

MEET OUR NEW LARGE ANIMAL VET: DR. CLINT HODSON



Stop by the Knoxville clinic to say hi to our newest vet, Dr. Clint Hodson.

Clint grew up on his family farm in Ackworth, IA. He graduated from Indianola High School in 2006, received his Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Iowa State University in 2010, and received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State in 2014. Before joining us at Animal Health Center, he was a Veterinarian at the Keokuk County Veterinary Clinic.

When he's not at work, Clint enjoys hunting and fishing. He has a dog named Pete, and his favorite animal breed is Bovine.

Clint says his favorite part of working at Animal Health Center is his fellow staff members.

If you would like to set up an appointment with Dr. Clint Hodson, contact the Knoxville clinic at (641) 828-2101.

A note from Dr. Dewey Nibe

As the summer rolls along certain issues are sure to arise. The first of which is an every year battle which is pinkeye.

Pinkeye is always at its worst in the July & August months. Prevention is the key to helping the situation. First step in prevention is fly control. There are all sorts of fly control agents and all of them can be effective if used correctly and appropriately. The next step in pinkeye management is pasture management. Which means clipping the pasture to eliminate seed heads from causing irritation. And the last step is keeping herd immunity high. With the use of vaccinations as well as good nutrition & parasite control, cattle can remain healthy with an active immune response to ward of pinkeye.

Another issue that may arise this summer, according to some climatologists is drought. In drought conditions some preparations should be made to extend the grazing season as long as possible, while also keeping cows in good body condition heading into winter.

A lot of cows came through last winter in poorer body condition than normal due to the issue of the hay quality. So this year is a good year to consider early weaning. Cows will consume 40% less dry matter once they are weaned, which leads to more pasture availability as well as cows are able to raise their body condition score easier during the 1st & 2nd trimester of pregnancy. If you are considering weaning early make sure to have calves fully vaccinated as well as you may want to creep feed them for a few weeks ahead of time to make sure that they handle the transition better.

These are just a couple considerations to make this summer and I'm sure there will be more. Feel free to contact us with any issues that arise.

~ Dewey



GARVER'S ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER ENCOURAGES ONE AND ALL TO ATTEND YOUR COUNTY FAIRS! GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!

Mark Your Calendar!

August 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FREE Steak
Dinner with
all the fixin's!

**Garver's Animal Health Center
Annual Customer Appreciation Steak Dinner!**

Thursday, August 25, 2016

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Monroe County Fairgrounds

Managing summer Pneumonia in Pastures

When you turn your calves out on pasture, chances are they are going to look alert and healthy. However, as the heat comes on in the heart of the summer, warning signs will begin to appear for those paying attention. The pasture is an increasing hot spot for summer pneumonia and, though the causes are not fully understood, two factors – immunity and exposure – will determine the potential impact of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) on your herd.



Immunity may be affected by the accelerated growth and maturity rates we see in today's calves, but it is certainly affected by the transition from the mother's supplemental antibodies to the calf's developing immune system. Four to six months after first milk, calves enter an immunity "valley" when both sources of natural immunity are at their weakest. Early vaccinations help to keep that valley shallow, which is especially important if it coincides with the summer months when stressors, like heat, dust and humidity, reach their peak. Cattle can adapt to high temperatures, as long as they have access to good water and forage and nights that cool down to around 78 degrees or lower. Sustained temperatures higher than 80 degrees trigger dietary changes and additional stress. Cattle will eat less and drink more, compromising the immune response greater than heat alone.

If summer pneumonia does establish in the pasture, spotting it early and limiting the spread of pathogens is crucial. Isolating infected cattle immediately helps keep the herd healthy and gives sick individuals better access to feed, water and any follow-up treatments they need to recover. Spreading out and periodically moving watering sites and any supplemental feed locations will also help limit crowding and pathogen exposure. Keeping an eye on the health of the herd is important at all times, but especially once an outbreak is in progress. If 10 to 15 percent of your cattle have respiratory symptoms, you and your veterinarian need to consider treating the entire group.

Preventing summer pneumonia is an ongoing process, but it starts with working with your Animal Health Center veterinarian to create a comprehensive health program and staying in touch with what is happening in your pasture. You can't change the weather, but you can vaccinate early to support immunity, stay vigilant and manage your pasture to minimize BRD pathogens. It's a lot easier to ward off a major outbreak than chase it the rest of the season.

Four Early Weaning Tips for Stronger Calves

Here are some tips to follow when early weaning:

- Make sure you are feeding a high-quality, highly palatable creep feed for at least three weeks prior to weaning. This will allow ample time for the calves to get accustomed to the feed bunk and eating concentration.
- Administer vaccines prior to weaning to help boost the immune systems. Weaning is a stressful time for the calves and their mothers. You should also castrate and dehorn calves prior to weaning in order to spread stressful events over a wide time period, instead of stacking them all on the same day. This will give the immune system a better chance of fighting off disease.
- Make sure all calves are eating enough feed. Hand-feeding grain may be helpful or even necessary for some calves. The only calories these calves will be getting is going to be grain; if they are not eating enough prior to weaning, you will see a slump in weight gain because they will have insufficient calorie intake for a period of time.
- Use fence-line weaning and a location that the calf is familiar with to decrease the stress of being separated from the cow and being cut off from milk.



Contact your Animal Health Center vet if you have any management or health questions when switching your herd to early calf weaning.

STAY CONNECTED!

