

Growing your calf for a profit

Recognizing sickness in calves early is essential in any type of illness a calf can acquire. Preweaned calves can have a mortality rate 4 times greater than weaned calves. Calves that survive an early disease often have productivity issues that affect them throughout their life. Scours, or diarrhea, and pneumonia are the #1 and #2 calf diseases in preweaned calves.

Vet tips
Dr. Aaron White



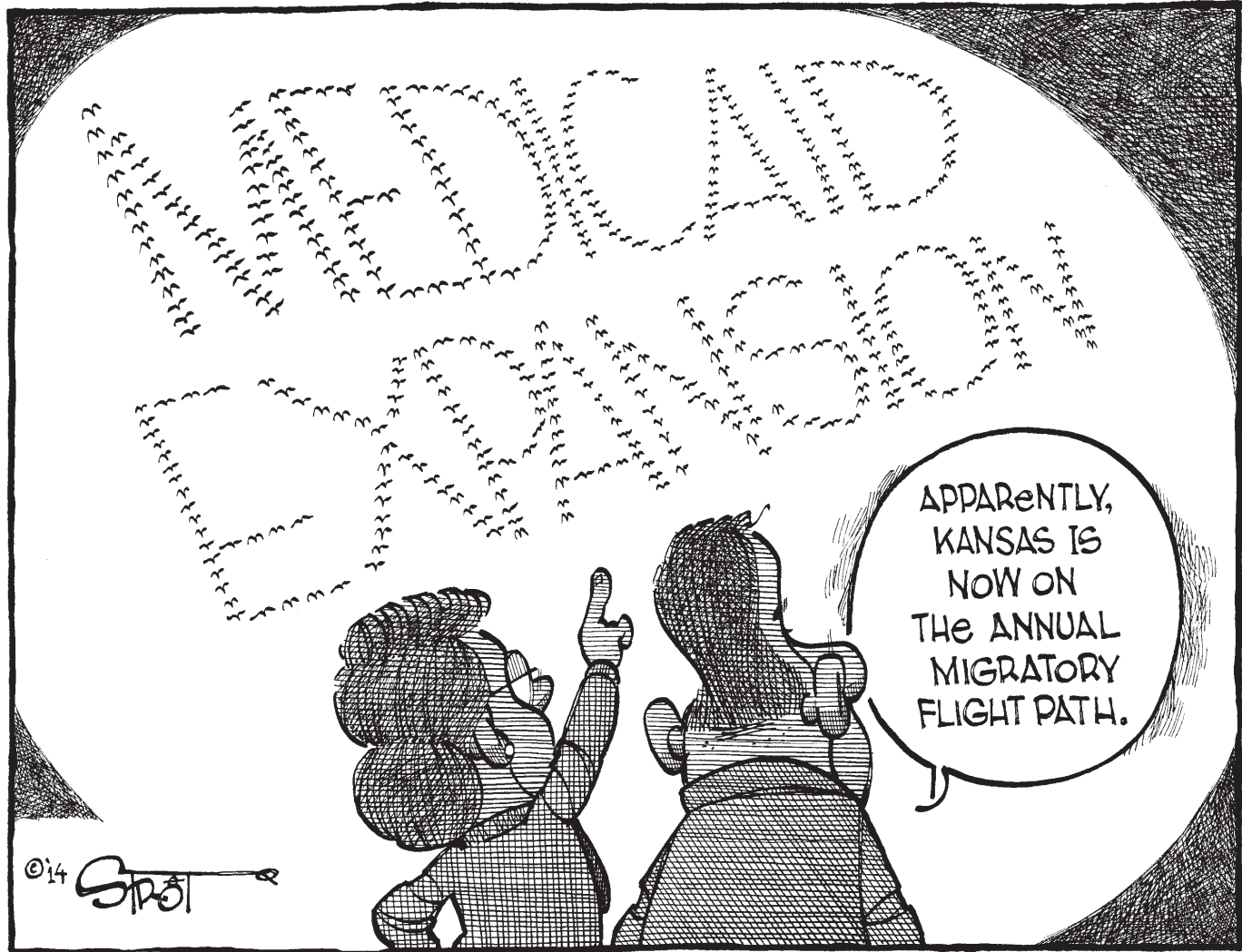
Scours can be caused by a variety of infectious or stress induced agents, from as simple an event as over consuming their mother's milk to as devastating as a virus that damages the intestinal wall resulting in dehydration, diarrhea, and septicemia.

The key to successful treatment of scours is early identification and appropriate intervention. Signs of scours may include: Slower or no intake of milk, diarrhea, dehydration, extremities cold to the touch, difficulty rising, inability to rise, and finally loss of consciousness and death. The most important treatment of a scouring calf is re-hydration and ensuring proper electrolyte balance is achieved. Calves will die quicker from the dehydration caused by scours than from the agent that caused the scours in the first place. The quickest way to rehydrate a calf is via IV fluid administration. Calves respond quickly to this treatment and have been saved from death with this method. In cases which are not as severe, oral electrolyte solutions may be administered and provide water, minerals, glucose and +/- amino acids to correct the calf's electrolyte balance and to rehydrate. The use of antibiotics to treat scours should be discussed with your veterinarian. Not all causes of scours are bacterial in origin. Some are viral or parasitic infections. Antibiotics obviously would be indicated in bacterial scours, however, antibiotics are often employed in other cases of scours to prevent secondary infections caused by a compromised intestinal lining. Your veterinarian will be able to guide in selecting an appropriate course of treatment for your calves.

As a note of warning, several of the agents that cause scours can be transmitted to humans as well (e.g. E. coli, Salmonellosis, Cryptosporidiosis). Young children, the elderly and people with suppressed immune systems can be profoundly affected. If handling scouring calves, washing hands afterward and cleaning up is essential to not infecting yourself, other people or your other livestock.

Pneumonia is the second leading cause of sickness in preweaned calves, generally first occurring in calves that are 4-5 weeks old but can affect younger calves as well. Pneumonia can be caused by viruses or bacteria, however, stress from the environment or handling can often be linked as well. Some environmental factors that can be linked to pneumonia are large temperature swings, dusty conditions, and wet, chilling conditions. Symptoms include nasal discharge, elevated body temperatures in excess of 104° F, labored breathing and reduced appetite. Keep in mind that pneumonia is highly communicable or transmittable and suspected cases should be isolated immediately from their peers. The success of treatment relies on early detection and intervention. Your veterinarian will recommend appropriate course of treatment for the best possible outcome.

As we have stated, early detection and treatment are critical in successful outcomes. However, be aware that sickness in calves will often have detrimental affects throughout the animal's life. Consult your veterinarian and develop a herd health plan to encompass preventative measures to minimize loss and increase your profitability.



The final tally is in on bond issue

The votes have been counted and the school bond has failed. First off, I want to thank the Board of Education, Superintendent Greg Mann and those individuals who served on the committee to put forth a plan to provide greater safety and better facilities for our students. Secondly, I want to thank all who took the time to vote.

Having said that, I must admit to great disappointment. Norton has not had a school bond election since the 1970s and the requirements and needs of education have changed a great deal since then. In addition, the facilities are showing their age. The buildings, just like our homes, need attention.

Some voters will say they support education, just not the bond issue. Perhaps it is the security systems or tornado shelters, maybe relocating the administrative offices or locker rooms? After all, we didn't have them before, why now?

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



Change can be uncomfortable and sometimes that comes in the form of financial. Would they have voted in favor if their taxes had remained the same? Investing in our community is like money in the bank. Most property owners in the county have seen both house and land values soar. Many have cashed in on this economic upswing. Life is full of determining priorities, not just as individuals but as to what is best for society. Nothing in life comes free and education is no exception. If it seems expensive, try the alternative. I do not know, over the decades, the

number of times a school bond has failed in Norton. I have always prided myself on my hometown's progressive approach to all things educational. This has been a setback, but not the final count. I am disheartened, but not less determined. I have to believe people will better understand the needs next time, and although it will cost us more, they will decide for the safety of our children it is a small price to pay.

I go back to several years ago, when a woman said to me, "I just want things to stay the same. I don't want them to change." That woman is now in her 80s. Soon, whether she wants it or not, the community will change. She will die and the face of the town will be altered.

To paraphrase Nobel physicist Max Planck, new ideas do not gain acceptance, their opponents merely die out. Hang on you progressive thinkers of Norton. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave.



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.

Batter up, spring is finally here

Spring is officially here! We know this because Major League Baseball began Monday!

The best part of opening day is anything seems possible. In truth almost any time in baseball anything seems possible. Even if a team is down to the last out and the score is 10-0.

That is because there is no time limit in baseball. Remember the famous George Carlin monologue on the differences between football and baseball? In baseball you have the seventh inning stretch, football: the two minute WARNING. Baseball: extra innings; football: SUDDEN DEATH!

Yep, I like baseball. But I don't like everything about spring, the weather for instance. Maybe we are due for a calm year. We got through March without any major tornado outbreaks.

But Wow----did March ever go out like a lion. Isn't it supposed to be in like a lion, out like a lamb?

And whatever happened to "April showers bring May flowers"? We could sure use a good rain!

My mother-in-law has an interesting theory about severe weather: wind turbines are stirring up the air, contributing to violent storms. Maybe she is on to something. Think what happens to air as it is sucked through a house fan.

I asked the Oklahoman daughter if there were many wind turbines around Moore. I could hear the eye roll over the telephone! "Mom, those are not tall

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



enough to affect wind currents."

She continued, "Storms follow the Canadian River. Always have. Always will. OKC is experiencing urban sprawl and people build where they shouldn't."

Oh, okay. I'm glad someone has it figured out.

I watched the History of the Earth on TV just last week. Not to be confused with The Big Bang Theory (which I also watched).

I'd seen the History of the Earth before. I guess I need to watch it again because it did not seem to me they exactly said Earth began with a Big Bang. A day or two later I saw a news item claiming they have proved it did. Or maybe the whole Universe rather than just specifically Earth began with a Big Bang? Anyone?

Watching The Big Bang Theory does not help; but it makes me laugh! Out loud; at least once every episode!

Something else that is funny? The planet Earth existed for billions of years without humans. Yet once we showed

up we decided we were in charge and responsible for tornadoes and rain and wind. For everything!

We make up lots of rules, both silly and not, then get really stressed when someone or something does not quite follow them: i.e. April showers bring May Flowers.

Thus MLB now has instant replay. I say if you really want to use technology for a greater good, replace the home plate umpire. Computers do a much better job of locating the strike zone than most of those clowns!

I wonder if by season's end we will discover part of the reason we like baseball is because the outcome depends on human frailty.

That's why I like The Big Bang Theory. Which character are you? I'm not a rocket scientist but I'm a nerd. Most of us are.

For every cool person there are thousands of us: smart in our own way yet wonderfully weird.

We believe windmills may cause tornadoes. Or no matter how late it is in the season: there is still a chance to win the pennant! And even when the hopes for that are dashed, there is still a chance for a perfect game!

Some of us do get a two minute warning (a diagnosis of a terminal disease) but even then anything can happen. And it will, right to the very end!

PLAY BALL!

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