



## Calving Emergency: Dystocia

The most common causes of dystocia are maternal/fetal disproportion, abnormal position of the calf during delivery, incomplete dilation of the cervix, uterine inertia (the uterus will not contract, or becomes "exhausted"), uterine torsion, twins, and abnormal fetuses.

Currently in the U.S., the most significant cause of dystocia is maternal/fetal disproportion. This is a condition when the calf is too large for the female to deliver without difficulty. Heifers are at the greatest risk of maternal/fetal disproportion. Current recommendations to maximize profitability and decrease dystocias are to calve heifers at 24 months of age. Calving heifers at 24 months of age minimizes the feeding expenses associated with developing heifers while keeping the heifers calving during the same calving season as the mature cows. Well-managed and properly grown heifers will only be 85 percent to 90 percent of mature cow size at 24 months of age and not have as much room in their pelvis (birth canal) as do mature cows; however, underdeveloped heifers may only be 60 percent the size of mature cows and are at much greater risk of dystocia.

### April Specials:

5% off CIDRs  
(While Supplies Last)  
&

Pre-Purchase your fly tags through May and receive 10% off



## A Note from the Doc

With calving season well under way it is time to start planning for grass turnout. At this point we need to be preparing the calves and cows for a successful grazing season. We recommend that calves be vaccinated for pinkeye, 7-way, and 5-way with pasteurella. Bull calves should be castrated, implanted, and all calves should be wormed and poured. Fly control is always a big concern throughout summer so minimizing number on your animals is always top priority. Recently we have been applying fly tags in animals to help reduce the number of face flies. This hasn't completely eliminated face flies but it has seemed to help with the number on the animals as well as amount of pinkeye present. The cows will also need to be wormed and poured. This will help to reassure that the adult cows are clear of any parasites and are ready for a successful breeding season. Again these are all recommendations and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of us at the office.

Recently we have started offering an in house artificial insemination service at our clinic. This is a process that entails owners bringing their cattle to the clinic. We will typically keep them here for around 1-15 days. The day the owner's drop of the cattle we will put a cidr in them and

give them any shots that they would need. We will leave the cidr in for 7 days then breed of heat at 48, 60 and 72 hours. We will typically do smaller groups of heifers as a way to help producers improve their heifer calving program, but we also can do cows. Group sizes have ranged from 2 hd to 70 hd, and we have done larger groups on the farm.

After artificial insemination has occurred the next step is to assure these animals are bred. Ultrasounding is a service that is best done before the fetus is 100 days old, but it is also going to depend on what you are wanting to determine when ultrasounding. Detection of a viable pregnancy can be done as early as 30 days. Sex determination can occur after 60 days of age. So for example if you A.I. your heifers May 5th and turn the bull in for 60 days (pull bull July 5th). You could ultrasound these animals August 5th and determine the sex of your A.I. bred. You will also be able to determine which heifers are bull breed and which ones are open. If you have any questions about anything mentioned above please feel free to contact one of us at the office. Thanks and hopefully you are having a successful calving season.

~ DR. RYAN HOWARD

## The Eye Says It All! Order Your Custom Pinkeye Vaccine Today

Garver's Animal Health Center now creates custom Pinkeye vaccine, which allows you to formulate a unique vaccination to target the specific strains circulating around your herd.



Don't wait, contact your veterinarian to order your custom made pinkeye vaccine today!



## Upcoming Events

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Breeding Soundness Clinic - Garver's in Albia  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Breeding Soundness Clinic - Garver's in Albia  
April 19<sup>th</sup> - Knoxville Regional Livestock Market

**FMA**  
**For-Most**  
 Livestock Equipment

- ✓ Head Gates
- ✓ Chutes
- ✓ Crowding Tubs
- ✓ And MORE!
- ✓ Portable Systems
- ✓ Scales, Weights
- ✓ Accessories



We're your  
 For-Most Dealer!



Call us for a quote!



641-932-3455

## Tips on Preventing Pinkeye In Your Herd

**Fly control:** Controlling flies should help to reduce the risks of disease spread between animals in a herd. Traditional methods have included the use of insecticide-containing ear tags, dust bags, and systemically- or topically-applied parasiticides.

**Practice good sanitation/hygiene:** To avoid inadvertently spreading infective bacteria between animals, use of disposable gloves is recommended when handling pinkeye-affected cattle. In addition, consider changing clothes or disinfecting plastic aprons and halters between cattle. One commonly used disinfectant is 10% household bleach made by mixing one part of regular strength household bleach to nine parts water (or ~1-1.5 cups regular strength bleach per gallon of clean water).

**Promote optimal health and immunity & vaccinate before there's a problem:** When vaccinating animals, it is important to vaccinate well in advance (ideally at least four weeks) of the anticipated summer onset of pinkeye in your herd, so that cattle will have enough time to mount an effective immune response following vaccination.

Please contact your veterinarian if you have questions this spring! We are honored to serve you and help grow your operation with a healthy cattle herd.



# STAY CONNECTED!

Find us on Facebook!



301 Richmond Ave  
 Ottumwa, Iowa 52501  
 641.682-8701 - Office  
[www.AnimalClinicSouthside.com](http://www.AnimalClinicSouthside.com)

605 West Pleasant Street  
 Knoxville, Iowa 50138  
 641.828.2101  
[www.Knoxville-Vet.com](http://www.Knoxville-Vet.com)

1015 A Avenue West  
 Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577  
 641.673.5525 - Office  
 641.673-1957 - Fax  
[www.OskyVet.com](http://www.OskyVet.com)

1976 684th Avenue  
 Albia, Iowa 52531  
 641.932.3455 - Office  
 641.932.3703 - Fax  
[www.AlbiaVet.com](http://www.AlbiaVet.com)