It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a Blog

For those of you younger than me or for those of you that never watched the cartoon Underdog, I'm sure this title is confusing. Blog really should be frog. And the next line is "Not bird, nor plane, nor even frog, it's just little old me underdog." But I digress ...

I can't seem to get my newsletter out on time. I have two problems: one never enough time and two Fred has retired and Juan only has one or two graduate students. I'm running out of material for the newsletter.

To solve the time problem, I'm starting a blog. I hope when a I run across interesting behavior articles, I can post them on my blog. Hopefully when it's time for a newsletter, I can take several posts and put together a newsletter. My blog is at blog.usu.edu/behave

To solve my material issue, I'm asking for help. Anyone who has ask me if I'd include your research or the way you use behavior on your operation in the newsletter, send me your information. Please!!!

High Fiber in Mom's Diet Benefits Calves

Calves fed ammoniated wheat straw (AWS) with their mothers during the first 3 months of life perform better on AWS as adults. Does AWS in the diet of pregnant cows affect the intake and digestibility of AWS by their calves?

Cows were fed either a high-fiber diet (HF) of ammoniated wheat straw (AWS) and wheat middlings (WM) or a low-fiber diet (LF) of grass hay and barley. Both diets contained the same amount of net energy, nitrogen, minerals and vitamins, but they varied 10-fold in the solubility of...
they spent their time in sun or shade. The percent time each breed spent in the shade (standing and lying down) was: 89% for Angus (black), 81% for MARC III (dark-red), 57% for MARC I (tan), and 55% for Charolais (white). There was direct linear correlation ($R^2 = 0.90$) between absorption of solar load by hair coat color and percent of time the heifers spent in shade.

Providing shade alleviated heat stress by lowering body temperature especially for black and dark-red cattle.

Matt Stevenson provided info for this article.


carbohydrates.

Cows were fed either HF or LF during the last five months of pregnancy. At calving, all cow-calf pairs were fed high quality alfalfa-grass hay for 45 days then moved to pasture for five months. Calves were weaned at seven months and fed good quality alfalfa hay for three weeks.

For 40 days, all calves were fed WM supplement and AWS ad libitum. Calves from cows fed HF during pregnancy ate more AWS, and digested it more completely than calves from cows fed LF diets. There was also a tendency for calves fed AWS + WM to gain more weight if their mothers had eaten HF rather than LF.

Higher digestible intake of poor quality forage is likely important for pregnant cows that winter on rangelands. Cows eating high-fiber diets during pregnancy and after calving likely produce replacement heifers that will be more productive on poor-quality forages during winter.


Let me know what I can do to improve the newsletter!!

Sincerely,

Beth Burritt
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