

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
WARREN FROELICH
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Colorado Veterinarian to Speak on Calving Made Easy

As the New Year begins many cowherds in this area will be entering their third trimester of gestation. Along with this comes increased anticipation of the new calf crop and anxiety over possible calving problems. To help livestock producers prepare for the 2011 calving season several county agents in western North Dakota have coordinated efforts to have Dr. Robert Mortimer of Colorado State University (CSU) speak at four locations: Dickinson, New Town, Minot and Williston.

Dr. Mortimer has overseen the calving of thousands of heifers in the training of CSU students and veterinarians in obstetrics and is widely recognized for his expertise in calving management. He has presented numerous workshops for producers throughout the country on how to handle calving difficulties and save more calves.

During his "Calving Made Easy" presentation Dr. Mortimer emphasizes the recognition of abnormal calving comes first from a basic understanding of normal calving. From this understanding, he feels the establishment of guidelines for observation of cattle and for intervention will reduce calf losses.

In addition, he feels losses attributed to diarrhea, pneumonia or cold may have been a consequence of increased risks associated with calving difficulties. For most cattle operations he believes this is a very effective area where training in obstetrical management will have a large beneficial impact.

Dr. Mortimer's presentation will cover the normal calving process, recognizing problems and decision making for intervention, methods of obstetrical assistance and management, equipment, calf care, abnormal calves and heifer management. He has also developed a research interest and expertise in bull fertility so we have asked him to

lead a discussion on evaluating bulls, health and reproductive diseases and bull productivity and economics.

Although I attended his in-depth presentation on handling calving problems during the 2007 Bovine Connection held in Watford City, I am looking forward to his presentation next month. For me, it will serve as a refresher course. For those who have not attended one of his seminars, this will be an excellent opportunity to gain a lot of knowledge which will pay dividends during any calving season.

The dates, times and locations of calving management meeting are as follows:

January 3 - 5:30 pm, Dickinson State College Ag. Department

January 4 - 1:00 pm, New Town Civic Center

January 4 - 7:00 pm, Minot Research Center, and

January 5 - 10:00 am, Williston Research Center.

There is a registration fee of \$15.00 payable upon attendance. Pre-registration is requested.

Pulse Day - February 17

Growers of lentils, field peas and chickpeas will want to mark Thursday, February 17 on their calendars as the day for the annual Pulse Day event. This year's program features Dr. Dwayne Beck, Research Manager of Dakota Lakes Research Farm located near Pierre, South Dakota. The title of his presentation is Enhancing the Power of Rotations with Pulse Crops. Other topics for the day include varieties, weeds, pest problems, diseases, pre-harvest crop desiccation, industry update, market potentials, and production and handling issues.