

Winter is here and the spring calving season is around the corner. Now is the time to again evaluate Body Condition Score (BCS) on cows and bred heifers. For optimum rebreeding next year, mature cows need to be at a BCS 5 or better when they calve; bred heifers need to be in a BCS 5.5 to 6 when they calve. Cows and heifers that calve in a lower BCS have a delayed return to estrus which can delay rebreeding next spring. If producers have a limited breeding season, this delay can result lower pregnancy rates and hence lower calf crop the next year. Delayed rebreeding can also reduce weaning weights the following year because the calves are born later and are younger when weaned. So, cow and heifer management between now and calving time in 2017 can affect ranch income in 2018; yes 2018.

If cows are not in the third trimester of pregnancy yet, they soon will be. This final three months of pregnancy is when 75% of fetal growth occurs. So the daily nutrient requirements of the cows are on the rise at a time when quality of grazed forage is declining and winter climate is becoming more stressful.

So, evaluate BCS now. Determine the status of your herd today so you manage the nutrition over the next several weeks and hit the desired BCS at calving. If cows and heifers are in adequate BCS today, the task ahead is to keep them in that condition leading up to calving. If instead BCS is lower than a 5 or 6 today, then the task at hand is to add condition in the time remaining before calving.

Dormant forages generally contain an adequate amount of energy to support a pregnant cow IF there is an adequate supply of forage in front of the cows. However, the crude protein (CP) content of the forage is usually low relative to the cow's needs and the needs of the ruminal microbes that ferment the forage and supply nutrients to the cow. When CP is deficient, daily forage and energy intake will suffer and possibly lead to weight and condition loss.

So, the first nutrient of concern is CP. Focus on a feed supplement with concentrated CP; cost comparisons should take into account the cost per unit of CP in the supplement. If the forage supply is adequate, then a relatively low amount of supplement with a high CP concentration is usually sufficient.

On the otherhand, if the supply of forage in front of the cows is inadequate (overstocked) or the cows and heifers need a push to gain some condition, then focus turns to supplying both CP and energy to the cows. This will require a supplement with a lower concentration of CP that is fed in greater amounts to supply the energy. Cost comparisons should take into account the cost per unit of energy (TDN) in the supplement

Always ensure that mineral requirements of the cows and heifers are satisfied. Supplemental minerals may be supplied by a free-choice complete mineral supplement or may be present in the range supplements mentioned earlier. "Complete" means the supplement contains all the necessary macrominerals and trace minerals.

Monitoring BCS and managing supplemental nutrition are two management tasks that are necessary to reduce the production risk for the 2018 calf crop.

Haskell County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

2016-2017: Haskell/Knox CO. Dual Purpose Wheat Trial

Haskell County Forage Trials

The below table shows the 19 varieties we are working on at Kenneth Baker Farms. We will take two or three forage samples before jointing stage. We will then harvest them for grain and observe their performance as a dual purpose wheat. We also have a Uniform Variety Grain trial looking at many varieties specifically for grain. Please stop by and take a look if you are interested. We will hold a wheat field day at the location in April.

Farmer cooperater:	Rep 1	Rep 2	Rep 3
Mr. Kenneth Baker	Doans	WB 4458	TAM113
Location:	Duster	Duster	WB Cedar
North of intersection between FM 266 and CR296. South east of Munday.	Endurance	TAM113	Endurance
Planting date:	Gallagher	TAM204	WBWinterhawk
10/3/2016	Greer	Endurance	TAM304
Seeding rate:	Jackpot	SYllano	WBgrainfield
90 lb/ac	SYllano	Doans	Gallagher
Field characteristics:	SYrazor	Gallagher	Jackpot
Conventional tillage	TAM113	Jackpot	SYrazor
Replication:	TAM114	LSC chrome	Fannin
Replicated 3 times.	TAM204	TAM304	WB 4458
	TAM304	WB Cedar	Greer
	TAM401	TAM114	Duster
	WB 4458	SYrazor	TAM401
	WB Cedar	Greer	TAM114
	Fannin	WBWinterhawk	LSC chrome
	LSC chrome	WBgrainfield	TAM204
	WBgrainfield	TAM401	SYllano
	WBWinterhawk	Fannin	Doans

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- INSIDE THIS ISSUE**
- Haskell/Knox County Forage Trials
 - Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)
 - Winter Cattle Nutrition

Upcoming Programs:
Crop Conference Jan 19,
2017 at the Bunk House
in Stamford, TX
beginning at 8:30 AM

What is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)?

A VFD feed can only be used under the professional supervision of a licensed Veterinarian VFD drug and combination VFD drug

What is a “VFD drug”?

A “VFD drug” is a drug intended for use in or on animal feed that is limited to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian

What is a “combination VFD drug”?

A "combination VFD drug" is an approved combination of new animal drugs intended for use in or on animal feed under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and at least one of the new animal drugs in the combination is a VFD drug.

How do I know if a drug is a VFD drug, rather than an OTC drug?

Read the label. All labeling and advertising for VFD drugs, combination VFD drugs, and feeds containing VFD drugs or combination VFD drugs must prominently and conspicuously display the following cautionary statement: "Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian." Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs do not have this statement.

VFD statement

What is a VFD?

A VFD is a written (nonverbal) statement issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian’s professional practice that authorizes the use of a VFD drug or combination VFD drug in or on an animal feed. This written statement authorizes the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) to obtain and use animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or combination VFD drug to treat the client’s animals only in accordance with the conditions for use approved, conditionally approved, or indexed by the FDA. A VFD is also referred to as a VFD order.

What is an “expiration date” on the VFD?

The expiration date on the VFD specifies the last day the VFD feed can be fed.

VFD drug labeling and advertising must prominently and conspicuously display the VFD caution statement

Use of a VFD feed

How do I use a VFD feed?

The VFD feed must be used according to the information specified in the labeling and on the VFD. This means for example that the feed can only be used for the indications and duration of use specified on the label and VFD, and in the animals at premises specified in the VFD. Furthermore, if the VFD authorizes use of a VFD drug in an approved combination, that combination also must be used according to the labeling and VFD.

What is the difference between an “expiration date” on the VFD and duration of use?

While the VFD expiration date defines the period of time for which the authorization to feed an animal feed containing a VFD drug is lawful, the duration of use determines the length of time, established as part of the approval, conditional approval, or index listing process, that the animal feed containing the VFD drug is allowed to be fed to the animals. For example, in swine the currently approved VFD drug tilmicosin has a duration of use of 21 days and an expiration date of 90 days, which means the client has 90 days to obtain the VFD feed and complete the 21 day course of therapy.

As a client can I feed a VFD feed past the VFD expiration date?

No. A VFD feed or combination VFD feed must not be fed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD.

My VFD order is set to expire before I can complete the duration of use on the order, what should I do?

A VFD feed or combination VFD feed must not be fed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD. You should contact your veterinarian to request a new VFD order.

Obtaining a VFD feed

How does a producer obtain a VFD feed?

Use of a VFD feed requires the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Producers must obtain a VFD order from their veterinarian, then send, or take, the VFD order to a feed manufacturer or supplier to get the VFD feed. Producers who manufacture their own feed must have a VFD in order to get the medicated VFD feed to manufacture from. Producers who also manufacture feed for others should be aware that they are acting as a distributor and additional requirements apply. More information on manufacturing and distributing VFD feeds is available at: www.fda.gov/safefeed

“Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.”

What does professional supervision mean?

The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis of professional supervision. Veterinarians who issue a VFD order must practice veterinary medicine in compliance with all applicable veterinary licensing and practice requirements, including issuing the VFD in the context of a VCPR as defined by the state. If applicable VCPR requirements as defined by such state do not include the key elements of a valid VCPR as defined by Federal law, the veterinarian must issue the VFD in the context of a valid VCPR as defined by the Federal law.

What should be on a VFD order?

This information is required on a lawful VFD order:

- veterinarian’s name, address, and telephone number;
- client’s name, business or home address, and telephone number;
- premises at which the animals specified in the VFD are located;
- date of VFD issuance;
- expiration date of the VFD;
- name of the VFD drug(s);
- species and production class of animals to be fed the VFD feed;
- approximate number of animals to be fed the VFD feed by the expiration date of the VFD;
- indication for which the VFD is issued;
- level of VFD drug in the feed and duration of use;
- withdrawal time, special instructions, and cautionary statements necessary for use of the drug in conformance with the approval;
- number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted by the drug approval, conditional approval, or index listing;
- statement: “Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as
- directed on the labeling (extralabel use), is not permitted”;
- an affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs as
- described in 21 CFR 558.6(b)(6); and
- veterinarian’s electronic or written signature.

You may also see the following optional information on the VFD:

- a more specific description of the location of the animals (for example, by site, pen, barn, stall, tank, or other descriptor the veterinarian deems appropriate);
- the approximate age range of the animals;
- the approximate weight range of the animals; and
- any other information the veterinarian deems appropriate to identify the animals at issue.

A lawful VFD has to be complete

Extralabel use

What is an “extralabel use” of a VFD drug and is it allowed?

“Extralabel use” is defined in FDA’s regulations as actual or intended use of a drug in an animal in a manner that is not in accordance with the approved labeling. For example, feeding the animals VFD feed for a duration of time that is different from the duration specified on the label, feeding VFD feed formulated with a drug level that is different from what is specified on the label, or feeding VFD feed to an animal species different than what is specified on the label would all be considered extralabel uses. Extralabel use of medicated feed, including medicated feed containing a VFD drug or a combination VFD drug, is not permitted.

Extra-label use of VFD feed (or any other medicated feed) is not permitted

Client’s responsibilities

What are my responsibilities as the “client”?

- As the client, a producer must: only feed animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or a combination VFD drug (a VFD feed or combination VFD feed) to animals based on a VFD issued by a licensed veterinarian;
 - not feed a VFD feed or combination VFD feed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD;
- provide a copy of the VFD order to the feed distributor if the issuing veterinarian sends the distributor’s copy of the VFD through you, the client;
- maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of 2 years; and
 - provide VFD orders for inspection and copying by FDA upon request.

VFD has to be kept for 2 years