LIVESTOCK THEFT SEMINAR


Although the seminar is designed for law enforcement personnel, there is a field day that is open to ranchers in the county. This year the "ranchers' day" will be Thursday, January 26 and Friday, January 27. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 26 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon  Cow Palace at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds (A simulated livestock crime will be set up and the students will conduct the investigation. Cattlemen and ladies will play the parts of victim, witnesses, and suspects. Bill Alkire will also give a demonstration on using dogs to load livestock into a trailer.)

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Humboldt Auction Yard (This session will cover brand identification, breeds of cattle and horses, and ways to mark tack for identification.)

Friday, January 27 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon  College of the Redwoods, Police Science Building (Session on prevention programs, trespass and property rights, and penal code.)

There will be a cocktail hour and dinner Thursday evening at Volpi's in Eureka. The cocktail hour starts at 7:00 p.m. and the dinner is at 8:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is $11.00 per person--this includes tax and tip.

Reservations are needed for the dinner, please call Betty Fulton (442-4205) or Lewis Coles (445-2191) by Monday, January 23.

If you have never been to a rancher day at the Livestock Theft Seminar, you should plan to attend. It is an excellent place to learn about the particulars of livestock theft and how to prevent it.
NEW BRAND BOOK AVAILABLE

The new California Brand Book 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

ASSISTING EWES AT LAMBING

Dr. Don Bailey, veterinarian from Roseburg, Oregon, has made some good comments in a video tape on assisting ewes at lambing. I want to share some of his ideas.

There is no need to assist the ewe in lambing unless the lamb is in an abnormal position or there is an unusual delay in delivery. If assistance is needed, be sure to use patience and cleanliness.

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 hindquarters are raised. This makes it easier to manipulate 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. Be sure to pull the lamb slowly from its mother.

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 the 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 the teats are open. The lambs should nurse within the first two hours of birth. Weak lambs may need some assistance.

These are just a few suggestions that might help you to save more lambs at birth. By saving more lambs, you will have more to sell at market time.

SAVING MORE CALVES

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 tips to help you save more calves:

* Observe the herd closely during calving season, especially first-calf heifers, because they require more assistance. Using Jersey or Longhorn bulls can reduce calving problems in first-calf heifers.

* Have proper equipment and facilities in working condition prior to calving.

* Give assistance during delivery or call a veterinarian when needed.

* Correct any abnormal fetal presentation in the early stages of delivery.

* When pulling a calf, loop the chain or rope above the ankle joint and half hitch it below the ankle. Apply traction to one leg at a time to facilitate passage of the shoulders through the birth canal.

* Remove mucus from the calf's nose and mouth immediately after birth. If the calf does not start to breath vigorously, apply artificial respiration with a short piece of hose or by alternate pressure and release on rib cage.

* Disinfect the navel cord with iodine to prevent infection.
* 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.

* Feed hay in the early evening to encourage more calves to be born during daylight hours.

These are just a few suggestions to help you save more calves at birth.

PREVENTING GRASS TETANY

The season for grass tetany is fast approaching.

Grass tetany is a magnesium deficiency that occurs in cattle and occasionally in sheep. Cows in late pregnancy or early lactation seem to be most susceptible. Older cows seem more susceptible than younger cows.

The disease strikes very rapidly. Initially the cow lacks coordination and soon becomes prostrate, develops convulsions, and dies in a few minutes to an hour. Many times animals die before any symptoms are seen.

Periods of early green grass and long periods of cold, foggy or rainy weather usually are conducive to outbreaks of grass tetany. The adverse weather affects both cows and the grass plants; it increases the metabolic demands of the cows. This usually occurs during the winter months when the grass is high in protein and low in calcium and magnesium. The grass is also very high in moisture.

Treatment of grass tetany consists of the administration of solutions of calcium and magnesium salts given either intravenously or subcutaneously (These treatments should be given under the direction of a veterinarian.) This therapy lasts for short periods of time so the dietary intake of magnesium needs to be increased.

Grass tetany can be prevented by providing adequate amounts of magnesium. Common types of supplements include:

* liquid molasses supplements—these are designed to be fed at the rate of two pounds per head per day—this offers 8 grams or more of magnesium.

* molasses blocks—these are designed to be fed at the rate of 1/3 to 1/2 pounds per head per day and offers 10-15 grams of magnesium. (Do not feed salt with these blocks.)

* addition of magnesium salts to grain mixes

REMEMBER—start feeding magnesium 30 days before the onset of grass tetany—now would be a good time to start! This allows the cattle to become familiar with the magnesium supplement and the body to attain sufficient levels to prevent tetany.

REQUEST FOR HAIRY SHAKER LAMBS

The Veterinarian School at the University of California in Davis is looking for hairy shaker lambs (Border Disease).

Hairy shaker lambs are small dumb lambs that shake, especially when trying to nurse—some can't even nurse. If you have any of these lambs, please give me a call at 443-0896.

COMPUTERS FOR AGRICULTURE

The Third Annual Computers for Agriculture Conference and Trade Fair will be held January 31-February 1, 1984, at the Red Lion Inn, Sacramento.

All conference sessions and exhibits are specifically designed for the agricultural industry. Over 50 professional speakers will cover a wide range of topics on computer technology and applications. Over 60 exhibitors will display an array of computer equipment and software covering a multitude of uses. The exhibits as well as the conference program are designed to maximize interaction among speakers, exhibitors, and participants.

For more information on the computer fair, please write to:

Computers for Agriculture
8701 Celery Court
Elk Grove, CA 95624
**WINTER CLASSES AT C/R**

Sheep Science will be taught by Bruce Bergman. The class starts Wednesday, January 4, 1984; the class meets in Room 354 in the Vo. Tech. building at 1:00 p.m. The course will consist of lecture and laboratory; the topics covered will be: breeds, selection, lamb production, and marketing.

The Large Animal Diseases class, also taught by Bruce Bergman, will start Thursday, January 5. The class meets in Room 353 of the Vo. Tech. building at 7:00 p.m. The course will consist of lectures covering animal physiology and anatomy, diseases and parasites of livestock, and preventive programs.

For more information on the classes, please call 443-8411, extension 600.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gary Markegard
Farm Advisor

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

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