

The Latest Across the Plains

Unused Feed

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Save Money \$\$\$ Test Your Feeds

Tests are relatively inexpensive, usually costing less than \$21, for the information derived. Contact our office to set up an appointment to have us pull feed samples if we have not done so yet.

We want to hear from you...

Do you have a question you would like one of the nutritionists to address in depth in our newsletter? Just submit your question through our website www.GPLC-Inc.com and we will get to work on it.

Timely Reminders

- ◆ Use at least two methods of fly control.
- ◆ Deworm cows and bulls with an injectable, drench or free-choice mineral de-wormer.
- ◆ Put up shades.
- ◆ Make sure that waterers have enough space, recharge rate, and are cleaned weekly.
- ◆ Review your implant program with us.
- ◆ Review rations with current feed costs.
- ◆ Keep pens scraped.
- ◆ Implant suckling calves going to pasture.
- ◆ Have us run a feed budget to estimate your feed inventory needs for the next year.

Calendar of Events

- **July 21 - 22** Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show, Norman, OK
- **July 24 - 26** ANCW Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting, San Diego, CA
- **July 21 - 29** North Dakota State Fair, Minot, ND
- **July 28 - August 5** Montana State Fair, Great Falls, MT
- **August 5** Sandhills Beef Cattle Conference, Monahan, TX
- **August 10 - 20** Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA
- **August 10 - 20** Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, MO
- **August 25 - September 4** Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island, NE
- **August 24- September 4** Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN
- **September 31 - September 4** South Dakota State Fair, Huron, South Dakota

What's the manure telling you?

By: Jana Gramkow, Ph.D. & Ki Fanning, Ph.D.

Manure scoring can be a useful tool to evaluate rations, environmental and management changes, as well as starting cattle conditions. Manure can tell you the type of nutrition and management that cattle have been exposed to the last two to three days and can help your consultant identify any issues you might be having.

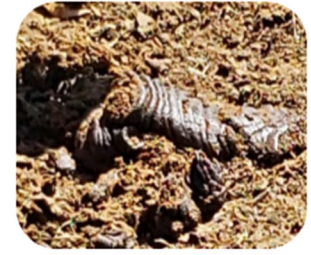
The manure scoring system is a simple 1 through 5 scale with a manure score of 5 being very firm. A manure score of 4 is less firm than 5 and indicates better quality roughage. The animal may or may not be consuming some grain. A manure score of 3 is typically what we expect from cattle on a good growing ration, while a manure score of 2 is the consistency of pudding and is typically seen from cattle on a hot finishing ration.

Lastly, a manure score of 1 is very fluid and indicates a problem. Oddly enough the moisture content of manure does not change much between scores, because manure scoring a 5 is formed by cows consuming a ration high in structural carbohydrates that hold water like a sponge, while manure scoring a 2 maybe from a ration with very little structural carbohydrate but high in grains such as a feedlot finishing ration. Manure scoring is an important practice, but there are certain situations where a score of 1 or 2 may not indicate a problem. **It is not true that protein content of the ration affects manure score. It is a common misconception that loose manure is an indication of protein status, however it is more closely tied to neutral detergent fiber (NDF).** Roughage protein content is directly related to forage quality. High roughage quality will have a lower NDF, which drives a higher intake, and therefore a higher rate of passage. This creates loose manure especially on rapidly growing cool season grasses.

So what should you be looking for? Manure can tell you if your cattle are able to sort their feed. Animals that are not able to sort feed should have manure that is the same color, consistency, and content (the three C's) throughout the pen. If animals are able to sort feed, you



will have manure scoring that could range from a 1 to a 5 in the same pen. You can tell that animals are sorting feed when they push up the forage to one spot to allow the grain to fall to the bottom where



5



4



3



2

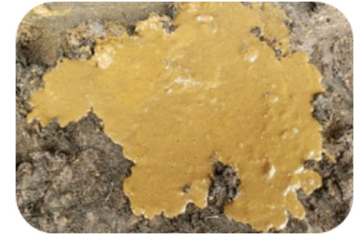


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they have better access to it as shown in this photo. Additionally, if there are inconsistencies in feeding times, cattle's manure score will lower.

Other manure traits that can indicate a problem :

1. Bubbles in the manure are the result of ruminal bacteria not fully digesting the feed prior to passing out of the rumen and they are continuing to digest the feed when on the ground. Therefore, the animal is not able to capture all the nutrients of that feed, negatively affecting their feed efficiency.



2. White caps on manure is mucus that has dried, while grey manure is the result of grain being consumed too fast, too much, or being digested too quickly. Both are signs of acidosis and can lead to bloat and founder.



White Caps



Grey Manure

3. Blood in the manure can be a symptom of coccidiosis, salmonellosis, T-2 toxin, BVD, and winter dysentery.



If you know what affects manure consistency, color and content you can diagnose problems such as sorting feed, variation in feeding times, too little effective fiber, diseases, etc. and be able to talk to your nutritionist and veterinarian with better information. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to your GPLC consultant!

Article topic requested by Eldon Snoke. Thanks Eldon!

Livestock Loose on the Highway: Accidents Involving Livestock Trailers

By: Breanne Uffelman, M.S.

Each year there are approximately 291 wrecks involving commercial livestock transportation. Of the species involved, 56 percent are cattle, 27 percent are pigs, 11 percent are poultry. (Cotton, 2021 MP-145., University of Wyoming Extension). When we consider that modern livestock trailer can transport up to 50 cows, 100 calves, 300+ sheep or 400+ hogs (Cotton, 2021) preparation for an emergency event is a necessity as it is an unfortunate inevitability. As livestock owners it's most

likely that we will be called to assist first responders.

Be prepared for a stressful and chaotic situation. It's imperative to control the livestock at the scene as quickly as possible for the first responders to be able to assist any injured people. In addition to the trauma of the accident there will be bright lights, sirens, other motorists, and people trying to help with little to no livestock handling experience. The injured livestock can act erratically and aggressively making them a danger to themselves and everyone, so approach carefully.

To be as effective as possible bring all the necessary equipment for containing livestock: Portable panels for on-site containment. Livestock trailers for transportation of mobile livestock, four wheelers or horses to round up loose livestock, ropes, winches, and tools for extraction along with personal protective equipment.

Before taking action, assess the situation carefully. Trailer design style and even type of trailer can be of great importance in determining the best course of action. If there is a fire, ask for assistance from the fire department because some fire extinguishers can react with Aluminum trailers and may result in combustion. Assess the integrity of the trailer before opening doors or entering the trailer. The floors and decking could be compromised due to the collapse. Livestock will be down or immobile putting pressure on the partitions and doors. The doors and partitions may be completely unusable, and it may be necessary to create another exit. Utilize the equipment of the law enforcement or fire department to assist in the extraction of livestock.

In the unfortunate case that livestock need to be euthanized contact the local veterinarian to determine the survivability of the livestock. If there is no veterinarian available, advise the law enforcement on the humane euthanization of each class of livestock. Notify local brand inspectors of the situation so ownership of the livestock can be determined, and appropriate people contacted.

Help the first responders document and photograph the livestock and trailer, however, remember the sensitive situation to the families of the people involved. Document the number of livestock and condition of the livestock, class of livestock and any identifying characteristics such as breed, sex, age, tags and brands.

Exchange your contact information with law enforcement and make yourself available as a witness. Determine the best available location to where the animals will be transported and housed until the owner can make other arrangements. Attempt to find a temporary location for the livestock that offers a secure and separate location from other livestock. Be sure to provide water and the appropriate feed.

Establishing a plan and educating your local law enforcement and emergency response departments will help control a chaotic situation. Online education and training is available for first responders with courses offered by Michigan State University Emergency Response to Accidents In-



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