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Yellowstone River Beef Under New Ownership

Pictured are Yellowstone River Beef
co-owners Luke Taylor and C.J. Thorne.
Not Pictured: Co-owner Calli Thorne.

See page 2

Farm & ranch monthly magazine published by The Roundup
PO Box 1207 • Sidney, MT 59270 | 406-433-3306 | info@roundupweb.com

Yellowstone River Beef Offers Local Retail Beef and Custom Processing

"We are deep-rooted in our community and want to focus mainly on connecting local customers to our local ranches," claims C.J. Thorne and Luke Taylor, Watford City. "We both live near Watford City and chose to form a partnership," they stated.

"Our families have always had our custom processing done locally and we know how handy that is to help the farmers and ranchers," Thorne chimes in.

The young entrepreneurs purchased Yellowstone River Beef, 6 E. Dakota Parkway, Williston, in May and were able to keep all the previous employees at their plant. "We only had to hire 3 additional employees to our crew," says Thorne.

"We want to change the look to a more locally-oriented custom processing business with locally raised beef." Taylor states. "We want to process local beef from ranchers in northwestern North Dakota and stretching into northeastern Montana," he adds.

All beef is USDA federally inspected each day by an onsite inspector whose office is located on the premises.

Fresh or frozen, whole, ½, ¼ are on hand in their retail store, open 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m. CT five days a week. "We offer some mixed beef bundles for you at a variety of different price points, which enables customers to call in their orders. "We package for the customer, large or small. Perfect for grilling up nutrient dense, flavorful, quality beef that is 100% locally sourced and processed right here at our plant," offers Calli Thorne.

They have currently expanded by adding an additional cooler and will be adding more butcher spots. There are 2 walk-in coolers and a freezer. All beef is vacuum-sealed and weighed automatically with a sticker containing all the information.

At this point all beef is sold locally to grocery stores, farmers' markets, and local customers. And the new team is excited to continue expanding their custom processing options for other ranchers in the area.

Yellowstone River Beef is located south of Hwy. 1804 and East Parkway in Williston and will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony July 29 from 12-1 p.m. with locally owned and locally processed beef at their plant 6 E. Parkway. You may reach the plant at 701-577-6328.



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Requirements: A Good Attitude, a willingness to do things Our way, ability to work well with others, as part of a team and also to work independently on a variety of projects. Additional responsibilities may be assigned to you from time to time, at the Company's discretion. Must be at least 18 years old, pre-employment and random drug testing required, must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to Lift 35 pounds and willing to run a shovel or power tools when needed.

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Lyip@midrivers.com • jbrower@midrivers.com

HELP WANTED

Canal Maintenance

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Wants to Hire Canal Maintenance Full Time or Part Time or Seasonal available for immediate hire upon passing a Pre-Employment Drug Test and On-Going Random Drug Test:

Duties: to assist in the maintenance and construction of features of the irrigation districts. Job involves physical labor, a hand shovel, a Wacker Packer, and operation of Hydro-Excavator, trucks and small equipment. Must be able to Lift 60 lbs and climb in and out of steep ditches.

Requirements For All Positions: A good attitude, willingness to do things our way, A good work ethic, ability to work well as a team or independently on a variety of projects, honesty, and dependability. Some welding and carpentry experience is helpful. Additional responsibilities will be assigned at the company's discretion. Must be at least 17 years old, Pre-employment and random drug testing required, must have a valid driver's license. Solid benefit package including paid holidays & paid vacation, health insurance, generous retirement contribution and Good wages.

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Apply In Person at LYIP 2327 Lincoln Ave. SE, Sidney, Montana 59270



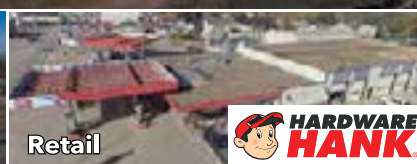
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Livestock Water Quality Concerns

By Marley Voll, MSU Richland County Extension

As temperatures remain high, it is important to consider not only the quantity of water that your livestock have access to, but also the quality of the water source they are on.

The amount of water livestock require depends on the animal's size, production stage, moisture content of their diet, and temperature. For example, a 1,300-lb. mature beef cow requires approximately 9.2 gallons of water when temperatures are at 40°F, and this requirement increases to 14.3 gallons a day when temperatures are 90°F. When cows are lactating, water requirements are estimated at 12.2 gallons per day in 40°F weather. As temperatures rise to 90°F, that requirements increase more than 40% to nearly 17.4 gallons per day. Ensuring livestock have access to an adequate amount of fresh water every day is necessary for them to regulate their internal temperature, digest feed, lubricate joints, grow muscle, lactate, and perform other biological processes.

Poor water quality can compromise animal health and production, and in some cases even cause death. The most common issues with livestock water quality include elevated levels total dissolved solids (TDS), elevated levels of sulfate, and cyanobacteria/blue-green algae.

TDS is a measure of the total amount of salts and minerals that are in a water source and is a nonspecific indicator of water quality. TDS over 3,000 ppm may begin to cause animal health problems, and TDS at higher rates can even cause death. As temperatures are elevated and there is increased evaporation from the surface of water sources, there is a higher concentration of salts left behind, increasing TDS levels.

Sulfates can also cause issues with livestock water quality. High sulfate water tastes bitter and may cause some animals to drink less than they need to remain healthy and productive. High concentrations of sulfate can lead to polyencephalomalacia (PEM or polio), a neurological disorder that often can become fatal.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, is a type of algae that occurs in stagnant water and releases toxins that can be harmful to animals, and often lead to death. Blooms can be green and are often blue when they dry on the surface or the shoreline of the water. The only way to protect livestock from risk of toxin if cyanobacteria is present is to remove them from the water source.

The Richland County Extension Office can assist you in testing your water for livestock water quality. In the office, we can estimate TDS and sulfate levels, as well as assist you in sending your water to a commercial lab for testing for cyanobacteria. Please reach out to the office if you need your water tested, 406-433-1206.

Steinbeisser Placed 1st In 2023 Steer Of Merit Contest

By Josie Evenson

As the Fair quickly approaches, 4-H members and their families often reflect on past Fair experiences. Last year Liam Steinbeisser raised a Charolais cross market steer to exhibit at the County Fair. In the live show Liam did well, receiving a blue ribbon, however, he exceeded his expectations in the carcass contest. He placed first place in the Richland County Market Beef Carcass Contest. He then went on to win the Steer of Merit contest for the entire. This is a great achievement. When Liam was asked about placing first in the entire state he said "winning 1st place in the statewide Steer of Merit competition means a lot to me and my family because the steer was born and raised here on our ranch. It's really nice to get some recognition."

The Steer of Merit contest is a contest that is sponsored by Montana State University and the Montana Stock-growers Association. The definition of the contest found on Montana State University website is "To be designated a Steer of Merit, carcasses are evaluated by a qualified individual using information that relates to yield of lean meat and eating quality. Beef carcasses must meet criteria set by the Steer of Merit Committee in the areas of hot carcass weight, dressing percent, fat thickness over 12th rib (back fat), rib eye area, yield grade, percent cutability and quality grade. Software helps compile data and rank carcasses for state and county awards. Data is also analyzed periodically to track genetic and feed management progress. The minimum standards for Steer of Merit are reviewed each year,

and the program is updated to meet changing industry standards." In 2023 there were 136 Steers of Merit named out of the 1,290 entries into the contest.

Liam will have a market steer on exhibit again this year at the Richland County Fair and Rodeo. He will join 94 other young people who have worked hard since last fall to care for their market beef projects. Liam thoroughly enjoys the market beef project. He said "This project has taught me dedication to things I partake in, to work hard and to push through to the end" when asked what the project has taught him.

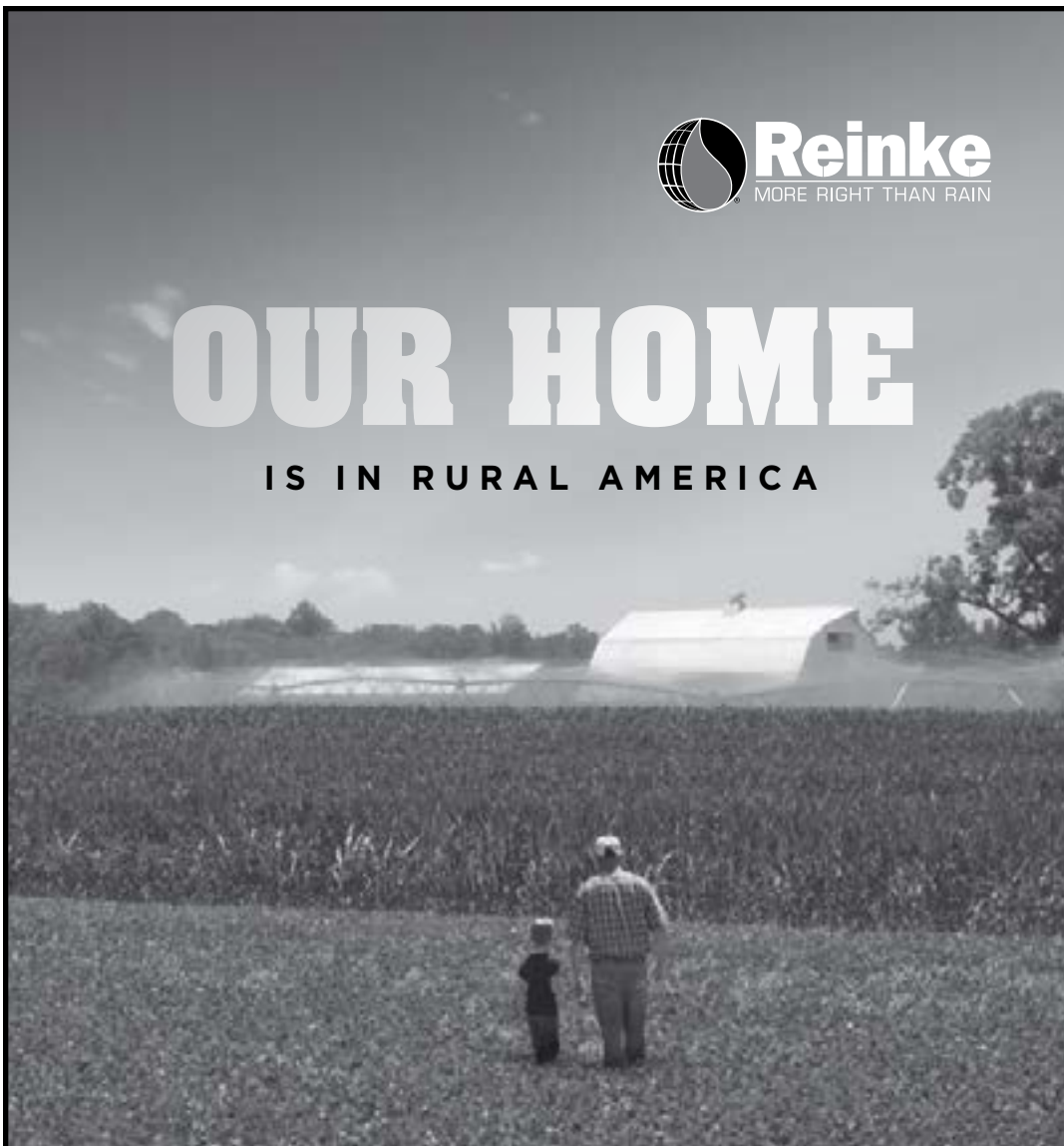
Richland County 4-H would like to invite all out to the Fair and encourage everyone to walk through the barns to see the animals that the members have raised. All 4-H members work hard in preparation for this week. We hope the entire community can celebrate their many accomplishments with them.



Pictured is Liam and his steer at last year's fair that won the contest. (Photo submitted)



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Duties: Safe Control & Distribution of irrigation water in public ditches in the Intake & Savage area including record keeping. Season work is 7 days a week May-September including holidays. The job continues 5 days a week October-April all year long for permanent employees. Job involves physical labor including active maintenance of those facilities and spraying herbicide. Job involves using a weed hook, a hand shovel, and using a check board hook to remove 6' boards. Non-irrigation season duties include canal maintenance, construction, and concrete work on the project's physical features. including using a Wacker Packer when needed. Must be able to Lift 50 lbs. and climb in and out of ditches. Training will be provided.

Requirements For All Positions: Work well with customers, Ability to Learn, A good attitude, willingness to do things our way, A good work ethic, ability to work well as a team or independently on a variety of projects. Honesty and dependability are required. Some carpentry experience helpful. Additional responsibilities will be assigned at the company's discretion.

Must be at least 17 years old, Pre-employment and random drug testing required, must have valid driver's license. Non-Seasonal employees receive Great benefit package including 11 paid holidays & 2 weeks paid vacation, paid Comp Time off. great health insurance, generous retirement contributions and Good wages.

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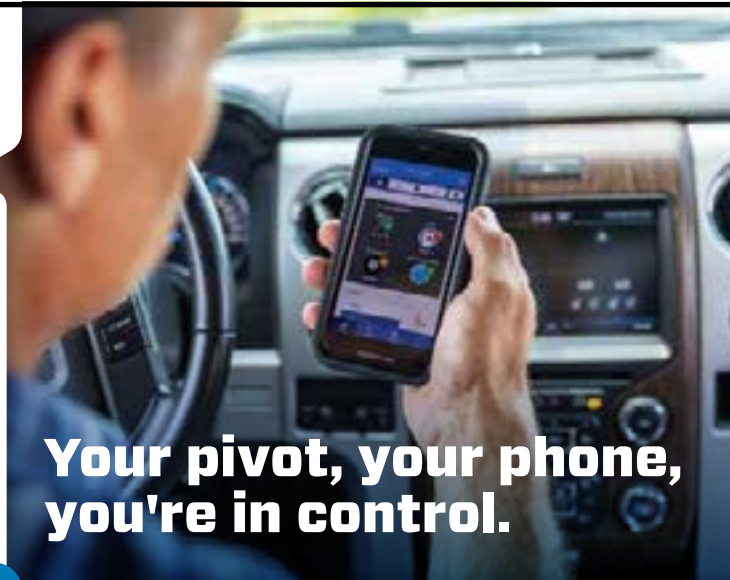
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Fort Peck Dam Test Flows Ending Earlier Than Expected

By U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

OMAHA, Neb. -- The 2024 flow test from Fort Peck Dam was the first in a series of test flows intended to comply with the 2018 Biological Opinion.

The 2024 flow test was comprised of the following:

An attraction flow, which began April 26 and continued through early May, and was intended to encourage Pallid Sturgeon to enter that reach of the Missouri River.

A retention flow of release rates lower than the attraction flow and designed to keep the fish in the designated river reach.

Then, a second spawning peak release took place in late June and early July, intended encourage spawning.

Finally, a drift flow would occur to allow larval sturgeon to develop.

Test flows were intended to determine (1) if alternative water management scenarios from Fort Peck would improve conditions for the Pallid Sturgeon, and (2) to identify the potential impacts of alternative management scenarios.

Through the course of the test flows, extensive monitoring of several Pallid Sturgeon took place but, there was no indication of any spawning.

"Because there was no spawning there is no need for a drift flow, therefore the test flows will end and Fort Peck Dam operations will begin what would be normal releases for this time of year, had there been no test," said John Remus, Missouri River Basin Water Management Division chief.

Beginning as soon as possible releases from Fort Peck Dam will be increased from an average daily flow of 8,000 cfs to an average daily flow of 9,000 cfs.

As per the 2023-2024 Annual Operating Plan these flow rates will be maintained until the middle of September. Although the 2024 test flow is ending early, monitoring will continue as planned.

Interested parties can continue to provide information through a web-based application that can be found at <https://hydroviz.ca/fort-peck-feedback>.

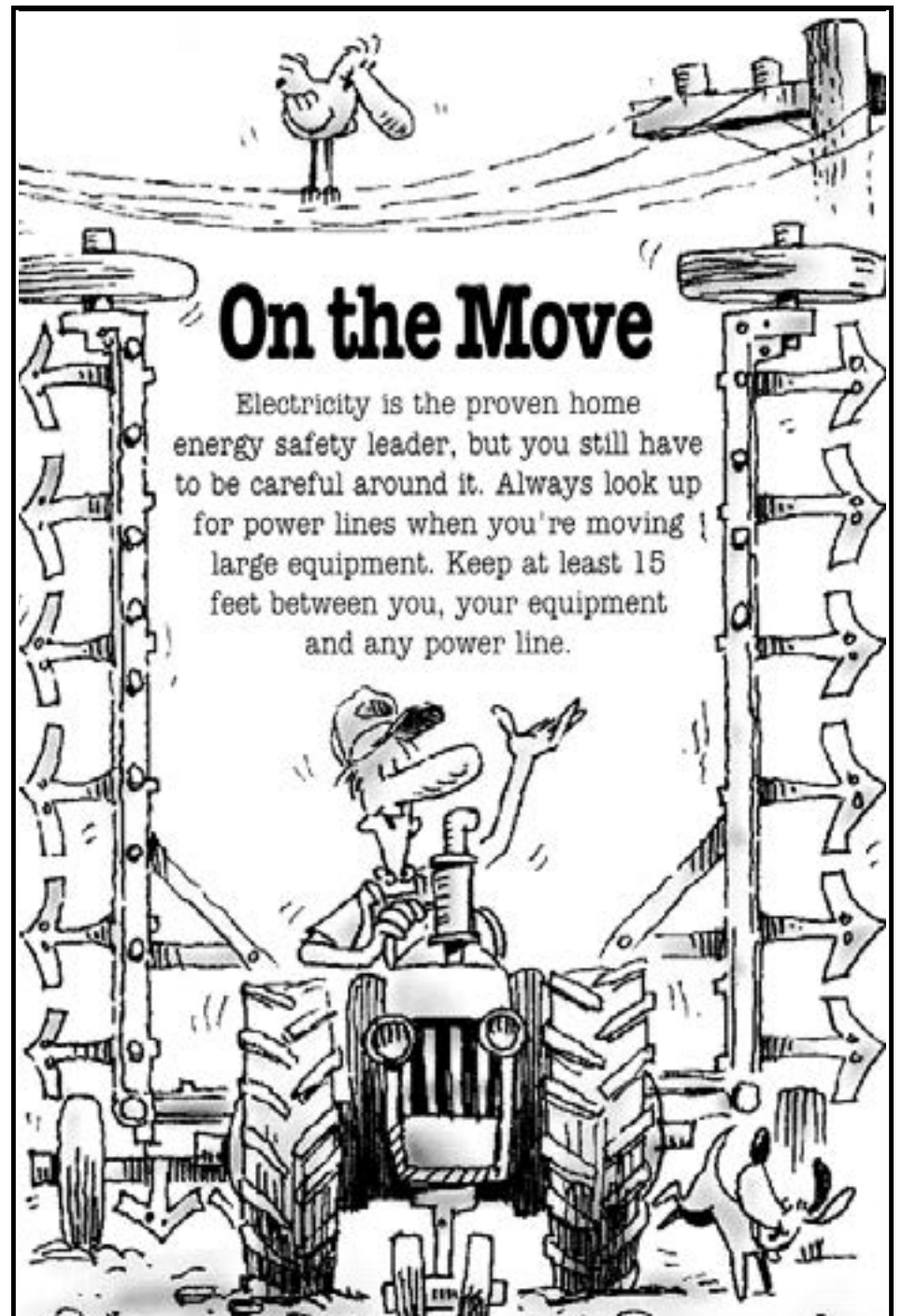
"We appreciate the participation and feedback during our weekly calls and are aware of the hot and dry conditions eastern Montana is experiencing," said Remus.

"We understand these conditions create a need to irrigate. While it is possible that the slightly higher releases may provide some relief or reliability for irrigators' access to the water, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not provide and cannot guarantee access to the water. There is and will be sufficient water in the river for all water supply needs."

MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Program Set Aug. 13

The Montana Department of Agriculture's pesticide container recycling program provides pesticide applicators with the means to recycle their clean and rinsed HDPE plastic pesticide containers. The mobile grinding unit and a 40 ft. drop down trailer will be making a stop in Sidney at the Richland County Weed District on Aug. 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

It is required that all pesticide containers be rinsed of product, adjuvants, and oils, that containers are dry, and that foil seals and label booklets are removed. Larger 30-50-gallon drums must be cut into 1/8ths. Totes and crate container plastic, measuring cups, spray wands, and pumps are not accepted.



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Local Research Field Days Held



NDSU - Williston REC Irrigation Research/Variety Trial Specialist Justin Jacobs spoke about intercropping and variety trials at the WREC Dryland Agronomy and Nesson Valley Irrigated Tour on July 10 and 11.



NDSU Extension Agriculture Technology Specialist Rob Prouix spoke on new spray drone technology at the Nesson Valley Irrigated Tour on July 10.



MSU-EARC Research Scientist Dr. William Franck presented dry bean and soybean varieties as well fertility and rotation studies at the MSU-EARC Extension Field Day in Sidney June 27.

Local Research Field Days Held



Dr. Judith Herreid, USDA-ARS, discusses developing conservation and augmentation approaches to improve biological control of wheat stem sawfly at the Sidney ARS & MSU EARC Dryland Field Day on July 17.



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Protect Ruminant Livestock From Heat Stress

Implementing heat event action plans can help protect animals from heat stress.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Proactive management of livestock prior to and during heat events is critical in protecting livestock from heat stress.

North Dakota State University Extension livestock specialists encourage livestock owners to monitor weather forecasts and anticipate when conditions may pose a significant risk to livestock. Such conditions exist when above-average temperatures collide with increased humidity. These conditions are expected to hit many parts of North Dakota this week, with many cities experiencing temperatures 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than reported averages for this time of year.

A temperature-humidity index chart can help ranchers identify when livestock are most at risk for developing heat stress. Livestock begin to experience moderate heat stress at a temperature humidity index of 82 to 83, severe heat stress at 84 to 86, and extreme heat stress at 87 or greater. A temperature-humidity index chart can be found at ndsugov.com/heat-stress.

Heat stress can significantly impact animal performance, health and welfare, making it critical to prepare a proactive management plan for unavoidable heat events. Heat stress occurs when an animal's cumulative heat load outweighs the animal's ability to dissipate heat, causing body temperature to rise.

NDSU Extension livestock specialists recommend several heat event action plans:

Access to quality water sources

Water availability and quality are essential to managing heat stress in livestock. Each animal should have at least 2 inches of linear water trough access. For example, a pen with 200 animals should have 400 inches of linear water space. Evaluating your water supply lines and ensuring sufficient water pressure and flow capacity to keep troughs full during peak water consumption is also important. The amount of water livestock need depends on the animal type and production stage, with requirements often doubling during heat events. Specific water requirements for livestock can be found at ndsugov.com/livestock-water.

Shade infrastructure and fly control

Livestock owners should consider placing temporary or permanent shade structures for livestock in confinement operations or open pastures with little to no tree cover. Each animal should have a minimum of 20 feet of shade space (10 feet for small ruminants) to prevent animal grouping and comingling of sick animals. Spraying for flies prior to a heat event will also be a vital step in reducing animal grouping. Importantly, shade structures should not impede air movement, and wind barriers should be removed to promote better air movement. Livestock in confinement benefit from mounds that provide elevated wind access.

Surface cooling strategies

Proactive management of pen surface temperature can be an effective way to reduce the risk of heat stress. These strategies include dampening the pen with water or adding light-colored bedding (straw or corn stalks) to reduce the temperature of the ground. Sprinkler systems are a popular way to cool ground temperatures in confinement cattle operations. This strategy should be implemented well before a heat event and before peak heat on high-temperature days. Large water droplet size is important to avoid increasing humidity.

Animal handling

Any type of livestock handling, processing or transportation should be avoided during heat events as much as possible. If working with livestock is absolutely necessary, livestock handling should be limited to the early morning hours (prior to 10 a.m.). Calm animal handling techniques will be important to minimize stress related to handling, and livestock owners should consider working with smaller groups of livestock at a time to prevent crowded facilities. Working facilities, in-

cluding holding pens, should have ample access to water, and personnel should be dedicated to monitoring livestock stress status. Avoid working livestock in the evenings during a heat event to give livestock time to recover and cool down during cooler periods of the day.

Adjusting feed intake timelines

Livestock owners should consider moving livestock feeding time to late afternoon or evening. This will allow rumen fermentation to occur during cooler night temperatures and increase the animal lung capacity during hotter daytime temperatures. If feeding multiple times daily, consider feeding a small meal in the morning and a larger portion of the diet later in the afternoon. Decrease the amount of feed offerings during and for several days after heat stress to allow animals ample opportunity to recover.

Know when to intervene

Livestock suffering from heat stress will exhibit several signs of distress as their body works to return to homeostasis. Ruminant livestock, including sheep and cattle experiencing extreme heat stress, will exhibit increased respiration rate and panting score, foaming around the mouth, down head, and lethargic appearance. Livestock owners should keep in contact with their local veterinarian and contact them immediately if they have animals in severe distress. Animals should be gradually cooled by moving to nearby shaded areas with ample air movement. Rapid cooling (such as spraying with cold water) can have severe consequences for livestock in severe distress.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a heat stress forecast tool available at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/clay-center-ne/marc/documents/heat-stress/main/>.

For more information on dealing with heat stress in cattle, see the NDSU Extension publication, "Dealing with Heat Stress in Beef Cattle," at ndsugov.com/heat-stress.

For more information on dealing with heat stress in small ruminants, see "Heat Stress in Small Ruminants" from South Dakota State University Extension at <https://extension.sdstate.edu/heat-stress-small-ruminants> and "Managing Heat Stress in Sheep and Goats" from Nebraska Extension at <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/g2355/2023/html/view>.



This calf exhibits a high panting score and foaming of the mouth caused by heat stress. (NDSU photo)

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