

www.northwestvetsupply.com



**Now is a great time to  
Preg-Check your cows and  
vaccinate them for calving.  
Give us a call to set up an  
appointment either on the  
farm or at the clinic.**



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**Send us your email  
address to receive our  
monthly newsletters as  
well as updates on  
current promotions and  
events!**



### CALVING 20-20

The end of 2019 is rapidly coming to a close. For many of us it has been a year of challenges. For all it would be a year to remember and some a year we wish we could forget. Now is the time to vaccinate your cow herd for a better, more productive year in 2020.

We have had two harsh winters. Our cows and calves struggled with extreme cold, snow and rain and then mud. It is still wet and muddy in many of our calving pens and feedlots today. This spring many of us were unable to plant row crops and now our pastures are short, and we have no corn stalks to graze. Some of us haven't weaned yet, allowing the cows to utilize feedstuffs for lactation and not regaining lost body weight. This places stress on our cow herds as they prepare for calving. Feed supply is short on many farms and ranches and some is of very low quality.

How can we prepare our cows for a healthier more profitable 2020? When I was young, the term at the eye doctor was 20-20 vision. This will be the Cattle Teams' 2020 vision:

1. Preg check  
Feed is at a premium and there is no need to carry an open or late cow. Also, remove cows with physical defects and health issue. The days are gone when any cow that brought a calf home from pasture was profitable. We sell pounds and we need to maximize efficiencies in our herd.

2. Vaccinate  
We have always stressed that the first meal a calf receives (**Colostrum**) sets the foundation for its entire life. These cows are forming the **Colostrum** right now in the mammary tissue. The higher the cow's antibody levels in their blood, the higher the concentration of antibody in the **colostrum**. Hence a timely vaccination with scour pathogens greatly increases the cow's **colostrum** quality. The new vaccines all utilize oil as the liquid in the vaccines. This allows the vaccine to stimulate the cow's immune system for a longer period of time, allowing us to give them a vaccination at four to five months of gestation

and producing high quality **colostrum**. We also like to vaccinate with respiratory viruses in the form of a killed product when they go through the chutes. This gives the calf added immunity to respiratory problems after birth and prevents 'pasture pneumonia.'

3. Remove parasites  
These little critters compete with the mama cow for nutrients and energy. With our short feed supply and our cow's depleted condition, we need the new and developing calf to gain all the nutrition from her feed and not share with these freeloaders. This fall we saw a lot of tapeworms in the calves we worked.

### COLOSTRUM 20-20

**Colostrum** uptake is the most important event of a newborn calf's life. It affects the calf throughout its entire life. We all understand that a calf that scours will be approximately 100 pounds lighter than pen mates at weaning. They also show decreased gains in the feedlot and even decreased marbling. The potential of any calf that does not receive adequate **colostrum** greatly decreases.

In the past we used antibiotics and supplements to try and minimize the effects of poor **colostrum** and poor **colostrum** uptake. In 2020 we are proposing a three step plan to improve calf viability and maximize potential.

1. Nutrition  
The cow needs adequate nutrition to produce high quality **colostrum**. I would suggest your cows be in a body condition score of 6 at calving. This is a tick higher than most suggest, but the cows we are seeing at this time are at best 4-4.5. These cows will be putting all of their nutrition into the fetus and little into **colostrum** formation. The lower quality feedstuffs will not help these cows in regaining body weight. I would also suggest you consult your nutritionist and have your feedstuffs analyzed and balanced for maximum nutritional efficiency

2. Vaccination  
The concentration of antibodies

in **colostrum** is directly proportional to the amount in the circulatory system (the higher the **colostrum** quality). We can increase the dam's antibody levels with a timely vaccination. This should be done four months before calving to raise blood levels so they can be deposited into the **colostrum** the last six weeks of gestation.

3. Supplementation  
Every cow responds differently to the stimulation to produce quality **colostrum** and some calves, (chilled, dystocia, etc.) won't receive enough. Many supplements are totally untested and merely make sense scientifically but are not great in the reality of the real world. This year we are promoting the First Defense line of **colostrum** products. These products are tested and quality controlled. We have had great success with these products in the past and have faith in their usefulness. We have several combinations of these products. It is recommended to give a pill or gel tube to each calf within twenty-four hours after birth to equalize the antibody levels in your whole herd. No mixing, no injecting, just prepackaged convenience.

Visit with our veterinarians and sales staff to prepare a program for your herd. As we discussed earlier "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

### COW Vaccines 20-20

We have autogenous vaccines manufactured from pathogens common to our area. These include:

- Corona Virus
- Rota Virus
- Clostridium ACE & sordelli
- Ecoli & K99

These have been very effective in the past and we have also combined them with:

- IBR
- BVD I & II
- Corona (respiratory)

This year our Solidose scour has returned enabling all these antigens to be boosted with one pass through the chute.

*Dan Abney*



### Vet Shack in Yankton

We are excited to announce a "re-opening" of our Yankton Vet Shack location. Tina Schrage will be leading our Yankton location into the New Year and beyond. Tina comes to us with over 24 years of large and small animal veterinary service. Tina is a Certified Veterinary Technician and an Animal Health Specialist.

Our Yankton Vet Shack is located several miles north of Yankton on the grounds of Yankton Land and Cattle (formerly Yankton Livestock Market – the north salebarn).

We have a fully functioning hydraulic chute with a tub and alley system and we are ready to work cattle- no matter the size of your herd. We are able to unload cattle pots and trailers. From cow/calf operations, to feedlots or dairies, we have a full line of animal health products.

We also offer services for horses, sheep and small animals as well. Whether it's dewormer or vaccinations, Tina is ready to help.

Swing by the Yankton Vet Shack or give us a call at 605-665-4520 to schedule an appointment for your animals today!

### NORTHWEST VET SUPPLY

1000 W. HWY 44  
PARKSTON, SD 57366

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*Wishing you and  
your family  
peace, health,  
happiness and  
prosperity in the  
coming year.  
Merry Christmas*

**Check out our website!**  
[www.northwestvetsupply.com](http://www.northwestvetsupply.com)

**Look us up on Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheCattleTeam>



As another year is coming to a close, we are again offering our clients the opportunity to pre-pay on their 2020 product purchases and services rendered. Benefits for pre-paying include:

- Flexibility of sliding your veterinary expenses into 2020
- Avoid finance and billing charges
- Automatically gain the 3% cash discount for cash payment
- Earn 12% yearly (1% monthly) on the unused portion of your pre-payment.

Please contact one of our offices if you would like to benefit from pre-payment. We hope that 2020 finds you in good health and good spirits as we look forward to a profitable year.