Dunn County Beef Day

The Situation
According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service’s 2013 Cattle and Calves Inventory, Dunn County had 82,000 head of cattle, ranking second among ND counties in terms of total cattle numbers. Dunn County tied as the top beef cattle county in the state with 47,000 beef cows. With beef cattle production being important to Dunn County agriculture, the Dunn County NDSU Extension Service has hosted the Dunn County Beef Day Event for over 10 years to help provide important information to beef producers.

Extension Response
The Annual Dunn County Beef Day Event has helped numerous ranchers in Dunn County throughout the years. Each year, a different group of speakers is invited to give presentations on the current and up and coming issues regarding the beef industry. For the 2015 Dunn County Beef Day, four presentations were given by different speakers to 23 people in attendance. The agenda included the following:

- Becky Buchmann, Dunn County Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent, “Vaccine Handling & Storage”
- Fara Brummer, Area Extension Specialist/Livestock Systems “Alternative Feeds for Livestock Supplementation”
- Dr. Gerald Stokka-NDSU Extension Veterinarian/Livestock Stewardship- “The VFD and Antibiotic Use, Does This Apply to Me?”
- Dr. Kevin Sedivec- NDSU Extension Range Specialist-“Pipeline Reclamation: Steps to Develop a Successful Outcome for the Landowner and Company”

A survey was given to those in attendance to gauge their knowledge before and after the presentations to see if learning took place. A follow-up survey was sent out seven months later to see if any changes were made to the producers operations due to what they learned at the Beef Day Event.

Impacts
Of those surveyed at the Dunn County Beef Day, the following impacts were recorded for knowledge gained from before the presentations to afterwards.

- 64% increased their knowledge about vaccine handling and storage
- 73% increased their knowledge about alternative feeds for livestock supplementation
- 91% increased their knowledge about the Veterinary Feed Directive
- 64% increased their knowledge about pipeline reclamation.

Of those participating in the follow up survey, the following impacts were recorded

- 75% shared what they learned with others
- 63% have used the information they learned on their operations and made changes

Of those who used the information and made changes, the following changes were made to their operation:

- 60% made vaccine storage coolers
- 70% placed thermometers in their fridges and/or coolers to monitor temperature of vaccines
- 20% started labeling syringes when working livestock
- 30% used the reclamation guidelines to help with a new pipeline easement.

Feedback
Feedback from Producers:

“I need to get thermometers in the fridge and coolers! Never thought about the changes affecting vaccines potential” producer attending Beef Day

“Great Program! Reclamation is coming along, but we still need more of it!” Dunn County Producer

“What a good variety of subjects and topics that everyone can take something from!” Beef Day Participant

Contact
Becky Buchmann
Dunn County Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent
PO BOX 420, Killdeer, ND 58640
701-764-5593
Becky.buchmann@ndsu.edu