

## Semen Testing Bulls

An important part of your cow herd management program should include a comprehensive breeding soundness examination (BSE) for your bulls. After all, they are half of your breeding program. You need to make sure that all parts of your production system are working at peak efficiency to prevent open cows this fall.

In order to have a successful breeding program, bulls must be able to locate females in estrus and breed them. Bulls should be examined 30-60 days before the start of breeding season so that you can replace questionable or low breeders.

For producers who do not currently have a program already in place, you should seriously consider getting a breeding soundness exam (BSE).

It is very affordable and is arguably the best money cow-calf producers will spend on an annual basis. We sometimes try to save money by not spending it, but conducting a BSE is a prime example of how to save money in the long run by spending a little up front.



You work hard to make sure that your cows are highly fertile. Now, it's time to pay attention to the bull side to make sure they do what we expect them to.

Contact the clinic TODAY to schedule your testing and ensure you get a great return on your investment this year!

## Spring Breeding

### Preparing Bulls for the Big Dance

## POUNDS PAY

### - SPRING OFFER -

January 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014

Earn up to 6% rebate on select Merck Animal Health products including:

Vista  
Vision  
Ralgro  
Revalor G  
Safe-Guard  
Panacur

See our Clinic for Details.

As calving season ramps up, it's time to start planning ahead for spring breeding. We're at the prime time to make sure our bulls are able to perform at their best and get the job done.

There are several key steps to making sure your bulls are in "fighting shape" before being sent to work.

Bulls have had a hard time getting through winter and they won't perform in their peak unless they are in the proper body condition. Breeding is an athletic event, and proper nutrition and physical health is essential!

1.) Evaluate your feeding programs to make sure bulls are receiving proper supplementation of vitamins and minerals – particularly vitamin A. Vitamin A is crucial to spermatogenesis, the building of sperm cells.

2.) Start thinking ahead to when you're going to vaccinate, and keep bulls in line with the rest of your herd. Producers should look at diseases that will not only affect the bull, but the cows' reproductive status. These include Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diarrhea and Trichomoniasis. Our clinic provides Trich testing, so call to schedule your appointment.

3.) Don't forget to look at feet and legs because proper physical health is crucial for your bull to be able to cover the country and cover the cow.

4.) Make sure both his eyes are clear. While bulls primarily use scent for close proximity activity, bulls rely heavily on their eyes for things that happen in the distance.

Thank you!

Garver's Animal Health Center was among the TOP donors for the Iowa Cattlemans Foundation Ralgro Wheels for Bucks 2013 Scholarship Program! Thank you for your support! Please save your Ralgro wheels and turn them into our office to continue to support the scholarship program.

Join Us!

**Producer  
LONGRANGE Meeting**

**Thursday, April 3, 2014  
6:30pm**  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall

# Need Parasite Control?



**Consider LONGRANGE. Nothing else comes close to the persistency of LONGRANGE.**

It takes about 100 days of continuous parasite control to break the parasite life cycle. LONGRANGE is the first extended-release injection that delivers up to 100 - 150 days of parasite control in a single treatment. That is long enough to break the parasite life cycle. And LONGRANGE takes out even tough-to-kill worms.

**You'll see the benefits all season.**

- More efficient average daily gains
- Earlier calving
- Earlier weight gains



With LONGRANGE, you get all those performance benefits without the labor, stress and shrink caused by multiple handlings.

"In the spring, we treated half our herd with LONGRANGE. After 90 days, the LONGRANGE-treated cattle saw on the average a 21 to 23 pound weight gain over the other cattle. As a producer, the thing I was most impressed with about LONGRANGE was the increase in weight gain of the cattle, which will mean more profitability for me as a producer. I highly recommend LONGRANGE to all producers and will continue to use it in the future."

- Daren Matthes, Cattle producer - Viola, WI

## Give Newborn Calves Immediate Immunity During Spring Calving Season

Even though spring is a busy season, it is vital that your calves receive adequate immunity at birth.

Because calves are born without an active immune system, they rely on the consumption of antibodies from colostrum for protection against scours and pneumonia. When the calf consumes colostrum, these maternal-derived antibodies, or immunoglobulins (IgG), are absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract into the bloodstream. This process is called passive transfer.

Several factors, including reduced colostrum quality, delayed nursing and cold stress, can inhibit successful passive transfer and lead to low blood serum antibody concentrations in calves. Estimates suggest failure of passive transfer is common and may be occurring in as many as one-third of beef calves in North America.

Calves that do not consume high-quality colostrum are 6 times more likely to get sick during the first weeks of life compared to calves that consumed enough colostrum. Furthermore, low blood serum IgG concentrations (less than 1,000 mg/dL) have been associated with higher death loss and decreased performance. This can hurt profitability by increasing treatment costs and reducing weight gains.

One solution producers can use to protect their spring calf crop is to provide supplemental immune protection to their newborn calves immediately after birth.

This can be done by complementing the colostrum your cows produce with USDA approved antibody products. Concentrated antibody products can be fed to calves at the same time as colostrum and go to the gut to immediately bind and neutralize diarrhea-causing agents, while also being absorbed into the bloodstream for extended immune protection. Antibody products are available in bolus, gel and powder forms. They also are included in some colostrum replacer and supplement formulas for added value. The products we recommend are: Lifeline, Colostrx, Colostrx CS & Entrolyte H.E, to name a few.

Antibody products can protect a producer's genetic investment by providing immediate immune protection to the calf. Concentrated antibody products also provide immunity against specific pathogens such as E. coli and coronavirus so the calf receives the best start possible and can maximize their genetic potential.

Work closely with our doctors to develop a health program that fulfills the calf's need for immediate immunity at birth.

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301 Richmond Ave  
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501  
641.682-8701 - Office  
www.AnimalClinicSouthside.com

605 West Pleasant Street  
Knoxville, Iowa 50138  
641.828.2101  
www.Knoxville-Vet.com

1015 A Avenue West  
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577  
641.673.5525 - Office  
641.673-1957 - Fax  
www.OskyVet.com

1976 684th Avenue  
Albia, Iowa 52531  
641.932.3455 - Office  
Toll-Free 866.932.3455  
641.932.3703 - Fax  
www.AlbiaVet.com