

BEEF Q & A

BEEF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



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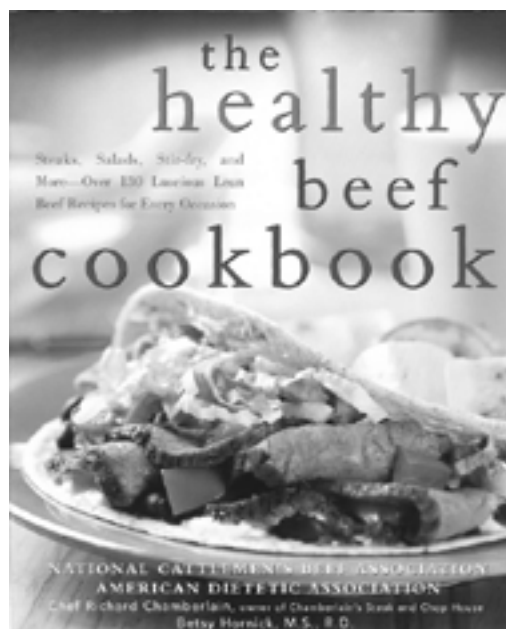
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New Cookbook Serves Up the Ingredients for Healthy, Great-Tasting Beef Meals

By Charlene Schuster, Executive Director, Montana Beef Council



Just in time to help with those New Year's Resolutions comes *The Healthy Beef Cookbook—130 Luscious Lean Beef Recipes for Every Occasion*. The book is produced by the food



and nutrition experts of the American Dietetic Association and the beef authorities at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, on behalf of the Cattlemen's Beef Board. *The Healthy Beef Cookbook* is now available in bookstores nationwide and on Web sites like www.amazon.com for \$21.95 or by contacting the Montana Beef Council.

Co-authored by Richard Chamberlain, nationally known chef and owner of Chamberlain's Steak and Chop House in Dallas, TX, and registered dietitian Betsy Hornick, *The Healthy Beef*

Cookbook contains more than 130 delicious and nutrient-rich recipes, color photos, nutrition tips and culinary techniques that

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Beef: Questions & Answers is a joint project between MSU Extension and the Montana Beef Council. This column informs producers about current consumer education, promotion and research projects funded through the \$1 per head checkoff. For more information, contact the Montana Beef Council at (406) 442-5111 or at beefcncl@mt.net



Alternative Winter Nutritional Management Strategies

By Janna Kincheloe, Extension Agent, Montana State University and
Ron Hathaway, Extension Agent, Oregon State University

This is the first installment of a two-part series



One of the main challenges to beef producers in the western U.S. is to develop a cost-effective winter feeding program while still maintaining acceptable levels of beef cattle production. Many producers in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West feed between two and four tons of hay to their mature cows during the winter feeding period. Feed and supplement costs account for an estimated 50 to 70 percent of total production costs. Therefore, a producer's ability to compete with other regions depends in large part on his or her ability to reduce these costs. Producers have a variety of management alternatives to consider as they develop economical alternatives to feeding harvested forages.

Swath/Windrow Grazing

Costs associated with hay production vary widely according to location, yield and cultural practices, but can exceed \$40 per cow for producers in the western states. Swath, or windrow, grazing is the process of cutting hay and leaving it in windrows for cows to graze in the winter. Allowing cows to harvest cut forage directly can result in lower production and labor costs. Swath grazing has been shown to reduce costs by more than \$30/ton over traditional haying systems due to the savings in baling and bale moving costs. Forage quality of swaths is generally similar to that of baled forage. However, a general decline in quality can be expected over the winter months. Energy or protein supplements may be warranted if grazing pregnant or lactating cows, and forage analysis is recommended.

A summary of 10 years of data from the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

demonstrated that cows wintered on swaths had increased body condition and did not require supplements of additional hay compared to cows fed baled forage. Likewise, conception rates, calving interval, weaning weights and attrition rates were equal between control and treatment groups.

The practice of swath grazing can generally be used with success in snow depths of up to two feet; however, producers may encounter forage loss and reduced forage accessibility in windy areas or areas with extreme weather conditions such as crusting snow or ice. In order to optimize success with windrow grazing, forage crops should be cut in the fall and windrows should be no more than four feet wide. Cross fencing with electric fence at right angles to the windrows increases forage utilization and minimizes waste. To estimate swath utilization, assume a cow will consume two to 2.5 percent of its body weight. Thus, a 1,200-pound cow consumes about 24 dry matter pounds of swath feed per day. If fences are moved to limit cattle to one day's feed, wastage could be less than five percent.

Winter Grazing

Another alternative to traditional winter-feeding is the winter grazing of "stockpiled" forage. To effectively use this alternative, the producer must defer grazing of irrigated pasture and native range to the fall or winter months. The range forage base will be dormant and, as a result, will likely need some level of supplementation depending on quality of selected diets, body condition status of mature cows and stage of gestation. Quality of standing forage may decline faster than forage stored in bales or windrows. Controlling grazing with an inexpensive electric

fence that allows access to a three- or four-day supply of forage at a time can increase forage utilization and reduce waste by up to 40 percent.

Like swath grazing, winter grazing may decrease winter feed costs by \$20 to \$30 per cow during mild to average years. To effectively utilize winter grazing as part of a management program, the producer should have relatively easy access to grazing animals to accommodate supplementation programs. In addition, it is a good idea to have water available throughout the grazing period, although Canadian researchers have shown that cows can effectively utilize snow as a water source.

Indirect benefits of winter grazing relate to the increased management opportunities of traditional hay meadows for spring and early summer grazing. In addition, fall and winter grazing is an alternative use of native rangelands that may provide these significant advantages:

1. Grazing dormant forage minimizes damage to native plants from defoliation compared to traditional spring and summer grazing.
2. Research has shown that non-lactating, gestating cows are better distributed over the grazing area, resulting in more uniform use of the grazed area.

Crop Residue

Crop aftermath can be utilized in several ways as part of a winter feeding program. Residue may be grazed, baled or chopped. Grazing reduces additional harvesting expenses and also allows animals to select a higher-quality diet. Lack of water supplies and fencing are considerations when grazing crop residue. Corn stalks are a viable winter feed source in corn-producing areas in the Northwest. A general rule of thumb is that one acre of cornstalks can support a 1,000 pound cow or animal equivalent for 1.5 to two months. Whole-field grazing is the most common strategy; however strip grazing may provide a more uniform nutrient intake and also increase utiliza-

tion. Producers should supply phosphorus and vitamin A to cattle consuming corn stalks. Protein supplements may or may not be necessary depending on the amount of grain remaining in the residue. In some regions, it may be advisable to have an emergency feed source on hand due to the possibility of snow cover limiting grazing.

Straw, a common crop aftermath in the western U.S., can be a good alternative in wintering rations for beef cows if properly supplemented with energy, protein, minerals and vitamins. In general, oat straw has the highest feeding value, followed by barley straw and wheat straw. Beef cows can efficiently utilize rations containing up to 50 percent straw when combined with high quality forage. North Dakota researchers reported similar performance and feed costs between heifers fed alfalfa hay- and corn-silage- based diets compared to diets based on wheat straw and wheat middlings. It is essential to provide a properly balanced ration when feeding straw in order to avoid problems such as stomach impaction, grass tetany, lowered conception rates and malnutrition.

In addition to corn and straw, other types of residue that can be utilized include barley field peas, sorghum, soybeans and sunflowers. These vary in nutrient content, and may require additional supplementation.

Next time, we'll explore how substituting grain for hay, feeding by-products and grass seed residues might fit into your alternative winter nutritional management strategies. A list of reference literature cited for this article is available from the authors.

Producer Profile: Larsen Ranch Angus

By Janna Kincheloe, County Agent for Rosebud-Treasure County



Larsen Ranch Angus, located several miles southwest of Rosebud, MT, is owned and operated by Jim and Carin Larsen, their son Tyler and his wife Tisha, and their daughter Wendy and her husband Lafe Warren. The ranch was established in 1917 by Jim's grandfather, Hans Christian Larsen, and expanded by Hans' sons, George, Neil and Chet, when he returned from World War II. Today, the ranch covers 20,000 acres, including 1,500 acres of dryland winter wheat and hay

barley and 600 acres of irrigated hayground and continues to expand.

The Larsens run 250 registered and 550 commercial purebred Black Angus cows. The goal of the Larsen Ranch Angus program has always been to produce the most efficient cow possible. They keep production information on all their cattle to help them make decisions. Says Jim, "We know what works and what doesn't work on our ranch based on performance records."

They began breeding registered cattle more than fifty years ago and have held an annual bull sale on the fourth Monday in every March since 1974. Bulls must meet stringent performance criteria and semen testing to be included in the sale. Steer calves are generally sold via video auction and delivered in the fall. Heifer calves that are not retained have been sold to the same buyer for the past 27 years. The Larsens feel that selling a majority of their cattle by the pound helps ensure that they are producing cattle that fit the consumers' needs.

Wendy, who works for the Bureau of Land Management in Miles City, recently helped the ranch obtain low- and no-interest government loans to establish a pivot irrigation system. The Larsens use one pivot for intensive grazing on a pasture mix of meadow bromegrass, orchardgrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, alfalfa, alsike clover and Garrison foxtail.



Jim and Carin Larsen

They use two additional pivots to produce high quality alfalfa hay. Having an expanded hay base has allowed the Larsens to minimize winter feed costs. Cows are grazed on native range and fed alfalfa as a protein supplement. The remainder of the hay, approximately 1,200 tons, is sold to area producers.

Most of the management decisions for the ranch are based on the “cuss and discuss” method, according to Jim. “I have 40 years experience ranching in this area. I base most of my decisions on that experience.”

Jim uses research data from scientists at USDA-ARS at Fort Keogh in Miles City for information on range and grazing management. He says it is also helpful to have Tyler, Wendy and Lafe (all Montana State University graduates) around to provide information and different perspectives on issues.

When asked how the Larsen Ranch is different from others in the area, Jim answers without hesitation.

“We have more versatility than most. With both irrigated and dryland crops, we can meet all of our own feed needs and still have an opportunity for an additional income source. Diversification is a must in today’s industry.”

One of the main challenges the Larsens face is the increasing cost of maintaining an operation.

“Every input costs more every day—fuel, fertilizer, insurance, taxes, and so on,” explained Jim. “It is also a challenge to keep a ranch in the family with ever-changing estate and inheritance laws. We have organized ourselves as a small chapter corporation in order to deal with some of those challenges.”

As far as challenges and opportunities in the livestock industry as a whole, competition and marketing issues top the list. “With world market issues determining supply and demand on a local level, it is difficult to determine what your strategy should be,” Jim says. “It’s important to try to make a name for yourself and build a solid reputation.”

Cookbook, cont.

feature lean beef. Many of the recipes take 30 minutes or less to prepare. The book was funded by America’s Beef Producers through the Beef Checkoff Program.

Consumers can eat healthfully and enjoy their favorite foods. *The Healthy Beef Cookbook* offers everyone ways to easily prepare delicious meals that are loaded with nutrients.

The Healthy Beef Cookbook Recipes Help You Get More Nutrition From Calories

Consumers increasingly want resources to help them easily enjoy the foods they love as part of a healthful lifestyle. *The Healthy Beef Cookbook* makes it simple for people to follow the *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and *MyPyramid*, released earlier this year, and to get more nutrition from their calories without sacrificing taste.

For example:

- 93 percent of the recipes are good or excellent sources of protein, iron, zinc, vitamins B6 and B12 and selenium.
- The recipes are satisfying and delicious for people watching their weight – nearly 75 percent have less than 400 calories per serving.

The Healthy Beef Cookbook Features New Leaner Beef Cuts

The United States Department of Agriculture recently updated its Nutrient Database to include 29 beef cuts that meet government guidelines for lean, meaning fewer than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat and fewer than 95 milligrams of cholesterol per three-ounce serving (and 100 grams). The 29 cuts are featured in *The Healthy Beef Cookbook* and include cuts like the flank steak, tenderloin, 95 percent lean ground beef as well as newer cuts of beef, such as the Western Griller steak and Ranch steak. All 29 lean beef cuts have, on average, one more gram of saturated fat than a skinless chicken breast per three-ounce serving.

The National Animal Identification System: Frequently Asked Questions About the Premises ID and Registration

Adapted from a paper written by Ted McCollum, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Texas A&M University

The proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will contain two identification components: Premises Identification and Individual Animal Identification. The Premises Identification component will be implemented prior to the Individual Animal Identification component. Currently, producers are being encouraged to register for Premises ID in each state. The state animal health authorities in each state are developing the Premises ID systems. The Montana Department of Livestock has this responsibility in Montana. In neighboring states, the responsibility lies with the governmental department that houses the State Veterinarian. The definition of a premises and requirements for registration may vary from state to state. A key fact to remember is that the Premises ID is assigned to a geographical location and remains with that location regardless of changing ownership or lessees. The following fact sheet addresses some questions producers frequently ask.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Premises ID?

A: The Premises ID is a number that uniquely identifies a location where livestock are handled or commingled. Once the NAIS is fully implemented, the Individual Animal ID number will provide information on which animals are or were present at a location and the Premises ID will provide information on where the animals are currently located or were located in the past.

Q: Why is a Premises ID important?

A: The Premises ID is an integral component of the NAIS. In the event of a disease outbreak, the NAIS Premises ID will describe the location of the outbreak. In addition, other adjoining and potentially affected premises will be identified by their GPS coordinates. Animal health officials would

then contact the person or persons listed as primary contact on the Premises ID registrations. The system will use the Premises ID in conjunction with Individual Animal ID to locate animals that had been on a premises and possibly exposed to disease.

Q: Should I be in a hurry to register for a Premises ID?

A: The current timeline for implementation of the NAIS indicates that premises must be registered by 2008. Although this proposed mandatory deadline is in the future, producers are encouraged to register their premises as soon as possible. Initiating the process now allows time to correct any problems that may be encountered during the registration process. Currently, you may obtain a premises ID at no charge from the Montana Department of Livestock.

Q: What will my Premises ID look like?

A: The Premises ID is a unique, seven character alphanumeric (combination of letters and numbers) ID for a specific geographic location. The exact location of the premises is described by Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates. A fictitious example of a Premises ID number is 0025DQ2.

Q: How do I apply for a Premises ID?

A: In Montana, you can contact the MT Department of Livestock, the Montana Stockgrowers, the Montana farm bureau, Montana Farmers Union, Wool growers, Pork Producers or your local county agent who can provide the registration form.

Q: Are premises registered annually?

A: No. Once a Premises ID is assigned to a property, it is permanent. Currently, we are not aware of a requirement to re-register properties annually.

If a property changes ownership, or the primary contact for that property changes, then the contact information associated with the property must be changed.

Q: Is it necessary to know the GPS coordinates for the site?

A: The Premises ID system requires a location for the premises. If you know the correct 911 address for the property, the system should be able to determine the GPS coordinates. Likewise, if you provide the GPS coordinates, the system should be able to determine the 911 address. However, there have been reports of incorrect assignments of GPS coordinates to 911 addresses and vice versa. Hence, you need to determine the proper GPS coordinates before you register to ensure the information on the registration is correct. The system does not require the GPS coordinates for the entire property. Only the GPS coordinates for the headquarters or entrance to the property are necessary.

Q: What if I do not know the GPS coordinates for my property?

A: You have several options:

- 1) If you apply for a premises ID online and if the property has a 911 address listed in the USDA Database, GPS coordinates will automatically be inserted in your application form. However, you need to verify that the coordinates are correct. Reports from applicants indicate that some coordinates that have been furnished are incorrect.
- 2) Many people in the community have GPS units: Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, some county extension agents, law enforcement, emergency medical professionals, civil engineers, surveyors, herbicide/pesticide applicators, sportsmen, some city and county government personnel, etc.
- 3) There are several Internet sites where you can locate your property and the GPS coordinates or purchase topographic maps complete with GPS coordinates. For instance, at <http://terraserver-usa.com/> you can purchase maps with coordinates or you can locate your property

on-line and determine the coordinates. There are also other available services like this.

Q: I have a backgrounding/preconditioning yard, a reproductive service laboratory, a vet clinic, an auction barn, a commission company, a livestock show/fairground, a custom processing plant, etc... do I need a Premises ID?

A: Any location where livestock are handled and or commingled will need a Premises ID.

Q: I own grazing land but I do not own livestock. My grazing is leased out to others and I care for their livestock while they are on my land. Do I need a Premises ID?

A: An accurate answer to this question will probably require a more detailed description of the type of livestock, length of time they are present and other factors. Based on discussions with Animal Health Officials, if the grazing is temporary or seasonal, you may not need a Premises ID. However, other arrangements, such as a long-term lease for cow-calf production, may require a Premises ID. One consideration in this case is that the owner of the cowherd may need a Premises ID number in order to purchase Individual ID tags in the future. If the herd owner does not own other property where cattle are housed, then the herd owner will need a Premises ID for your property in order to comply with NAIS and obtain ID tags for the calves.

Q: My child, grandchild, foster child, etc., has a 4H/FFA project at my house. Do we need a Premises ID?

A: Yes. You are handling livestock on your property, therefore you need a premises ID.

Q: My child, grandchild, foster child, etc., has a 4H/FFA project at someone else's house, ranch or at the club/chapter barn. Do we need a Premises ID?

A: The location where the animal is kept will need a Premises ID.

Q: What if I have livestock at more than one geographical location? Do I need to get separate premises IDs?

A: According to Animal Health Officials, if live-

National Animal Identification System, cont.

stock from the different locations are commingled (moved back and forth and mixed), then all can be managed under one premises ID. If livestock on the properties are managed independent of each other (no commingling), then securing a premises ID for each property would be wise.

Q: I have different livestock species on my place. Do I need separate Premises IDs for the different species?

A: No. The same Premises ID covers all species.

Q: I have properties in two (or more) counties. Do I need a Premises ID for each one?

A: Our understanding is that you do not have to register for separate Premises IDs simply because the properties are in different counties. If livestock from the operations are commingled, then you may need only one premises ID. If there is no commingling, then you must decide whether you need one or more. If a great distance separates the properties, the exposure to a disease outbreak may be different at each location and you may desire to have separate premises IDs.

Q: My land straddles the state line. Do I need Premises IDs in both states?

A: Yes. Officials in both states need to have a premises ID in their system.

Q: I have more than one set of working facilities/pens on my property. Do I need a separate Premises ID for each?

A: No. The Premises ID is for the entire property, not for each set of working facilities on the property.

Q: I have one type of cattle (stockers, commercial cows, purebred cows) at one place and something else (stockers, commercial cows, purebred cows) at another place, do I need separate Premises IDs?

A: If the cattle are not commingled, then you may consider having separate Premises IDs. In the event of a disease outbreak at one location, separate Premises IDs may prevent quarantine of the other location.

Q: What should I do with my Premises ID if I go out of business, die, lose the business in a divorce or bankruptcy or business split, my offspring/students no longer raise animals?

A: The premises ID stays with the property regardless of whether you, your former bank, your former spouse or your heirs own the property. The contact information will change, but the Premises ID will not. If a situation calls for the ownership of a property to be divided (ex-spouse, heirs, ex-business partners), then some additional premises registrations *may* be required for the divided properties. If the land is taken out of livestock production permanently, (for instance, subdivided for commercial development) then the Premises ID no longer has any application and should be retired.

Q: What if more than one person operates on the same property (i.e. partnership, family members, etc.)? Do we need more than one Premises ID?

A: No. Again, the Premises ID is assigned to the property, and contacts are listed for the premises. So, if livestock are owned by different individuals but managed on the same property, only one Premises ID is required. The various ownership interests should be listed as contacts on the registration form. For instance, think about a custom feedyard. The property is owned by the feedyard. Different individuals own the cattle in the pens. Each individual cattle owner will not register for a Premises ID. The feedyard will register for a single Premises ID.

Q: If I ranch on lease property, who should apply for the Premises ID, the landowner (lessor) or me? What if I lose the lease?

A: The Premises ID is assigned to the property not the livestock owner. In this instance, the landowner can apply for the Premises ID and list the lessee as a contact on the registration. Or, the lessee can apply for the Premises ID and list him or herself as a contact. In either situation, if the lease arrangement is terminated, the Premises ID stays with the property. The contact information on the premises registration changes. The former lessee



ASK JOHN A NUTRITION QUESTION:

This month's question: How Does Nutrition Influence Reproduction of the Range Cow?

John answers: Bearden and Fuquay (1992) summarized the effects of inadequate and excessive nutrients on reproductive efficiency.

This summary shows that excessive protein and/or energy could have negative effects on reproduction. Often, there are questions by livestock producers who are concerned that excessive dietary nutrients during the last trimester of pregnancy may negatively influence calf birth weights and dystocia. Oklahoma workers summarized the effects of providing either adequate (not excessive) or inadequate amounts of dietary energy and protein on calving difficulty, reproductive performance and calf growth. The research was consistent in suggesting that reducing protein or energy

pre-partum had little effect on dystocia rates, even though birth weights were altered in some experiments. Of the nine trials summarized, seven showed that increased energy intakes during the last trimester of gestation did not increase calving difficulty.

Producers have commented that supplemental crude protein increases calf birth weight. Of the five studies reviewed, one study showed that excessive protein increased calving difficulty while four other studies did not show any effect on dystocia, birth weight, calf survivability or weaning weight.

Examples of Inadequate or Excessive Dietary Nutrient Intake on Reproduction in Beef Cattle (Bearden and Fuquay, 1992)

Nutrient Consumption	Reproductive Consequence
Excessive Energy Intake	Low conception, abortion, dystocia, retained placenta, reduced libido
Inadequate Energy Intake	Delayed puberty, suppressed estrus and ovulation, suppressed libido and spermatozoa production
Excessive protein intake	Low conception rate
Inadequate protein intake	Suppressed estrus, low conception, fetal resorption, premature parturition, weak offspring
Vitamin A deficiency	Impaired spermatogenesis, anestrus, low conception, abortion, weak offspring, retained placentae
Phosphorus deficiency	Anestrus, irregular estrus
Selenium deficiency	Retained placenta
Copper deficiency	Depressed reproduction, impaired immune system, impaired ovarian function
Zinc deficiency	Reduced spermatogenesis

Do you have a question for this column? Give John Paterson a call: 406-994-5562 or email at johnp@montana.edu

Welcome to the Age of Ranch Biosecurity

By Lisa Duffey, Montana Beef Network Coordinator with Clint Peck, Senior editor, BEEF Magazine.



Biosecurity, biocontainment, biological risk management. To the beef producer, they all mean essentially the same thing – addressing the possibility of a disease organism or disease complex entering or spreading within a beef cattle operation. Biosecurity means that disease transmission cannot be completely avoided or eliminated – but that some basic management principles can be employed to effectively keep a ranching or feeding operation as secure as possible from a catastrophic biological invasion.

In a report “Animal Health at the Crossroads” issued in July 2005, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) says safeguarding animal health is of paramount importance to the U.S. economy, public health and the food supply. Of key concern are a number of existing and emerging animal diseases that can affect the food supply for a growing world population and have huge implications for international commerce.

Learning Tough Lessons

But, the NAS says the U.S. animal health framework has been slow to validate, and implement new scientific tools and technologies that could significantly enhance animal disease prevention and protect public health. It emphasizes that better diagnostic tests for identifying all animal diseases should be made a priority.

Beyond the warning of the NAS, we need only to look back to recent history for lessons in the need for improved biosecurity measures. Our industry paid little attention to biosecurity issues before the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom. And, no one needs to be reminded of how devastating recent BSE events have been for Canadian and U.S. cattle and beef industries.

While appropriate biosecurity measures may

not eliminate risk, they are likely to reduce the threat of disease epidemics and reduce liability throughout the production chain, says Jared D. Taylor, DVM, adjunct instructor in Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine, Iowa State University Center for Food Security and Public Health.

“Producers who have made earnest attempts to control introduction, spread and release of diseases face less opposition from environmental, consumer and regulatory representatives,” Taylor says.

Attention to Zoonotics

Central to many arguments supporting concerted biosecurity efforts on the ranch or farm is that many diseases affecting beef cattle are zoonotic—that is they pose a risk to human health. Brucellosis, BSE, E. Coli O157:H7, Johne’s and tuberculosis are examples of zoonotic diseases. Biosecurity isn’t a new concept to Montana ranchers who have worked for decades to eliminate brucellosis.

Today though, nearly every state animal health authority has issued recommendations and guidelines for increased agricultural biosecurity at the local level. Many of those guidelines follow the models used to battle brucellosis.

Cattle producers across the country are beginning to work with their veterinarians in developing programs designed to increase biosecurity at the production level. These efforts include prevention of both zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases and improved overall vet-medical care.

Agroterrorism and biosecurity

As part of the effort to prevent future attacks on our homeland, Americans must assess the threat of terrorism against every sector of soci-

ety. The events of 9/11 ushered in a new resolve to secure our borders and property from terror threats.

Intentionally introducing a foreign animal or plant disease into the U.S. would not be terribly difficult, according to most terrorism experts. Production agriculture is only now beginning to understand the possibility of such threats.

Clint Peck wrote in the Mid-February 2005 issue of BEEF that agricultural terrorism is not about killing animals or destroying crops, it's about crippling an economy. Contributing to the vulnerability of U.S. agriculture are the trends of intensive production methods, vertical integration of food production, and an increasing dependence on import and export markets.

In addition to foreign-based agroterrorism threats, threats from domestic elements exist. Extreme environmental and animal rights activists have often been criminal in their opposition to what they term "factory farming" and "imprisonment and exploitation" of animals. Some also fanatically oppose use of genetically modified organisms, trends in global agriculture and meat consumption in general.

Whether an act of terrorism against agriculture is probable or possible is an issue for anti-terrorism specialists and law enforcement agencies. But, Peck emphasized that awareness is the first step toward in keeping U.S. agriculture from becoming a direct victim of terrorism.

New paradigms in BQA

National BQA programs (sponsored by the National Cattleman's Beef Association) have long focused on producing quality beef that satisfies our consumers' desires for a safe, wholesome and quality eating experience. Those efforts have met with resounding acceptance among producers and have contributed to the increasing nationwide demand for beef.

In an effort to expand BQA in Montana and fit the biosecurity issue to the wide range of

beef production and marketing circumstances across the state, we're incorporating new paradigms into the Montana Beef Quality Assurance program. While we'll continue to maintain a very strong emphasis on beef safety and beef quality assurance measures like reduction of injection site lesions, we know it's time to move on to broader issues.

Over the next several months we'll be introducing innovative programs that Montana beef cattle producers will be able to employ in their day-to-day operations. These programs will be designed to help increase ranch and feedlot biosecurity while increasing the market value of Montana cattle and consumer acceptance of Montana beef.

We're not taking on this effort in a vacuum though. We're enlisting the assistance and advice of a wide range of Montana ranchers, cattle feeders, veterinarians, animal nutritionists and other business people.

Stay tuned.

National Animal Identification System, cont.

should make certain that the contact information is changed and they are no longer on the premises registration. To avoid confusion in the system, the best alternative is for the landowner, not the lessee, to register for the premises ID.

Q: In the event I give up or lose a lease, what happens to the premises ID for that property? When the subsequent lessee applies for a premises ID, will it create confusion in the Premises ID database?

A: The premises ID is assigned to a property and remains assigned to the property. Every time the lease on a single property changes hands, the lessees change but the Premises ID remains the same. Only the contact information on the premises registration needs to change.

Q: I own cattle but the land they graze on is leased. The only property I own is my home and the cattle are never on that property. Do I need a Premises ID? If yes, what do I register? If no, how will I obtain individual ID tags in the future?

A: If you will need Individual Animal ID tags in

continued on back page

National Animal Identification System, cont.

the future, then you will need to have a Premises ID because in the proposed NAIS, the tags are distributed to and assigned to a Premises ID. In the case of your livestock residing on leased property, then the leased property will need a Premises ID. To avoid confusion in the system, the landowner, not the lessee should register for a Premises ID. As the lessee, you may have to work with the property owner to accomplish this. On the Premises ID registration, you the lessee may be listed as either the primary or secondary contact for the premises.

Q: I own cattle but I do not own property. I lease my house and the land on which my cattle graze. Do I need

a premises number? If yes, what do I register? If no, how will I obtain individual ID tags in the future?

A: If you will need Individual Animal ID tags in the future, then you will need to have a Premises ID because in the proposed NAIS, the tags are distributed to and assigned to a Premises ID. In the case of your livestock residing on leased property, then the leased property will need a Premises ID. The owner of the property should register the property for a Premises ID. As the lessee, you may have to work with the property owner to accomplish this. On the Premises ID registration, you as the lessee may be listed as either the primary or secondary contact for the Premises. To avoid confusion in the system, the landowner, not the lessee, should register the premises.



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