Bohaty Farm Bulletin

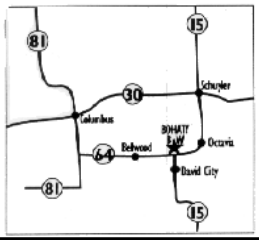
September 2011

Bohaty's British Whites—
Quality You Can Count On!

Bohaty British White Cattle Are for Sale anytime of the year!
We still have one Bull for Sale at $1600, B&B Draco 19X.
Check him out at www.britishcattle.com
Females can still be purchased Bred Heifers and Cow/Calf Pairs.
Contact us for more information nbohaty@gmail.com or phone us at 402-367-4741

Our Open House & Cattle Sale date has been set for 2012!! Plan to join us next year and join in the fun!! April 14, 2012

B&B Sienna 11X
Bred Heifer



Directions from junction 15 and 64 (★) 1/2 mile west to a white church. 1 mile north, 3/4 mile east, south side.

Bohaty's British Whites
Walter & Nancy Bohaty
1371 42nd Road
Bellwood, NE 68624
402-367-4741
Email: nbohaty@gmail.com
www.britishcattle.com

Dealing with Lameness Issues

By Dave Barz, DVM

Excerpts from 7/16/11 Tri-State Livestock News—

The heat & humidity make outside work stressful, but the pastures & crops still look pretty good. Every day we see lame cows, calves & bulls at the clinic. This summer it has been a frequent problem.

Foot rot has been the most common diagnosis through the years. It causes sudden swelling, heat & inflammation of the foot; usually one claw is more affected. Foot rot is caused by several opportunistic bacteria, but the most common is Fusobacterium necrophorum. This is an anaerobic bacteria which grows best in the absence of oxygen. Usually the animal gets an abrasion or puncture on the soft tissue of the foot, which allows the causative agents entry into body & infection progresses.

Good husbandry practices are the best means of prevention. Healthy feet are less apt to crack. When cattle spend a lot of time in the water or mud, their feet become soft. When the temperature warms, mud dries & forms a sharp, abrasive surface which damages the feet. F. necrophorum commonly lives in mud & manure & easily enters lesions on the foot. If there is a common drinking area for livestock, it may help to add a concrete apron around the tank. Sharp rocks & wire must also be policed from the area.

Adequate nutrition is important to good foot health. The biggest issues in lameness are selenium, copper, & zinc deficiencies. If foot rot is a herd-wide problem, visit with a nutritionist to decide if additional zinc or copper are needed. Not only will a good mineral program help with foot health, but it should also help the herd's reproductive efficiency & overall immunity.

Some producers use vaccines for foot rot. We have several producers that vaccinate their herd before turnout every year & then vaccinate the calves in the fall. Data shows they treated 10-15% before vaccination, after vaccination they rarely treat an animal.

The earlier an animal is treated in the course of the disease, the better their chance of recovery. Penicillin has been the treatment of choice for many years, & I still use it a lot. The only problem with this treatment is it may need to be boostered in a day or two. In our area a dart gun has become the replacement for a good cowboy. This requires low volumes of antibiotics for treatment because darts hold a limited volume. I have issues with Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), the dart, & the actual amount of drug injected from the dart into the animal. Long-acting products have been recommended because there should be no need to a booster or re-treatment. Long-acting tetracyclines work well, but may cause a tissue reaction if injected improperly & requires a relatively large dose. Excede gives a 7-day tissue level. This product is expensive & usually reserved for bulls or calves. Micotil is used by some of our producers for treatment. We recommend they have the animal in excellent restraint to avoid self-injection & never use it in a dart gun.

Many of the animals we see at the clinic have had a treatment, or maybe two, on the ranch. We tip these animals on the tilt-table & find sole abscesses, tie cracks, punctures & heal necrosis which can be treated. Sometimes the initial foot rot has migrated into the joint & we are forced to remove the claw. If a lame critter doesn't improve with one treatment, it is best to re-examine the animal before re-treating.

About 75% of lameness issues are a result of foot rot. Untreated it can result in poor weight gains, decreased breeding efficiency & early culling. The cost of treatment is small compared to the loss of a bull or cow's future in the herd. Visit with your veterinarian, nutritionist or extension specialist to examine the husbandry & treatment practices for your herd. Preventing lameness will result in more pounds of calf to sell & more cows pregnant, ultimately improving the cowherd's overall efficiency.