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Oh No She's Open!

Once in a while you hear through the grapevine that someone's cowherd had unusually high numbers of open cows. Recently, I learned of a new producer with 100% open herd, not hard to do when they only own one cow! Hurts just the same, when you have any open cows!

Some clues may help you decide just what is going on:

If all the open cows are from one pasture, it's easy to blame on the bull. Perhaps there was some foot rot, pinkeye or another bull visiting. A bull could be temporarily infertile due to illness or injury and then fine by the time open cows are identified.

With your Veterinarian, review your routine vaccinations, actual products and timing. When these were given to bulls and cows will be good information to share. While there can be a number of infectious causes of pregnancy loss. There are a few diseases that cause loss of pregnancy early in gestation. Those would include Trichomoniasis, Campylobacteriosis, Neosporosis and Leptospirosis. Your vet will know about the incidence of these problems in area herds and can tap into resources of the K-State Veterinary Diagnostic lab as needed.

Various stressors such as nutritional change, predators or extreme heat can cause embryonic loss or reduced conception rate. Because animals are adaptable and vary in their tolerance to stress, it may be difficult to assign one of these stressors as the cause of pregnancy loss.

Less than adequate nutrition is the most common cause of reduced pregnancy rates in cowherds. Body Condition scores at the beginning of breeding season, may be a clue. If open cows have low body condition scores at preg checking time, review your nutrition program pre-calving and after calving. It is very difficult to get a thin young cow to rebreed.

I've been using a computer program called BRANDS, Beef Ration and Nutrition Decision Software. We can take a look at your rations and determine if there is a deficiency or something more economical to feed to meet your cowherd's nutritional demands. Give me a call!

October25, 2019

David G. Hallauer
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No News

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Energy Tips to Save You Money

We all want to save money and some of the biggest money wasters are simple things we never really think about. Here are some household energy savings tips that you might not have thought about doing.

*Insulate your outlets. Did you know that cold air seeps through the outlets on your outer walls? You can stop it. Purchase outlet sealers at any hardware store. They usually come 6 to a pack. Remove your outlet cover, punch out the round pieces and place it onto your outlet.

*Reverse Your Ceiling Fans. Ceiling fans are great for cooling your house in the summer, but did you know they can keep your home warm in the winter? During the summer, your ceiling fans run counter-clockwise. Flip the switch on your fan and your fan will now run clockwise which will push the warm air down. Run it on the lowest setting during the colder months.

*Change your lightbulbs. Incandescent bulbs are a huge money waster so changing to LED is a simple and easy way to save some energy dollars. And they last longer than incandescent bulbs so you don't have to change them as frequently.

*Place Timers on Your Lamps. Everyone uses timers during the holidays for their lights, but did you ever think to use those same timers on frequently used lamps? Not only will this keep you from walking into a dark room, it will automatically turn off, saving you money.

*Move Lamps away from thermostats. Do you have a lamp directly under your thermostat? Consider moving it. The heat from the lamp confuses the thermostat into thinking your home is warmer than it really is. Yes, a lightbulb can put off that much heat.

*Let the Sun Shine In. Once the sun goes down, close your curtains and shades to keep the heat in your home.

*Don't Rinse Your Dirty Plates. Rinsing the food off of your plates before loading them into the dishwasher wastes water and doesn't allow your dishwasher to do what it was designed to do—clean your plates. Extra Tip: Always run a full dishwasher.

*Clean the Lint Filter. Every time you put a new load in your dryer, always clean your lint filter. Not only will this allow your dryer to run more efficiently, but it can help stop a fire. Did you know that birds use line to build their nests? Recycle that lint by placing it in a tree in a bag with holes.

*Reuse water. When you wash produce, place a bowl in your sink to catch the water then use that water to give your houseplants a drink.

Nancy Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Laundry Basics – True or False About Treating Tough Stains

While it's always recommended to treat clothing stains as quickly as possible, some stains are just so tough (grass, ink, blood, grease, etc.) that it's even more important to pre-treat them right away advises the American Cleaning Institute®.

It's always best to test a hidden area of the fabric first, in case the fabric is too delicate. Also, if you haven't already tried enzyme detergents, get one. They are specially formulated to break down the proteins that are in most stubborn stains.

True or False? You should wait for mud to dry before you try and clean it. TRUE: After it dries, brush off as much as you can, use gentle detergent and water to rub the fabric, and wash in an enzyme detergent.

True or False? A dull knife can be useful in stain removal. TRUE: Before working on a stain for things like wax or syrup, first use a blunt knife to remove any excess.

It's also not a bad idea to keep a to-go stain remover stick in your purse, car or bag in case you aren't near a washer.