

Tips about 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.

It is very important that the cows receive adequate nutrition prior to calving, better preparing them to feed the calf in the coming months. Vaccinations are of vital importance, including a scour vaccination, a respiratory anti-abortive vaccination, and a 7-way vaccination. Vaccinations when not used correctly, can increase the likelihood of abortions and a longer calving interval. Be very aware that not all vaccinations are equal or appropriate! 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.

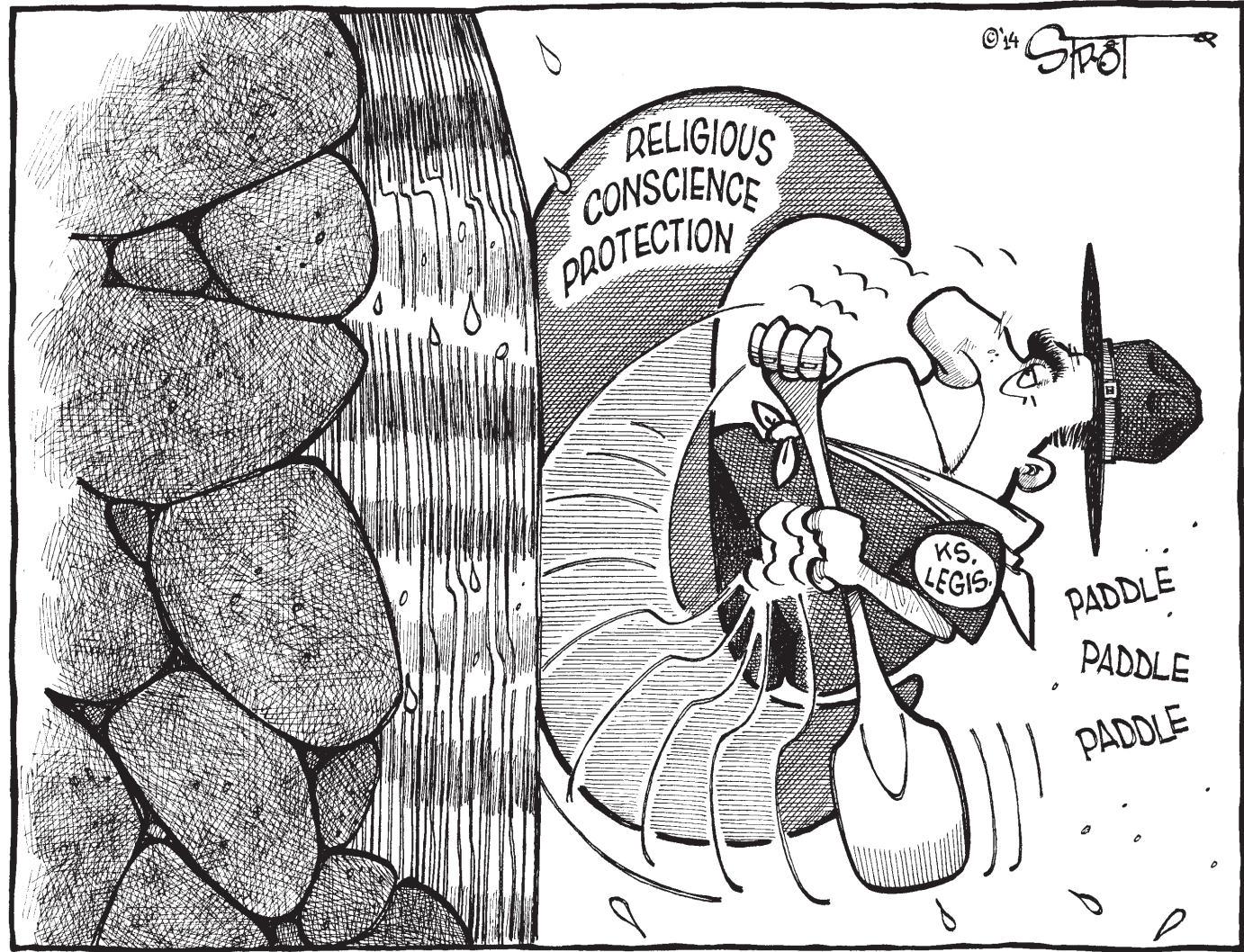
It is very important that adequate shelter is available for cattle during calving. A good shelter provides protection from the elements. The maternity pens should be comfortable and contain clean bedding and sufficient lighting. There should also be an area available for warming chilled calves.

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 and the cow will recover uneventfully. 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 8 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



Responsible for our own actions

We all have our tolerance levels and the important thing is to recognize our own level and live our lives accordingly. A recent case in Florida is a prime example of the need to determine an individual's state of mind and their ability to control their actions before allowing them to carry a gun. Even more importantly, this case reminds us life is about choices. A 17 year old youth, Jordan Davis, is dead because 47 year old Michael Dunn was irritated over the loud music coming from an SUV full of teens. Dunn now faces at least 60 years in prison after being convicted of three counts of attempted murder. All over the loud music Dunn found intolerable.

In my experience, frequently those people most daring in their youth have the least tolerance of young people now. They seem to feel their own actions were part of being a kid, while

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



the activities of young people now are lawbreaking. Dunn says he asked the teens to turn down their music and they refused. He stated he believed Jordan Davis had a gun. Dunn then took out his gun (not sure what Davis was doing while Dunn pulled his gun), but Dunn shot into the SUV and continued to fire as the SUV fled the convenience store parking lot.

It is easy to react rather than take action, as in pulling into a different spot or ignoring the music. It is easy to feel justified to use force when we think

we have been threatened, but this is where we have to take responsibility for those who cannot accept their own limits. Michael Dunn, whether because of prejudice or fear; arrogance or anger, should never have been allowed to carry a gun.

I am in favor of gun ownership, but not everyone should carry a gun and this is a prime example of someone who is unable to control his temper or his actions and the result was the murder of a young man. All too often people think of gun control as no guns allowed, but it is unlikely that would ever happen in this country. What does need to happen is responsibility for our actions and acceptance of some insignificant things. In the course of world's events, will this matter one bit five years from now. Loud music won't; a teen's death will be with us forever. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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The patchwork of our lives

Last week I completed a quilt top and thought, "I need an intervention or something." The project was called "Quilter's Garden". There were all sorts of blocks: paper pieced and tradition. There were 2 inch blocks, 4 inch blocks, 6 inch blocks, 8 inch blocks. You assembled it in sections not rows.

The final product: a life sized trellis surrounded with flowers, butterflies and birds. After all that I still had to applique a vine, make yoyos for the centers of the daisies, and how and who will quilt it?

Lock me up and throw away the key, PLEASE!

Then I watched 60 Minutes. They replayed an interview with Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Steve Croft from 2006.

I didn't know much about Hoffman. Oh sure, I knew his movies. He played a lot of odd roles. The first movie I was aware of him was "The Talented Mr. Ripley".

Matt Damon had the starring role; he basically was a serial killer. To this day I wonder what it says that I wanted him to get away with it. The movie is open ended so we don't know what happened next. I finally was horrified. He crossed the line with the final murder. Yet in my mind I play out different scenarios in which he might escape.

I'm not recommending the movie. It still affects me. What was it? I wasn't cheering for Matt Damon because he is cute. Matt Damon was very un-Matt Damon in that role.

Damon was like Phillip Seymour Hoffman. He disappeared into the role. With Hoffman you remembered the

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



characters, not him. Exactly his goal as stated in the 60 Minutes interview.

He told Croft he did not drink; which surprised me since he died of a heroin overdose.

Hoffman went through rehab at an early age. Croft asked if it was for drugs or alcohol. Hoffman's reply, "It was all that stuff. Yeah, it was anything I could get my hands on. Yeah, yeah I liked it."

As to why he stopped: "I was 22 and I panicked for my life. It was really just that."

He spoke of the danger and the realization: "There's things I want to do and I'm not going to do them if I keep doing this. It's not going to happen."

Even more surprising was how articulate, likeable and just plain normal Hoffman seemed.

He talked of the difficulty of being an actor. When other artists fail the criticism falls on their product: the painting, the book, the quilt. But when he failed the criticism fell on him: his face, his voice. There was no separation.

It is believed Hoffman lost his sobriety in 2012. He guarded his private life. He felt if we were thinking about his divorce or addiction or whatever we

would not believe his character on the stage. He is one of only a few actors I can think of that "make us remember the roles".

Don Cheadle is another. Nearly every time I see Don Cheadle I have to check the credits. Who was that guy? "Oh Don Cheadle---WOW!" We don't know much about Cheadle's personal life either. Both Cheadle and Hoffman were in "Boogie Nights". (Again not recommending it, but it had a lot of great actors!)

At the end of the interview Hoffman said, "The best you'll ever feel is when you've done a good job."

The whole interview as it aired took about 12 minutes.

12 minutes and a lot to ponder: I tend to assume great deal. I was surprised to realize he had a family. In the days after his death I saw a classmate of his son's interviewed: a kid feeling bad for his friend. Just like when any of us experience death in our circle.

We all have our struggles. Hoffman died at 46 with a needle in his arm. My addictions may not kill me but they are there. We all share the human experience.

Each of us in our own way wishes to leave something lasting.

Each of us enjoys the satisfaction of a job well done.

I hope I will live on as someone snuggles in the warmth of a quilt from my hands just as Hoffman will in the wonderful roles he created.

Rest in peace Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Rest in Peace!



Thumbs up to Sue Rossi for being named the "Norton Blue Jay Booster of the Year" Called in.

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.