Trail News

From the

Meeteetse Conservation District

May 23rd, 2019

www.meeteetse-conservewy.net

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

WILL HEALTH EFFECTS LINGER IN BEEF CALVES FOLLOWING HARSH SPRING WEATHER?

Beef herds calving in late winter or early spring flirt with disaster annually when it comes to bitter weather conditions. It's a rare year when a prolonged cold snap or snowstorm – sometimes several of each – doesn't occur during this critical period. In the throes of those weather conditions, calf health and even survival can be directly affected. But what lies ahead for the survivors? Does the mere fact that beef calves have endured cold, wet, or snowy conditions mean that they are more likely to exhibit health problems later on? While there's not much in the scientific literature to provide a specific answer to this question, there is a good deal of anecdotal speculation among producers and veterinarians to suggest future health problems for these calves. When examined more closely, some of these scenarios make sense. When we consider longer-term effects on calf health, perhaps nothing is more profound than the influence of colostrum. Calves that obtain sufficient disease protection through colostrum are not only more likely to remain healthy in the first weeks of life, that protective effect endures for a long time – even past weaning. If bad weather conditions disrupt this critical transfer of antibodies – chilled calves not nursing right away, disruptions when pairs are moved in and out of shelter, for example – the result could be poor calf health in the weeks and months to come. Disease issues influenced by poor transfer of colostral protection run the gamut from scours to pneumonia to septicemia and other problems. Housing young calves, even temporarily, during extreme weather can be a literal life-saver. However, prolonged confinement doesn't come without potential downsides. Concentrating calves in a smaller area runs the risk of exposing them to more scours pathogens as manure builds up in the bedding. Certain of these pathogens have long incubation periods. For example, coccidiosis cases arise from these early-life exposures, yet don't cause visible clinical signs until calves reach a month of age or later. Therefore, scours cases that pop up weeks after a weather event could in fact be a result of crowding during the bad weather. Other aspects of housing can set up respiratory illness in calves that emerges later on. Pneumonia in calves of any age occurs when pathogenic bacteria such as Mannheimia or Mycoplasma gain access to the lower lung, creating a vicious cycle of inflammation. Confinement during bad weather brings calves together sooner than normal, which serves to speed up the spread and colonization of these respiratory pathogens, increasing the chances of pneumonia. Tightly closing up barns or sheds to keep out the cold compounds the spread of these germs among calves, and can set up situations where viruses such as IBR can readily spread through a group. These pneumonia issues can linger in some calves for some time after weather conditions improve. Prompt treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea issues, when they occur, will help reduce any problems that could extend even further into the life of the calf.

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DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVOID TICK DISEASE

Diseases sometimes passed on by infected ticks in Wyoming include tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and Colorado tick fever (CTF). Lyme and Powasssan diseases can be a concern during travel to other states, but are not known to be spread by Wyoming ticks. Tularemia symptoms include fever, swollen and painful lymph glands, inflamed eyes, sore throat, mouth sores, skin ulcers and diarrhea. If the bacteria are inhaled, symptoms can include sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, dry cough and progressive weakness and pneumonia. Colorado tick fever usually causes fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and, occasionally, a rash. Initial RMSF symptoms may include fever, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, lack of appetite and severe headache. Later signs and symptoms may include rash, abdominal pain, joint pain and diarrhea. RMSF and tularemia patients often require hospitalization. General recommendations to help avoid tick-related diseases include: Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to see ticks crawling on clothing. Tuck pant legs into socks. Apply insect repellents such as those containing 20 percent or more DEET and/or picaradin. Upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, search yourself and children for ticks and remove if found. Check pets for ticks; use tick control products recommended by veterinarians.

COWBOY STATE NEWS NETWORK

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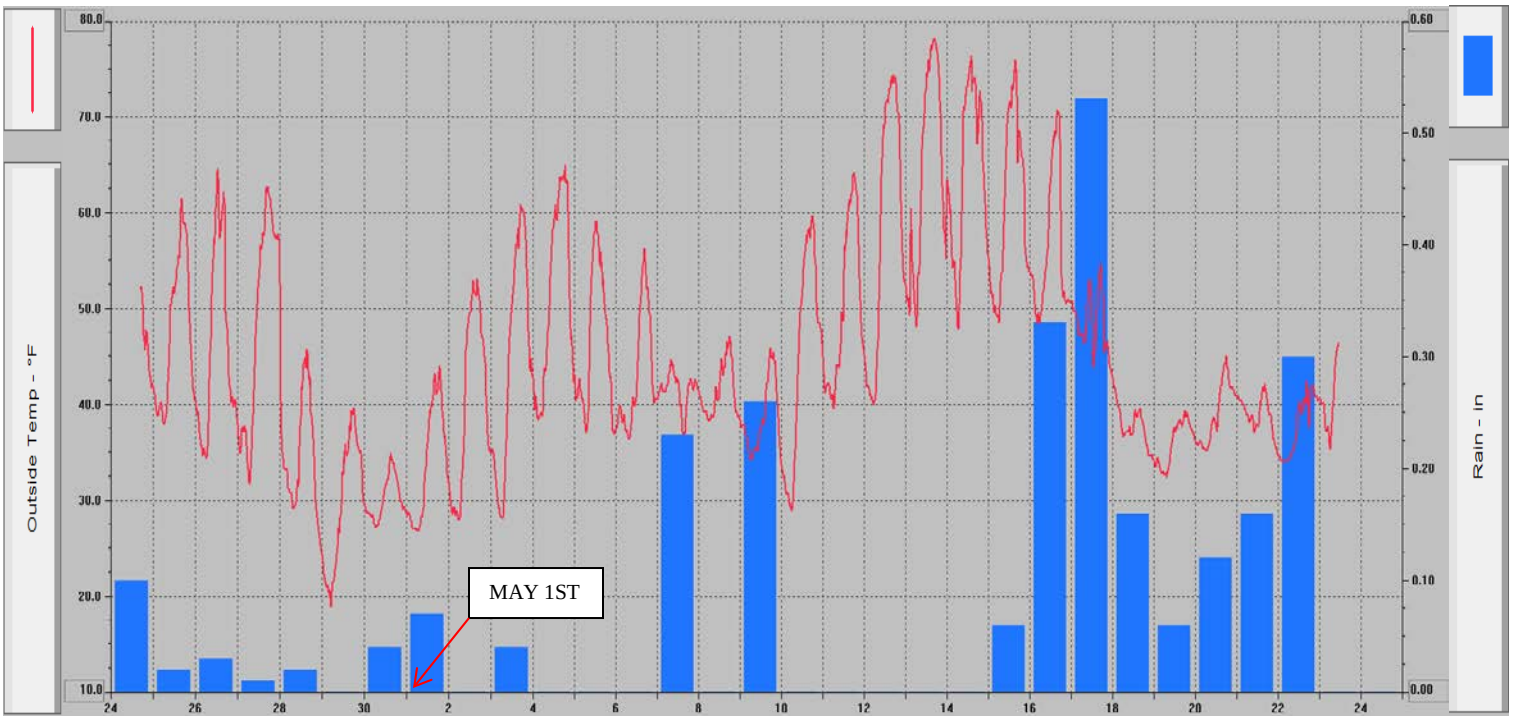
SPRING WHEAT 2019: A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR?

The spring of 2019 has been cold and wet in many areas, very similar to the weather observed in the spring of 2018. In 2018, despite the challenging weather, spring wheat acres were actually up 8% from the prior year. However, planted acres in 2019 may be reduced as the extended weather forecast shows unfavorable planting conditions extending well into the month. Farmers have begun to consider switching acres away from small grains and into later-planted row crops such as corn or soybeans. **Yield Considerations -** One producer asked, 'When do I start losing yield?' That can be a difficult question to answer definitively, as weather variations are such a large factor in the final yields of spring wheat. Hard Red Spring wheat is one of the most tolerant crops to cold temperatures and frost events. Germination and growth will begin when the soil temperature reaches 40°F. It should be planted as early as possible since cooler weather from emergence to the early reproductive stages generally benefits tiller formation and the development of larger heads. Increased growth during the early season typically results in higher yields. For example, a study in North Dakota showed that spring wheat planted on May 1st had six fewer days of growth from emergence to 6-leaf stage when compared to wheat planted on April 15th. The number of days was further reduced to eleven when planting was delayed until May 15th. Yield data related to this research suggests that wheat loses 1.5% of its yield potential every day after the optimum planting date. However, this can vary greatly from season to season. **Optimum Planting Dates -** Optimum planting dates vary according to the location. Typically for most areas that optimum date will range from early to late April, with some producers being able to get in the field earlier or later. It is recommended to increase seeding rates as planting date is delayed from the optimum date to compensate for the loss in tiller formation. The recommended minimum seeding rate for a normal planting date is 1.2 million pure live seeds per acre, although no-till producers may want to plant more. Seeding rates should be increased by 1% per day for each day planting is delayed. For example, if the optimum planting date is considered to be April 15th, and planting does not occur until May 10th, the seeding rate should be increased by 25% (1.2 million seeds/acre x 1.25 = 1.5 million seeds/acre). SDSU Extension does not recommend planting more than 1.8 million seeds/acre. **Late Planting -** If conditions are right, late planted crops can still produce strong yields. In 2018, the SDSU Extension spring wheat variety trial plots were planted on May 14th in South Shore, SD and, despite the late planting date, averaged 69 bu/acre with several varieties yielding above 75 bu/acre. The wild card in this situation is the weather in June and July. Wheat is highly susceptible to heat during pollination and grain fill. Prolonged exposure to daytime temperatures above 85-90°F and especially nighttime temperatures above 70-72°F during these growth stages can drastically reduce yields, especially if soil moisture levels are low. At present, the National Weather Service is calling for equal chances of above or below normal temperatures in the May-July timeframe. Decisions on weather risk are ultimately up to each individual producer.

SDSU Extension

MEETEETSE WEATHER LAST 30 DAYS



NEXT BOARD MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH @ 3:00 P.M. 1906 STATE ST. MEETEETSE ~ PUBLIC IS WELCOME ~