

Title: Dakota Cow/Calf Clinics – Part II

The situation

After conducting Dakota Cow/Calf Clinics in 2007-2008, evaluations by producers indicated that there was interest in conducting the program in 2008-2009. Using information and topics requested by producers a series of three programs were developed to be delivered using the Video-conferencing Network (IVN). The advantages of using the IVN system are: 1) can provide quality programming to livestock producers at multi locations; 2) reduce travel costs of speakers (State specialists, area non extension person), and 3) reduce costs and time for producers.

Extension response

The programs were held in the months of December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009. Each program started at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The five locations were Cooperstown, LaMoure, Bottineau, Grafton and Carrington.

Program 1 (Dec. 10, 2008): Topic "Surviving High Feed Costs." As cattle prices decrease and traditional feed costs increase, cattle producers are looking for alternative feedstuffs for corn and soybean meal, ways to reduce feed waste and grinding feed. Current research from NDSU and other Land Grant Universities were presented by Karl Hoppe, Extension area livestock specialist, Tim Semler, Bottineau County Extension Agent, Vern Anderson, NDSU Research Extension Center and John Popp, Extension farm production specialist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Program 2 (Jan. 14, 2009): Topic "Importance of Third-trimester Management in Calving Cows and Heifers." This session was to prepare the cattle producer for the upcoming calving season by addressing supplements, salt and trace minerals, availability of protein, protein sources, rations for pregnant cows, calving equipment and facilities for handling calves, caring for hypothermic newborn calves and preventing and treating calving problems. The presenters for this session were Greg Mantz, animal scientist, NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center, Jon Seeger, veterinarian, Pfizer, Charlie Stoltenow, NDSU Extension veterinarian, Russ Danielson, professor, NDSU Department of Animal Sciences.

Program 3 (Feb. 4, 2009): Topic "Grazin' Days – A Pasture Management Workshop." This session was to prepare the producers get the most out of their pastureland by addressing foot rot, pink eye, fly control, pneumonia and other pasture health issues, veterinary procedures, pasture supplements, salts and minerals, pasture condition scoring and contingency plans during weather crises (too wet or dry). Presenters for this session were Charlie Stoltenow, NDSU Extension veterinarian, Roxanne Johnson, water quality associate, NDSU Extension Service, Greg Endres, area agronomist, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center, Steve Metzger, instructor, ND Farm Business Management and Kevin Sedivec, rangeland specialist, NDSU Extension Service.

Impacts

Participants filled out evaluations after each session and the results from the multiple sites were combined. Results of the evaluations for each session are as follows: Session 1 (Surviving High Feed Costs). Of the participants, 98% agreed or strongly agreed of the overall information presented. On the topics of "how to stretch good-quality feed", "feeding light corn" and "winter feeding cattle without starting a tractor", 100% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed found the information presented useful. On the use of IVN and if they would like more programs presented over the system, 100% were satisfied. Session 2 (Importance of Third-trimester Management in Calving Cows and Heifers). Of the participants 89% agreed or strongly agreed of the overall information presented. On the topics of feeding late gestation cows & heifers in my operation, 95% agreed or strongly agreed. On the topic of bull selection, 100% agreed or strongly agreed. Again, 100% were satisfied with the IVN system. Session 3 (Grazin' Days – A Pasture Management Workshop). Of the participants, 80% agreed or strongly agreed with the information presented. On the topic of pasture animal health, 95% agreed or strongly agreed. On the topics of watering systems and pasture weed and brush control, 85% agreed or strongly agreed. On the IVN system for program delivery, 95% were satisfied.

The following testimony highlights an additional impact: After the meeting, one producer is interested in improving his pastureland productivity. After the listening to Jon Popp on pasture feeding bales in the winter, he is planning to gear up to try this system next winter. He is also going to visit Jon Popp operation this following summer.

Feedback

The overall feedback was positive and thought the topics were timely and informative. The delivery method using IVN worked well and the participants were satisfied with this method and the length of the sessions. Of all the participants, only one did not like using IVN for future livestock programming efforts.

Topics for future meetings requested by the participants were as follows: developing rations, more information on handling equipment, more nutrition information, more budget information, using cover crops for late season grazing, effects of ethanol subsidies on cattle prices and nutrition interactions.

Contact

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