

VETERINARY VIEWPOINT

A monthly newsletter by Dr. Kathy Whitman

BOV-EYE VETERINARY SERVICES

THINKING ABOUT WEANING...

After good moisture this past summer, when and how should you wean this year's calf crop?

As the summer has drawn to a close, it's time to start thinking about how we plan to wean calves. Depending on the goals of your operation, protocols can vary from simply pulling the calf off the cow and shipping, to an extensive pre-conditioning program with retained ownership. Regardless, there are a few points to consider this time of year:

1. Weaning strategy: How you wean calves sets them up to be successful in their next phase of life. Selecting the best combination of low stress and efficiency can be challenging. Consider fence-line weaning, moving the cows instead of the calves, and let the calves remain on their home pasture for 1-2 weeks to adjust.



2. Weaning nutrition: Transition diets are crucial to keeping calving going in the right direction. While creep feeding is not always a profitable option, it can be beneficial for calves sold at weaning time. For retained calves and received calves, starting out with a forage-based diet and slowly transitioning to concentrate rations is beneficial to the rumen. Stocker calves benefit from grazing roughages, but caution must be taken if wheat or residue pastures are utilized.

3. Vaccination protocols: If calves were previously vaccinated, a booster with respiratory and black-leg two weeks prior to weaning is ideal. This is also a good time to Bangs vaccinate replacement heifers, too. Parasite control is also needed for calves coming off pasture.

4. Cow health: Lest we forget that pregnant females are heading into the winter. Monitor body condition at preg check, and consider removing thin cows that will struggle to gain condition over the next few months.

PREPPING FOR SHEEP BREEDING SEASON

STRATEGIES FOR SMALL RUMINANT REPRODUCTION

<https://aces.nmsu.edu/newmexicosheep/reproductioninsheep.html>

FIND A SMALL RUMINANT PRACTITIONER:

http://www.aasrp.org/about/find_a_vet.asp

KEEPING DOG AND CAT PARASITES UNDER CONTROL

Even as the weather starts to cool down, the risk for parasites like heartworm and ticks is still present. There are many options and products available to keep your pets healthy. A year-round preventative program is the most ideal strategy. Here are some methods utilized to control both internal and external parasites:

1. **Collars:** A very easy and inexpensive method for controlling fleas and ticks. Some collars need to be replaced monthly, others last several months. These are less ideal for animals with sensitive skin, and these don't take care of internal parasites.
2. **Topical:** This is a great strategy for both external and internal parasite control, depending on the product. Flea and tick topical meds can be purchased OTC; a prescription is available for internal parasite topical formulations.
3. **Oral:** Easy to administer for most animals, and comes in formulations that take care of internal and external parasites, including tapeworm.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.petsandparasites.org/>