

# Potter County Ag Talk



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## February 2016



**Austin Voyles**

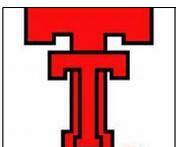
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Thank you for picking up the THIRD EDITION of Potter County Ag Talk! My name is Austin Voyles, and I have recently assumed the role of Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Potter County!

### WHAT IS THE JOB OF THE COUNTY AGENT?

This is a question that I get asked on a regular basis from common stake holders, home owners, producers, and 4-H Families. I hope this quick outline will help everyone understand!

- As the Ag/NR agent, one of my responsibilities is to help convey information to agriculture producers throughout the county. We as an organization pride ourselves on conveying timely, relevant, research-based information to help our producers in our counties become more profitable and better land stewards.
- I also have a heavy responsibility to provide the same type of information to small acreage land owners and urban home owners throughout the county as the need arises.
- I have asked and been granted 4-H Livestock responsibilities in Potter county. This will take place in the form of teaching young livestock exhibitors all about their 4-H livestock project from facility preparation and feeding, to evaluation and showmanship.

I list these 3 main areas and I hope that everyone quickly understands that this is just a glimpse into the day to day activities that I take part in. We have a great team here in Potter County, and we all work together to ensure that we have a successful program full of enriching experiences.

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## Excerpts from Beef Cattle Browsing - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Cattle

### WHAT COULD FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE COST THE U. S.?

According to a recent research report, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the midwestern U. S. would result in likely losses to producers and consumers of \$188 billion. Associated cost to government would likely total \$11 billion. Use of emergency vaccination against FMD coupled with other disease management practices has been proposed as a means of addressing such an outbreak. However, emergency vaccination has been challenged by some, citing possible problems:

- difficulty in distinguishing vaccinated and infected animals;
- delay or loss of export markets;
- vaccination cost;
- uncertainty of actual value of vaccination;
- uncertainty of vaccine availability for specific strain of virus involved in outbreak.



Using an aggressive emergency vaccination program, the study estimated loss to producers and consumers would be reduced by 70% (to \$56 billion) and loss to government by 90% (to \$1.1 billion). NOTE: Such reductions in loss would have to be compared to overall cost of implementing the program.

**(Jour. of Agric. and Appl. Economics 47:47; Kansas St. Univ., Colorado St. Univ.)**

### DOES IMPLANT STATUS AFFECT PRICE IN A VIDEO AUCTION ?

Data from one video auction service were analyzed from 2.75 million head sold in 27,746 lots (average of 99 hd/lot) through 92 auctions conducted from 2010 to 2013. The analysis adjusted for 18 variables (such as sale weight, vaccination protocol, age/source verification, number of days to planned delivery) other than implant status, which might influence price. Findings were:

- % of lots implanted was very consistent, ranging across years from 28.4 to 30.5;
- implanting was lower (18.2% to 27.9%) in lots from the West Coast, Rocky Mountain, North Central, and South Central regions;
- implanting was 64.9% in lots from the South East region;
- across all regions, 33% of steers and 25% of heifers were implanted;
- being implanted or not did not statistically ( $P < 0.05$ ) affect sale price in any year;
- in one year, implanting very slightly reduced price (by \$0.40/cwt);
- in three years, not implanting very slight increased price (by avg. of \$0.13/cwt).



According to the most recent survey by the National Animal Health Monitoring System, only 14.3% of herds utilized growth implants for suckling calves. And this has declined over the at least 40 years that implants have been available. NOTE: Across many research and field trials, implanting suckling calves averages increasing weaning weight by about 20 lb, for a product cost of only  $\pm$  \$1.50/head. For most producers, there's money being left on the table.

**(Prof. Anim Sci. 31:443; Kansas St. Univ., Ohio St. Univ., Grassy Ridge Consulting, Merck Anim. Health)**

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## VFD UPDATE

February 2016



### The Veterinary Feed Directive: What Producers Need to Know

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By January 1, 2017, if a livestock or dairy producer wants to feed his animals certain medicated feeds, he cannot simply go to the feed store, purchase the feed, and dump it in the feed bunk. Amendments to the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), a federal regulation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), makes the process more complicated for producers, veterinarians, and feed suppliers.

#### **What is the VFD?**

Before the VFD was enacted in 1996, the FDA recognized two categories of animal drugs: over-the-counter and prescription. Because requiring prescriptions for animal feeds containing antibiotics was considered impractical, medicated feeds were classified as over-the-counter drugs.

In 1996, a third category, VFD drugs, was added to the list. Significant amendments, known as the Second VFD Rule, were published in June 2015. The VFD concept attempts to balance the need for antibiotic use to protect animal health with the concern about overuse of antibiotics in the livestock industry and throughout society. The revised VFD rules ensure that antimicrobial drugs are used for therapeutic (to treat only sick animals), rather than production purposes and that licensed veterinarians supervise such use.

#### **The amendments make three significant changes:**

- ◆ Drug sponsors will modify labeling for certain products by withdrawing production uses such as increased rate of weight gain and allow only therapeutic uses.
- ◆ Medicated feed additives designated as medically important were previously considered over-the-counter, but will be VFD drugs subject to the new rules. The term medically important includes all drugs considered important for therapeutic use in humans.
- ◆ A veterinarian must complete a VFD form before a producer can buy any VFD drugs, even those in medicated feeds.



### **Valuable Links for All Producers Regarding the new VFD**

- **VFD Fact Sheet**—[www.potter.agrilife.org](http://www.potter.agrilife.org)
- **FDA Approved Drug List**—<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/JudiciousUseofAntimicrobials/ucm390429.htm>
- **VFD Face Sheet**—<http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Veterinary-Feed-Directive-p/eag-024.htm>
- **Texas Ag Law Blog**—<https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2016/01/12/veterinary-feed-directive-what-you-need-to-know/>
- **Dr. Ted McCollum's Comments**—<http://amarillo.tamu.edu/facultystaff/tmc/veterinary-feed-information/>

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# Potter County Ag Talk

Available Meetings

February 2016



Across the Panhandle and South Plains, AgriLife Extension Agents are hard at work preparing relevant, fact based programming for the producers in our area! Below, you will find a current and updated list of the next months' upcoming programming! If you have any detailed questions, or would just like to participate, feel free to call our office or the respective county office of the program you are most interested in!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING SUBJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2-12-16	Ornamental and Turf Grass	Amarillo District Extension Center
2-16-16	Beef Cattle Management Program	Hope Center, Quitaque
2-18-16	Grazing Management School	Hemphill County Extension Office
3-3-16	Regional Sorghum Program	Ollie Liner Center, Plainview
3-4-16	Beef and Range Program	Perryton Expo Building
3-21-16	Sorghum Production Meeting	Pringle/Morse Equity
3-24-16	Sorghum and Cotton Pre-Plant Meeting	Quail Community Building

