Animal Welfare is a basic part of good medicine

• It is not complicated
• Do what is best for the animal in front of you
• Create welfare programs for farms as part of management
  – Just like reproductive, mastitis, calf programs
• Include Nursing care as part of the treatment plan
• The audit then provides information on how the program is performing

Medical/Welfare issues of Farm Animals

Dairy and Beef cattle tend to be handled well
• Low-stress handling is the norm
  – There are still exceptions

Most welfare problems now are related to poor medical care
• Sick and injured cows and calves usually receive only antimicrobial treatment
• Nursing care and ancillary treatments are uncommon on farms
Farmworker jailed after allegedly hitting cow with metal pipe

January 30, 2017

A 43-year-old farmworker was arrested Friday on suspicion of animal abuse after a supervisor told authorities he saw the farmworker hitting a cow with a metal pipe, the Tulare County Sheriff’s Department said.

The incident happened around 1:05 a.m. at XX Dairy. Deputies said a supervisor was reviewing video surveillance when he spotted XX hitting a cow with a metal pipe as it was being loaded onto the milking station. XX was booked into Tulare County Jail on charges of animal abuse. He had bail set at $50,000 and will face a judge Tuesday.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Tulare County Sheriff’s Office.


Treatments Have Become Protocol Driven

Example of Fresh Cow Program for Training Dairy Workers

- Treat all fresh cows
- Fever (>103°F)
- Normal temp
  - Looks sick
  - Looks O.K.
  - Treat 3 days with:
    1. Uterine contractors
    2. Fever reducers
    3. Energy providers
    4. Calcium source
    5. Systemic antibiotics
  - Treat 1 day with:
    1. Uterine contractors
    2. Fever reducers
    3. Energy providers
    4. Calcium source
  - Repeat all 5 for days 2 and 3
  - If fever persists on day 2, treat 3 days with:
    1. Uterine contractors
    2. Fever reducers
    3. Energy providers
    4. Calcium source
    5. Systemic antibiotics
  - If temp is normal:
    1. Energy providers
    2. Glucose promoters
    3. Calcium source
    4. Check for DA

- If temp is normal:
  - Energy Providers
  - Glucose promoters
  - Calcium source
  - Check for DA
  - Recheck temp daily
  - If fever is present:
    - Begin Sick Fever Treatment

Dr. Lynn Upham, Tulare, CA. Printed in The Western Dairyman.

Welfare issues of sick calves

Neonatal calves in the southwest get:
- diarrhea, pneumonia and septicemia
Welfare issues of sick calves

Standard Diarrhea Treatment

1) Antimicrobial
2) Fluids
   1) 2 qts Electrolytes PO
   2) 1 to 2 liters LRS IV

What should a medical treatment plan for calves with diarrhea include?

Fluid Therapy on Farms

First: provide the correct fluid therapy

Route is decided by the degree of dehydration
(perfusion of targeted tissues)
- Mild: PO
- Moderate: SQ or PO
- Severe: IV

110 lb calf 8% dehydrated requires:
- 50kg X 0.08 = 4 liters for euhydration
- Include 2.5% to 5% dextrose
Nursing Care for Calves with Diarrhea

Clean, dry warm, comfortable housing

- Thermal-neutral housing
- Wooden huts with slatted floors are cold in winter and hot in summer
  - And uncomfortable
- Wet bedding freezes

Clean bedding when it gets soiled.

Calves do better in groups.

Energy Requirements of calves

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<th>Calf Metabolizable Energy</th>
<th>Requirements (ME)</th>
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Calves go into negative energy balance when Maintenance Req. exceeds daily calorie intake.

Nursing Care for Calves with Diarrhea

- Clean, dry warm, comfortable housing
- Energy
- Multiple feedings
- Maintenance fluid therapy
- Anti-inflammatory Tx
- Fly control

Keep the calf warm and comfortable

Provide energy

Euthanasia when Necessary
Welfare and Treatment of Bovine Lameness

• Lameness is a serious welfare issue on dairies and feedlots
• Rates vary by region for dairy cattle
  – 5 to 10% in Southwest
  – 25% in Northeast

Treatment of Bovine Lameness

Standard treatment:
• Therapeutic claw trimming
• Block on opposite claw
• Antimicrobial
• Walk to milking parlor

Pain from Lameness

Lame Cow Nursing Care

Nursing care should include:
• Clean, dry deep bedding (soft)
• Rest
  – Reduced walking
• Pain management
• Increased roughage

Better Culling and Euthanasia Decisions

Organic Dairy Welfare Issues

Welfare issues:
• Conventional treatment may be withheld
• Organic treatments may not be efficacious
• The pasture requirement challenges
  Body Condition Scores

Treatment cannot be withheld to maintain the organic status
• Calves and cows must be treated to relieve suffering
• Removed from the farm

Welfare and Nursing Care Are Very Important on Organic Farms

• Housing, comfort and body temperature control are always important for recovery
• Early recognition of disease or injury is always important for recovery
• Nursing care and axillary treatments are always important for recovery

Slide courtesy of Dr. Jan Shearer
Case Study: cow fell on concrete apron before walking to milking parlor

Case Study: Lactating Cow Housing

Case Study: Hospital Cow Housing
Cows using bedding on frozen ground