gift wraps, and other equestrian gift wrapping accessories, the company also raises money for the UTCVM large animal hospital. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Pegasus Paper Products will help fund Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) research at the college. Company owner Jeffrey Ray has first-hand experience with HBOT and credits it for saving the life of Angel, one of his horses. Learn more about Angel's story at www.pegasuspaper.com.

Visit ***www.vet.utk.edu/departments/LACS/hbot.php*** to learn more about HBOT. UTCVM is the only veterinary college in the country that offers this emerging therapy on-site.

To thank you for your support of the college's HBOT efforts, the company is offering you the opportunity to save 25% on orders. Simply enter code **UT25** at checkout when placing an order at ***www.pegasuspaper.com***.

www.pegasuspaper.com

Spring 2009

Farm Focus

YOUR FIELD SERVICE AUTHORITY

UTCVM's field service team brings you "FARM FOCUS": information to help you provide the best care for your animals.

*You can visit **www.vet.utk.edu/departments/LACS** for this and other information. To receive "FARM FOCUS" electronically, please visit our site to sign up.*

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