Regional Beef Notes
Winter 2009

Why all the Hype about Curly Calf Syndrome?
Tiffanee Conrad-Acüña Extension Agent, Agriculture, Richmond County Center

If you have read any cattlemen’s magazine in the past couple of months, you have probably heard about Arthrogryposis Multiplex commonly known as Curly Calf Syndrome or CCS. Why is it such a major topic lately? Everyone is talking about it because it has recently been discovered as a potential new recessive lethal gene in the Angus breed. This recessive gene is believed to be stemming from GAR Precision 1680, who is a very popular bull in the Angus breed. Right now, all found cases have traced back to him. It is not known whether the mutation occurred in him or somewhere along the lines in his pedigree. If he is the source of the mutation, then he would have to be in an animal’s pedigree for another animal to be a carrier. If the source is one of his ancestors, then there could be other sources, but they are not likely to be as widespread. It is a very similar situation to the Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis or HYPP muscle disease in horses being traced to the Impressive bloodline. The American Quarter Horse Association currently has a genetic test for producers to use in making management decisions.

Affected calves of CCS can have a curved spine, extended or contracted limbs, and have a thin appearance. They are usually born dead or die shortly after birth. To get a curly calf, two carrier animals must be mated. Even then, only 25% of the matings between those carrier animals actually result in a curly calf. There is a 50% chance that this mating will produce another carrier and a 25% chance that it will have two normal genes. If a carrier is mated to a non-carrier, the syndrome will not occur at all, but half of those matings will result in a carrier animal being produced.

If you think that you have a curly calf, please take a photo of it, get a tissue or whole blood sample from it and its dam, and call Don Laughlin, director of member services for the American Angus Association at 816-383-5140. Scientists are currently working on developing DNA markers that would allow producers to test animals for carriers of the gene, because there is currently no genetic test available. Commercial providers that are using Angus bulls in their crossbreeding program have a very low likelihood of having any calves with Curly Calf Syndrome, even if Precision is in their bull’s pedigree. However, it would be a good idea to make certain that Precision is not in the pedigree of future bull purchases if producers are retaining heifers.

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The best thing that cattle producers can do right now is to stay informed of the developments that are being worked on everyday. If you think that you have a curly calf or need more information, please call your local Extension Agent.

2008 Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sale Results

The following table provides sale prices ($/cwt) and total dollars per head ($/head) using 550 lb. And 750 lb. black steers. These two weight ranges are used to illustrate the small difference in price per pound for light feeder cattle versus heavier cattle during times of high grain and fuel prices and the demand for heavier cattle placements in feedlots.

Due to the economic “roller coaster” that we have experienced and the constant rise and fall of feeder cattle prices from week to week, comparisons have been made using sale prices from the Wednesday Auction and the perspective Feeder Calf Sale of the same week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale Date</th>
<th>5 Wt Black Steers</th>
<th>7 Wt Black Steers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$/cwt</td>
<td>$/head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday July 16</td>
<td>102.00</td>
<td>$561.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17 – Feeder Sale</td>
<td>103.75</td>
<td>$570.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. July 23</td>
<td>100.75</td>
<td>$554.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24 – BQA Sale</td>
<td>111.00</td>
<td>$610.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. August 20</td>
<td>102.00</td>
<td>$561.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 21 – Feeder Sale</td>
<td>104.75</td>
<td>$576.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. September 3</td>
<td>100.70</td>
<td>$553.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4 – Feeder Sale</td>
<td>105.25</td>
<td>$578.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. September 10</td>
<td>99.50</td>
<td>$547.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11 – BQA Sale</td>
<td>108.25</td>
<td>$595.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. September 24</td>
<td>93.50</td>
<td>$514.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 25 – Feeder Sale</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. October 22</td>
<td>91.15</td>
<td>$501.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23 – Feeder Sale</td>
<td>95.00</td>
<td>$522.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2009 Norwood Area
BQA, Preconditioned, Source and Age Verified
Feeder Calf Sales

Sale Requirements
• Producers must have a current BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) certification.
• Farm must have a premise identification number.
• Calves will be source and age verified according to USDA specifications. Contact Bruce Shankle, NCDA&CS at 919-733-7912, ext. 251 or 704-826-8848 for information and procedures.
• Calves must be weaned and bunk broke at least 45 days before sale.
• Final vaccinations (2nd set of shots) must be given at least 3 weeks before the sale and no more than 6 weeks before the sale.
• 1st set of shots should be given 2 to 4 weeks before Final Vaccinations according to label directions.
• If cattle are weaned and processed for the first BQA sale and held over for the second BQA sale a third dose of respiratory plus pasteurella (Pyramid + Presponse SQ) is required 3-5 weeks before the sale date.
• All heifers will be guaranteed open and traced back to the individual producer via the electronic identification if found otherwise. (How the producer decides to guarantee them open is up to his/her individual management decision.)
• Vaccination records, dates and products must be maintained and provided to the market operator if requested.
• Cattle will be graded, weighed and penned according to grade, weight, breed and sex. Over filled cattle will not be graded. Cattle will be graded and sold in truckload lots whenever possible.
• Sire ID recommended, but not required.

Health Requirements:
• 2 Doses of modified live respiratory vaccine (Pyramid 5+Presponse SQ and Pyramid 5)
• 2 Doses of clostridial/blackleg (Vision 7 and Vision 7+Somnus)
• 1 Dose of pasteurella vaccine (Pyramid 5+Presponse SQ)
• This dose can be administered in combination products in order to reduce the number of injection sites.
• 1 Dose of Haemophilus Somnus (Vision 7+Somnus)
• This dose can be administered in combination products in order to reduce the number of injection sites.
• Parasite Control with Cydectin (pour-on or injectable)

Vaccine Schedule Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Schedule Example</th>
<th>If 1st Set of Shots is given at Weaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At Weaning (1st set of shots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One dose Pyramid 5+Presponse SQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One dose of Vision 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parasite control with Cydectin (pour-on or injectable)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If cattle are weaned and processed for the first BQA sale and held over for the second BQA sale a third dose of respiratory plus pasteurella (Pyramid + Presponse SQ) is required 3-5 weeks before the sale date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale Dates</th>
<th>Last Weaning Date</th>
<th>Last date for Final Shots (2nd Set)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>July 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>August 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) cattle marketed through the Norwood Area BQA sales will follow the “Prime Protection” Fort Dodge Animal Health preconditioning protocol.
Important Educational Meeting
Discussing New Cattle Health Management Plans for
2009 Area Feeder Calf Sales

February 17, 2009
6 pm
Guest Speaker
Dr. John Schnackel, DVM
Professional Services Veterinarian for Fort Dodge A.H.

Jay’s Seafood Restaurant
Stony Gap Road
Albemarle

Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Cooperative Extension office (704.983.3987) in Stanly County.

After attending this meeting you should have a better understanding of the new requirements and the purpose behind their implementation.

Meal Sponsors
Garland Parker, Fort Dodge Animal Health
Mauney Feed Mill

*All regular feeder cattle sales now require the use of a respiratory vaccine, Triangle 9 (Fort Dodge Animal Health), Three (3)-Five (5) weeks prior to the sale date. A second dose of respiratory vaccine will be administered at the Stanly County Livestock Market facility upon arrival on sale day. This was discussed and approved by producer vote at the Feeder Cattle Meeting in order to maintain the integrity of our feeder calf program, improve the health of our cattle, and enhance the overall marketability of our feeder calves.

2009 Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sale Schedule

March 19 - Spring Stocker Cattle Sale
July 16
July 23 - BQA Sale
August 20
September 3
September 10 - BQA Sale
September 24
October 22

Remember that consignments are required and can be made by calling 704.983.3987.

For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Steve Lemons no later than five business days before the event.

Phone: 704.983.3987
Fax: 704.983.3303
E-mail: steve_lemons@ncsu.edu
Late winter is an ideal time to overseed clovers into our cool season grass pastures. This process is sometimes called “frost seeding” due to the process taking place while frost is in the ground and the freezing and thawing process assisting the seeds to make adequate seed/soil contact. The process simply involves broadcasting inoculated seed into heavily grazed pastures during the late winter months at a rate of 2-4 lbs per acre. For grass pastures that are less than 30% legumes, adding clover to the pasture has several advantages. Animal growth rates, reproductive efficiency and milk production in cattle grazing fescue are all improved. The effects of endophyte infested fescue, such as poor hair coat and poor cattle performance, are diluted by the addition of clovers into the animals’ diet. Unless you are already fertilizing grass pastures at high nitrogen rates, total pasture yields will increase. Clovers can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and research has shown that this "free" nitrogen can amount to 100-150 lbs/A for white ladino clover. This can make a significant reduction in spring fertilizer cost. Nutrients returned to the soil directly from the animal in manure also improve with the use of legumes. Properly dispersing manure over a pasture, whether through grazing management, winter feeding location, or spreading, will also help improve soil fertility. Another plus for the clovers is that they can usually be counted on for more summer growth than the cool season grasses. That helps smooth out the seasonal nature of cool season grass production and fill in some gaps during summer grazing periods.

A recent soil test is important for determining how much lime, P and K may be needed for optimal clover growth. However, most important factor in successful overseeding is reducing the existing vegetative cover in a pasture by grazing closely or clipping. Good seed-soil contact is crucial for good germination and establishment. Frost seeding clovers in February, when the soil surface is still subject to freeze-thaw cycles, will usually result in the seed getting incorporated at the ideal depth. Heavy stocking of overseeded pastures will also help, as the animals will trample the existing vegetation and help incorporate the clover seed also. Cattle should be removed from the field before clover seedlings emerge but should be brought back to graze down the grasses when they are about 10 to 14 inches high. This should be a quick graze down to just above the clover seedlings which should be a couple of inches tall by now. Graze for no more than a few days and delay if conditions are extremely wet. Ladino white clover is tall growing, and best suited for fescue and orchardgrass pastures. Ladino is relatively long-lived if grass competition is kept in check by keeping pastures grazed at 1-4 inch heights. Red clover can realistically be expected to persist for 2-3 years in most pasture systems. Although more productive than ladino during summer, it will not tolerate continuous close grazing as well and should be considered in hayfield situations.

One of the issues with clovers in pasture is weed control. Most broadleaf herbicides such as 2,4-D and Grazon will injure or even kill legume plants. Therefore grazing management can become critical and keeping some grass/legume cover on the pastures in order to suppress weed growth becomes vital. Keeping a healthy balance of grass and clover and minimizing weeds becomes an issue of intensive forage management.

With the ever increasing input costs including high fertilizer costs, considering incorporating some clovers or other legumes into your pastures and hayfields. A grass/legume system requires some management but the benefits, including cattle performance and decreased fertilizer costs, should prove beneficial to your operation.
We Need Your Help

I am sure you have all heard or read that operating budgets are stretched to the limit and we still have several months remaining in this fiscal year. While we have no plans to eliminate mailing this publication to our subscribers, we realize that some could receive the publication via e-mail. If you are willing to be one of these subscribers, please respond to steve_lemons@ncsu.edu or janet_mabry@ncsu.edu with this phase in the subject line of the e-mail - Send Beef Notes via e-mail. Following receipt of your message your e-mail address will be placed on an e-mail distribution list for Beef Notes newsletter or other information in which you may be interested. If you have questions or concerns regarding this request, please do not hesitate to call. (704.983.3987)We will be happy to talk with you.