



# Blaine County Agricultural Newsletter

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## Prepare a “Calving Kit” Before Calving Season Begins

Dave Sparks, DVM, Area Extension Food animal Health and  
Quality Specialist  
and Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Animal Reproduction  
Specialist

Before the hustle and bustle of the spring calving season, now is a good time to put together the supplies and equipment that will be needed to assist heifers and cows that need help at calving time.

**Equipment:** Before calving season starts, do a “walk-through” of pens, chutes, and calving stalls. Make sure that all are clean dry, strong, safe, and functioning correctly. This is a lot easier to do on a sunny afternoon than a cold dark night when you need them.

**Protocol:** Before calving season starts develop a plan of what to do, when to do it, who to call for help (along with phone numbers), and how to know when you need help. Make sure all family members or helpers are familiar with the plan. It may help to write it out and post copies in convenient places. Talk to your local veterinarian about your protocol and incorporate his/her suggestions. He or she will be a lot more helpful when you have an emergency during the kids’ school program if you have talked a few times during regular hours.

**Lubrication:** Many lubricants have been used and one of the best lubricants is probably the simplest: non detergent soap and warm water.

**Supplies:** The stockman should always have in his medicine chest the following: disposable obstetrical sleeves, non- irritant antiseptic, lubricant, obstetrical chains (60 inch and/or two 30 inch chains), two obstetrical handles, mechanical calf pullers and injectable antibiotics. Don’t forget the simple things like a good flashlight and extra

batteries and some old towels or a roll of paper towels. It may be helpful for you to have all these things and other items you may want to include packed into a 5 gallon bucket to make up an OB kit so you can grab everything at once.

## Master Cattlemen Course January 29, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Master Cattlemen Courses will begin on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, 6:30 p.m. at the Blaine County Fairgrounds, Foley Building. Twenty-eight (28) hours of subject matter will be presented. The cost is \$75.00. Classes will continue until April and cease until the fall.

Speaker for the first class on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> will be Dr. Glenn Selk, OSU Animal Production specialist; Topics of discussion: ‘Body Condition Scoring of Cows’ and ‘Developing Replacement of Beef Heifers’.

The public is welcome to attend any and all of the classes. For more information, contact Alvin Woodruff, Extension Educator at 580-623-5195.

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