

Vet tips for the calving season

Calving season has arrived. It is an exciting time filled with stress and hazards. Below are a few tips that will make calving season easier on all involved.

Prior to calving, it is very important that the cows receive adequate nutrition. When cattle have a body condition score of 5 out of 9, they are better prepared to feed the calf in the coming months. Vaccinations are of vital importance, including a scour vaccination, a respiratory anti-abortive vaccination, and a seven-way vaccination. The cow passes antibodies on to her calf, keeping the cattle herd healthier and more profitable for the producer. Anti-parasiticide treatment is also incredibly important. Parasites strain the already weakened immune system.

Most cattle go through the calving season uneventfully. But, even the most well managed herd is bound to have problems. All cattle producers should have these obstetrical supplies on hand: a means of restraint (head catch and halter), a bucket for warm water and disinfectant, lubricant, obstetrical chains and handles, obstetrical sleeves, strong iodine, clean towels, calf esophageal feeder and feeder bottle, and frozen colostrum and electrolytes. Consult your veterinarian prior to calving on specific medications you may need for your herd.

It is very important that adequate shelter is available for cattle during calving. A good shelter provides protection from the elements. The maternity pens should be comfortable and contain clean bedding and sufficient lighting. There should also be an area available for warming chilled calves.

Professional help is always the best during a dystocia. The sooner your veterinarian can aid the cow, the greater the chance that a live healthy calf will be delivered. The veterinarian should be called immediately: when hard labor has not progressed after 30 minutes, for any abnormal presentation (normal presentation is nose, 2 front feet, and right side up), and for any unusual behavior (labor starts but does not progress). Early intervention is vital to saving both the calf and cow! As always, handle cows gently and with as little stress as possible. The more stress, the more likely you will have problems with cow-calf bonding.

After calving, check the udder for adequate colostrum, the single most important factor in calf survival after birth! Strip a few drops of colostrum from each teat to check for mastitis and to make it easier for the calf to nurse. The calf should nurse multiple times well during the first eight hours of life. If the calf is weak consult your veterinarian immediately! After birth, dip the calf's naval in strong iodine to help prevent naval ill (infection).

Follow these guidelines and your calving season should be a great success! And as always, when in doubt, call your veterinarian!

Vet tips
Dr. Aaron White



The importance of drawing up a will

Elizabeth, home for spring break, laughed upon reading Carolyn's discussion of making a will.

I have a suggestion. Carolyn's kids should get the things Jim brought in to the marriage and Jim's kids should get Carolyn's.

Then the things that have no value would move on to a place where they made sense.

Remodeling the basement brings this to mind. I got the guys to move the last door to be stripped. This particular door has been shortened, which bothers the carpenter, and it is rough, which bothers the hubby.

It is heavy with beveled glass. A little elbow grease reveals these doors to be solid maple. Gorgeous.

Venturing into the caverns of the basement where this door was stored might put one in mind of an episode of Hoarders. If one watched Hoarders, which I don't. I shudder looking at the previews. I shudder when I go into that area of the basement.

There is the hubby's grandpa's satchel and his top hat. My friends who are into shabby chic say place the satchel by a chair in the bedroom and fill it with magazines. Put the top hat on the dresser.

Yeah, that sort of thing looks real cute in other people's houses. In mine it feels dirty, and looks like someone forgot to take out the trash.

Upstairs I have my mother's and grandma's wedding dresses. I don't

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



know what to do with them. What will happen when I'm gone? I can see the girls thinking they have to keep them, because I did! Maybe it would be easier if there were an objective third party to help me decide what to do!

It gets weirder: I just discovered a perfectly good pair of overshoes belonging to my late father-in-law. When the hubby started complaining about the door I couldn't help but point out, "We all get attached to things, one thing makes as much sense as another!"

Wills are very important documents. A couple of deaths last fall brought this home. Some siblings will not be speaking for a long, long time (if ever) because the deceased parents did not make their final wishes binding or clear. Or perhaps the children had their own agendas and decided to honor those wishes.

The hubby was very upset and told the daughters, "I sure hope you girls do not fight over the iron pile out in the pasture!"

Ahhhhh--the iron pile. There may be a fight. Not over who gets it but who

has to clean it up!

There has been some discussion of leaving it to nephew Kerby. For a 21 year old he seems to have a rare appreciation for rusting piles of junk. We don't have it in the will, yet! His mother seems less than enthusiastic.

I give dishes or knickknacks I'm not using to the girls if they admire them. I don't know about the furniture. Patricia does not want any of it. I would describe the items as antique. She referred to them as "old."

Hmmm---I'm starting to understand how the hubby feels when we insult his stockpile of valuable repair parts!

I remember a discussion with some friends about things we received from our parents or might inherit. One woman said her mother was ill for a long while and lived with them during that time. She said, "I don't care if my siblings get all her things, my family got the gift of living with and caring for her!" What a tribute to that mother!

We've had a will for some time because we wanted to name a guardian for the kids. In the will additional heirs were described as "any further issue."

Even at that time I was fairly certain I was not going to be issuing anything more. And I believe the hubby understands it's going to be a big issue if the situation should arise on his part!

Good thing he has a will; he would need one!

Government control over our health care choices

All of the uproar about government provided health insurance is peaking this week, as the U.S. Supreme Court considers the constitutionality of such a law. Finally, tonight I heard someone address something I have been saying this entire time. A person can get medical care whether they can pay or not and whether they have insurance or not. And if they can't pay, who does? You've got it. We do.

I struggle with the logic of not wanting to provide medical insurance for the uninsured in our country, particularly when the weight of the care falls on us, the insured. It is no wonder insurance premiums have skyrocketed. In a report in 2009, the largest numbers of uninsured individuals were between ages of 19 and 29. One in three were without health insurance. This group wrestles with higher unemployment rates and lower paying jobs as well.

To me, health care is an investment in our future, but then I also would have been in the unfortunate position of having a pre-existing condition and

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



health insurance would have been, for me, an impossibility. Jack had a good job and we had good insurance, not cheap, but good, but from the age of 29 on, health insurance would have been like life insurance was for me, unattainable. To me, having health insurance is like being able to breathe. It is a freedom and I was, and have been, lucky enough to have it, but not everyone is so blessed and frequently through no fault of their own.

Although I want universal health care, I have to admit though, that I want the constitutionality to be established. An argument questioning individual freedoms is a core value for most of us. If it is unconstitutional to demand

someone buy health insurance, the individual mandate, then surely it is unconstitutional to tell a woman what she can and can't do with her body. Even Michelle Bachman, R-Minnesota, and I see eye to eye on this. She, "told tea party supporters near the Supreme Court building that the issue is freedom for individuals to decide their health care needs." Sorry, but that was just too good to pass up.

I realize the judges are looking at different aspects of the issue than I am. When I hear personal liberty, I see a human issue, not economic or commerce. I realize the Supreme Court Judges must mull over this issue on many levels.

I would pray, however that anyone who has watched a loved one suffer or seen the questions in a young mother's eyes of, "Can I afford to go to the doctor?" Our wise Justices would say, "Can we, as a country, afford not to insure/ensure the health of our nation to protect our individual freedoms?" Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net.

Dear Editor,

I would like to address several assertions made by Mary Woodyard in her article entitled, "Living as God would have us or as our government would" as I feel it grossly misrepresents how God would have us live. She states that Jesus didn't address homosexuality as a sin, insinuating that it must not have been a problem for him. I believe the point was that gay marriage was okay with God.

Jesus was Jewish. He preached the gospel to Jews. He differentiates between the Jews and pagans. The problems he dealt with were religious hypocrisy (not practicing what they preached), and setting the captives (captive to sin) free, feeding the poor and healing the sick. They had problems with men divorcing their wives (abandonment), lust (a relentless obsession that defies the will), greed and oppression from the Romans. The Jewish people didn't practice homosexuality. However, the pagans' (all the non-Jews) did live lives of 'debauchery, orgies, and the like'...including homosexuality. Paul gave several 'lists of sins' to these secular churches simply because they lived in a culture that was ignorant of God's holy standards. Sinful practices were so rampant (think Roman Colosseum, nutty Emperors, etc) that the Apostles had to literally 'spell it out' to the new converts that their lifestyles could not co-exist with a Holy, Heavenly God. The Jews had spiritual pride, the pagans were very carnal. Two different mission fields. For some reason, Mary alluded to having a problem with the Apostle Paul.

God created them male and female and told them to procreate. God's ordained perfect human model was the family...a man, a woman...and a child. This was for all cultures, of all time the 'natural order' of life to recreate itself. You don't have to be a Christian, an atheist or any other religion to see the obvious.

What should the Christian community's response be? We are to proclaim right from wrong...but we ought to be sure we are living that victory first. We are to 'speak the truth in love.' The Christian community has got to realize the need for open discussion on the sexual issues that we face in these times...especially our young people. The church should be a place to go to for help, understanding and love and empathy. I am not aware of any house of faith in Norton that provides teaching and/or ministry to the recovering homosexual. If you're out there, please publicize it.

Thank you, Mary Kay Woodward for your thought-provoking columns. I hope I have not mis-represented your views and have adequately addressed them.

Robin Somers, Norton

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