



This is a wire I removed from a three day fresh heifer; it caused hardware disease and killed her. The entire wire had migrated through the stomach wall and created extensive damage in her abdomen. She had been given a magnet, a routine management decision, when she was moved three weeks before freshening, but the wire had already migrated out of the stomach (reticulum).

I would estimate that 50% of the cattle I've necropsied that have died with hardware have died from an identical piece of wire. Can you identify what the wire is used for in every day farming operations? Answer on bottom of page.



Baytril:

Are you using it too much? Baytril is in a class of antibiotics call fluoroquinolones. These are the most recently discovered antibiotics and the broadest spectrum products and should not be taken for granted. When it comes to nasty Salmonella infections, they are about the only thing that works. They are only approved for pneumonia treatment. Do not use Baytril routinely unless you have to. Save Baytril for your last choice because once a bug gets resistant to Baytril, the rendering truck is the next choice.



Dopram:

For years we've used this product to help calves breathe better after a difficult calving. It is a respiratory stimulant and is given IV or sometimes just squirted into the mouth where it is absorbed through the mucosa. A recent article showed that after initially increasing respiration it subsequently created a decrease in respiration, but that caffeine was a much better respiratory stimulant. We are currently attempting to find a reasonably priced caffeine injectable product.

Did you know?

Our blood lab runs pregnancy tests on cattle, sheep, and goats and sends out blood samples for pregnancy checking for horses and deer.

Answer: It's a piece of the wire clip used to hold fence wire to a ceramic insulator. Often times one hooked end of the wire is still intact when I post the animals, and the hook keeps the wire at least partially in the reticulum. The wires break and fall to the ground usually where the only green vegetation in the paddock exists and the cattle are always trying to eat the green under the wire.



Abomasal Bloat in baby calf:

I've seen this condition many times in 40 years always attributed it to a clostridium but work by Dr. Geof Smith from North Carolina puts the picture of bloated baby calves together. Basically when the calf bloats it's caused by too much carbohydrate in the stomach, usually because the milk replacer is mixed at too high a concentration. The carbohydrate or sugar content of the milk replacer is the problem, not the fat or protein. It actually is a clostridium often causing the problem, although several other bugs can do it as well. Treating the clostridium is OK, but the real solution is prevention. High energy oral electrolytes can also cause or contribute to the problem and even worse is adding high energy oral electrolytes directly to milk or milk replacer. Osmolality is the measure of concentration of milk replacer once it is mixed and can be measured. The target is 600mOsm/L or less to prevent the bloat. Other contributing risk factors are cold milk, feeding too large a volume at a time, not offering water to calves and erratic feeding times. But the biggest is not mixing the milk replacer correctly. If caught early the condition is treatable. Along the same lines, measuring milk replacer by volume is a potential problem because the density of milk replacer can vary. Weight is the correct way to measure the powder, but not convenient. I might suggest that periodically,

(especially if you have a problem), that you weigh the amount you are feeding just to see if in fact it is correct.

Cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing:

Sterilizing renders an object free of any bacteria, viruses, or fungus. Disinfecting lowers the number of these organisms to thresholds where they do little harm, and can eliminate all of some specific pathogens. However, disinfecting still leaves bugs, and it varies significantly between products. It is critical to realize that surfaces and objects must clean in order for disinfectants to work. The classic dairy farm example is that if milk stone builds up anywhere in your milk collection system, pipeline or bulk tank, anywhere your plate count will go up. The plate count is a disinfecting measurement. It is also a cooling measurement.



Phone and Internet:

Our phone and internet comes in on cable, and when cable goes down for any reason so does our phone. When our phone goes down and you call the office you get a recording that says "the party you are trying to reach has not set up voice mail on 920-324-3831. Of course we don't have a voice mail because we assume our phones will work, but this is a foreign concept to our phone providers. Below are each vet's cell phone numbers and you can call these numbers when trying to reach a real live vet that can resolve the situation. Don't just leave a message on the personal cell number of the vet you reach, it could be hours or days before they check their voice mail. You need a live person.

Al-210-9902	Monty-579-0408
Jeff-960-6602	Mark- 579-3428
Ralph-382-8040	Cass- 583-6546
Kolby- 212-0475	Abbie-344-1718
Steve-948-3124	

Ketosis treatment research:

Canadian research on ketosis showed that dexamethasone is a poor choice for ketosis treatment and in badly ketotic cows it actually caused the condition to be worse a week later. When I first started in practice we used dexamethasone for treating all the cows, and I feel we created more recalls and more DA surgeries. Stick with propylene glycol.

Beef cow-calf producers: We are planning a winter meeting to cover parasite strategies and reproductive strategies. Because many of you work day jobs we have decided to schedule this in the evening, probably at Pizza Ranch. Also, because many of you don't get newsletters every month if you're interested give the office a call now so we include you in beef mailings.