

REDWOOD CORRAL

Agricultural Extension

University of California

Agriculture Center Building, 5630 S. Broadway at Spruce Point

P.O. Box 4240, Eureka, California 95501 Phone 443-0896



%%
% PREVENTING LIVESTOCK THEFT %
% MORE CALVES AT WEANING %
% COLOSTRUM IS IMPORTANT %
% SHERIFF COX TO ADDRESS CATTLEMEN %
% SHEEP OBSTETRICS %
% CALIFORNIA BRAND BOOK - 1980 %
% FEEDING CONTROLS TIME OF CALVING %
% CALENDAR OF EVENTS %
%%

JANUARY 1981

PREVENTING LIVESTOCK THEFT

With the increasing number of unemployed workers and the high value of livestock, theft of livestock is on the increase. Ranchers normally have several hundred acres of land, and this makes it difficult to observe livestock thefts. Our modern methods of high speed transportation makes the problem worse.

There is a way of learning more about livestock theft and how to prevent it. You can do this by attending the rancher program during the Livestock Crime Prevention Seminar at College of the Redwoods January 26-30.

The rancher program is as follows:

Thursday, January 29	8:00 AM - 12 Noon	Mora Ranch near Alton (A simulated livestock crime will be set up and the officers attending the school will carry out a regular investigation. Cattlemen will take the part of the victim, witnesses, and suspects.)
	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Humboldt Auction Yard - trespass laws - livestock identification - brand and breeds - tack identification
	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Cocktail hour hosted by Cattlemen and Cowbells
	7:30 PM	Dinner at the Red Lion in Eureka (\$9.00, tax and tip included)
Friday, January 30	8:00 AM - 12 Noon	College of the Redwoods, Police Science Bldg. (simulated mock trial on Thursday's theft case)

To attend the Seminar and dinner, please make reservations with Lewis Coles (445-2191) or Betty Fulton (442-4205).

The University of California Cooperative Extension in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, or mental or physical handicap in any of its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to: Warren E. Schoonover, 317 University Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, (415) 642-0903.

Co-operative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture,
University of California and Humboldt and Del Norte counties, co-operating

MORE CALVES AT WEANING

Six to ten percent of all calves born in beef herds in the United States die at or soon after birth. One half of these deaths are caused by calving difficulty or dystocia. This annual loss is three times that resulting from abortions and second only to losses from cows failing to conceive. These death losses are costing ranchers several million dollars a year.

What can be done? Here are some management tips that will help you save calves:

1. Observe the herd closely during calving season, especially first-calf heifers, because they require the most assistance. Using Jersey or Longhorn bulls can reduce calving problems in first-calf heifers.
2. Have proper equipment and facilities in working condition prior to calving.
3. Give assistance during delivery or call a veterinarian when needed.
4. Correct any abnormal fetal presentation in the early stages of delivery.
5. When pulling a calf, loop the chain or rope above the ankle joint and half hitch it below the ankle. Apply traction on one leg at a time to facilitate passage of the shoulders through the birth canal.
6. Remove mucus from the calf's nose and mouth immediately after birth. If the calf does not start to breathe normally, hold it up by the hind legs and shake it vigorously, or apply artificial respiration with a short piece of hose or by alternate pressure and release on the rib cage.
7. Disinfect the navel cord with iodine to prevent infection.
8. Keep birth weight and ease-of-calving records to identify those sires and dams responsible for calving problems. Cull those females with a history of calving problems and avoid selecting replacement heifers from those cows.

By following these suggestions, cattlemen can save more calves at calving time. With

the high costs of production, what cattleman can afford to lose calves?

* * * * *

COLOSTRUM IS IMPORTANT

Colostrum or first milk is important to baby lambs and baby calves. It contains higher levels of energy, protein, vitamins, and disease-resisting antibodies, particularly gamma globulin, than is contained in regular milk.

For best results colostrum should be fed to lambs and calves within an hour after birth and should continue for two or three days. Young are born with practically no antibodies to resist disease-causing organism. It is very important that they receive colostrum as soon after birth because it supplies the needed antibodies until they are able to produce their own.

The timing is critical because the ability of the calf or lamb to absorb colostrum antibodies through its intestinal wall decreases rapidly after birth and is practically nil after 25 hours. Colostrum-deprivation causes young calves and lambs a high risk of thriftiness, increased susceptibility to disease and even higher mortality. Lambs tend to have a higher mortality than calves.

If the cow or ewe has little or no colostrum milk, colostrum milk from other ewes or cows can be used. Colostrum can be frozen and stored till it's needed. If you don't have a source for colostrum milk, you could contact a local dairyman and buy some colostrum milk from him. Keeping a supply of colostrum on hand is a good investment, as it can save you lambs and calves.

* * * * *

SHERIFF COX TO ADDRESS CATTLEMEN

Sheriff Gene Cox will address the Humboldt-Del Norte Cattlemen's Association at their Directors Meeting on February 4th, 1981. The meeting will be at the Agriculture Center, 5630 So. Broadway in Eureka and will start at 7:00 PM.

Sheriff Cox will be discussing the livestock deputy program as part of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. All ranchers are invited to attend the meeting.

SHEEP OBSTETRICS

Sheep Obstetrics is the title of a video tape narrated by Dr. Don Bailey from Roseburg, Oregon. This tape was shown at College of the Redwoods in December. In his tape he mentioned several points to assist ranchers at lambing time.

Dr. Bailey said there is no need to assist the ewe unless the lamb is in an abnormal position or there is an unusual delay in the ewe delivering the lamb. If assistance is needed, patience and cleanliness should always be remembered.

If not already done, remove all wool and dirt from around the vulva. The use of soap acts as an excellent disinfectant as well as an important lubricant. If possible, position the ewe so her hind quarters are raised. This greatly facilitates manipulation of the lamb. Remember to be patient. Insert the well lubricated hand slowly, give time for dilation making sure not to cut or irritate the passages. Of particular importance when delivering the lamb is to pull the lamb from its mother slowly.

Immediately following birth, it is important to make sure all mucus and fluids are clear of the lamb's nose and mouth. If the lamb is pulled, hold it by the hind legs to allow fluid to drain from the breathing passages. In the case of a breech presentation, it is particularly important to check for difficulty in breathing.

After giving birth, the ewe should be examined for more unborn lambs. Inspect the udder and check to see that the milk canal is open.

During the first 24 hours many lambs die from inadequate nursing. The problem becomes even more critical to lambs subjected to various degrees of stress associated with prolonged or difficult birth, weakness, chilling and slow-to-milk ewes.

By following the practices listed above, you will have more lambs at market time.

CALIFORNIA BRAND BOOK - 1980

The California Brand Book - 1980 is now available from the State Department of Food and Agriculture. The book consists

of over 35,000 distinctive livestock brands registered in California.

These brands are composed of such symbols as suns, moons, stars, boots, hats, and question marks. Some of these symbols date back to the colorful days of the old West and are still in use by California's 1.1 billion dollar livestock industry.

The California Brand Book can be ordered by sending \$25 to: Cashier, Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

FEEDING CONTROLS TIME OF CALVING

Ranchers now have the option of determining the time of the day when their calves will be born. This would only apply to cows that are fed daily.

A Canadian Hereford breeder discovered a relationship between calving and feeding times. He found by feeding his cows in the evening 30 days before calving, he could get most of the cows to calve during the day.

In 1977 he tried an experiment on 100 cows; he fed between 11:00 a.m. and noon and then again at dusk. During that year 98 of his cows calved between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The next year he tried the experiment again and 93 out of the 96 cows calved at the same time. In those two years, 95% of the calves were born during the day.

The theory behind this technique is that cows are less likely to calve during the night if they are kept busy eating. The Canadian breeder fed just enough hay in the evening to keep the cows eating, not enough for them to fill up and then lie down.

This method of controlling birth has been tried in Iowa and Montana with similar results. It has been proven to work in sheep as well as cattle.

This method would not work for all our ranchers in Humboldt County because they don't all feed cows on a daily basis. Those ranchers feeding cows on a daily basis could certainly increase the number of lambs and calves at marketing time because it is easier to observe livestock during the days and assist them if necessary.

* * * * *

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26-30

Livestock Crime Prevention Seminar - College of the Redwoods

February ~~2~~ 2

Humboldt-Del Norte Cattlemen Association Board of Directors
Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Ag Center

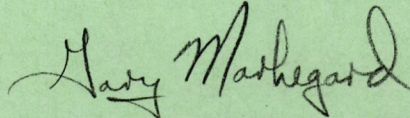
March 7

Horse Symposium - Redwood Acres Fairground in Eureka

May 25-30

Sheep Shearing School

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Markegard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary Markegard
Farm Advisor

GM/eb