

## Cattle Circle of Life Education from Life to Death and Beyond

### The Situation

Dickey and LaMoure counties have very limited access to on farm veterinary services. The challenges include distance and human resources. Cattle producers live with the understanding they may be alone in a situation which typically causes them to call out a veterinarian. The average cattle producer must have the skills to manage all situations from live through death. This couldn't be more evident than calving season. Dystocia, storage and handling of vaccines, euthanasia and composting are examples of the cattle producer's life.

### Extension Response

LaMoure County and Dickey County collaborated to develop and host a program that will cover topics from life through death as well as the economic side of cattle production. Attendees had a full day or which included discussions and many hands on activities.

LaMoure County Agent, Julianne Racine worked alongside of Dr. Gerald Stokka, NDSU Veterinarian & Livestock Steward Specialist, to discuss dystocia and provide a hands-on model for practice calving assistance techniques. Dickey County Agent Breana Kiser worked alongside Lisa Pederson, NDSU Extension Beef Quality Specialist to go through vaccine handling and storage including the assembly of a take home resource kit. Lisa Pederson also covered humane euthanasia and BQA certification.

Livestock system specialist John Dhuyvetter was on hand and assisted by Julianne Racine to introduce and educate participants on tools for determining cattle break-evens while Breana discussed culling strategies. The circle of life activities ended with Mary Berg, Livestock Environmental Management Specialist, discussing mortality composting. To end the program participants gathered for an engaging panel discussions with Drs. Stokka and local veterinarians.

### Impacts

Participants were excited to spend a day immersed in engaging activities that benefit their cattle production operation.

- 86% of participants believe their understanding of calving difficulties increased as a result of the program.
- 91% of participants increased their knowledge of vaccine storage and handling.
- 84% of participants believe they have a better understanding of cattle operation break-evens.

Overall, participants indicated their skill and knowledge based increased 33% as a result of their participation and attendance in this program.

### Feedback

"I learned new things on every topic discussed." – Attendee

"...had subjects you wouldn't normally touch on." – Attendee

"...very informative workshop, got BQA certified." - Attendee

### Public Value Statement

Producers apply new skills and knowledge to increase economic and health outcomes of their operation.

### Primary Contact

Julianne T. Racine. B.S.A.S.  
Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
202 4<sup>th</sup> AVE NE, LaMoure, ND 58458-0037  
(701) 883-6085  
julianne.racine@ndsu.edu