



Date: **February 21, 2006**

Client: **Alberta Farm Animal Care Association**

Re: **Beef and Dairy Welfare Symposiums – Western Veterinary Conference
February 19, 2006 Las Vegas, NV**

Topic: **Pain Management**

Speakers:

Dr. Paul Walz, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

Dr. David Anderson, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

Dr. Dee Griffin, Great Plains Veterinary Education Center, Clay Center, Nebraska

Dr. Paul Walz, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

Presentation Title: **Dairy Cattle Welfare**

Message:

- There are more dairy welfare citations than beef.
- Identified tail docking, lameness & downers, neonatal calf care, bull calves and barn heat dissipation to be primary issues.
- There is an annual mortality rate among dairy cattle at 5% vs. 1-1.5% in beef cattle.
- Identified these issue to be of primary importance in the future: today's issues repeating themselves, pain management, large populations in a single dairy barn, hiring and training of workers, dairy barn audits.
- Vet schools today do NOT really teach a standard for pain management (example – anesthesia for dehorning).

Dr. David Anderson, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

Presentation Title: **Bovine Pain Management 1 & 2**

Message:

- An animal that is in pain has a much better chance of recovering from an infection or condition if the pain is alleviated during the recovery period. The immune system and treatment of choice have much better efficacy on pain-free animals.
- Physiological changes happen when the animal lingers in pain – abomasal ulcers develop, blood is shunted away from the kidney which causes irreparable kidney damage.
- "To say that no animal should feel pain in its life is absurd, because that theory or standard does not apply in the human existence, so how can it apply to animals."
- Drug administration to sick cattle should concentrate on their analgesic qualities (how much more painful is the treatment if administered in the muscle vs. under the skin?).
- Dr. Anderson learned that general anesthesia was not the golden standard for pain relief as was previously believed, it is pain management after the fact that is the most important element.

Dr. Dee Griffin, Great Plains Veterinary Education Center, Clay Center, Nebraska
Presentation Title: **Beef Cattle Welfare Issues**

Message:

- The perception that green pastures are the high standard for a perfect cattle existence is nonsense – showed green pasture cattle completely swarmed by stable fly infestation on a warm, summer day.
- Made reference to Stookey and Schwartzkopf research.
- Talked on dehorning, castration and cattle euthanasia (best practices). Did not like captive bolt guns for euthanasia, said there have been documented accidental deaths attributed to their use.
- Claimed semen collection via electroejaculation is going to be a hot topic soon.
- We need to provide pain relief to cattle. Old school methods like hog rings in flank spaying surgeries are no longer acceptable in today's world.
- Laws will be enacted to protect livestock from abuse.
- The veterinarian's role may become that of watchdog, intolerant of abuse.

Submitted by
Tim O'Byrne
February 21, 2006