

LIVESTOCK PARTURITION- SEASONAL REMINDERS

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS-

- Sanitation solutions & fresh water access
- OB & disposable gloves
- Ropes & halters
- Vaccinations, supplements, & medications
- Colostrum, electrolytes & bottles
- Various sizes of needles & syringes
- Galvanized buckets
- Towels & rags
- Headlamps, spotlights, & other light sources
- OB Lube
- Chains, puller, & pulleys
- Thermometer
- Warming sources (calf box, straw, heaters, indoor room, etc.)
- Tagging/ID equipment
- Record book
- Waterproof overalls, sleeves, & shoes or disposable boot coverings
- Birthing pens, portable panels, feed & water sources
- Shovel, pitchfork, portable sled, & wheelbarrow

Having a Game Plan--> It's important to do some pre-planning each year help ensure success for the operation and everyone involved. While all operations and species are not the same; these are some general steps to consider:

- Connect with your Veterinarian (Establish a relationship; provide detailed directions to your property; find out what vaccinations or supplements might be needed in your geographical area; what their procedure is for an emergency call at the ranch or going into the office, etc.).
- Gather up your resources ahead of time and do a refresher on general anatomy; stages of labor; and abnormal birth scenarios.
- Determine ahead of time (especially if employees or youth are checking or most everyone is gone for a time period) what the action steps are for complications (signs; when to call; who to call; and plan B, etc.).
- Ensure that the pickup and trailer have been serviced, fueled, and lights are working, etc.
- Ensure the loadout and alley area is well lit and in good working condition.
- Ensure a heated, indoor area to pull animals is set up with appropriate gates, lights, heaters, head catches, etc..
- Determine what the plan will be and gather resources for adverse events (i.e. blizzard; no electricity; extreme cold; flooding; personnel injury; etc.).
- Gather up and order needed supplies ahead of time including vaccinations and medications.



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BE AT YOUR BEST-

*A successful parturition season relies not only on doing everything we can for the animals but also on taking care of ourselves and employees by:

- Providing a location to keep dry and warm, change out clothes, shower, or take a nap.
- Taking quick 30 minute nap breaks if regular sleep intervals are not possible.
- Taking 15 minutes to stretch your muscles each day.
- Taking a short 10 minute walk to clear the mind and get the blood flowing.
- Drinking plenty of fluids.
- Having pre-done & easy to heat meals available.
- Having access to high protein/carb snacks.
- Rotating shifts with an employee, family member, neighbor, etc.
- Not being afraid to call for help.
- Having a first aid kit.
- Having a neighbor or friend who you can call to talk about difficulties and successes.

RESOURCES

- Assisting the Beef Cow at Calving Time-UNL Extension @ extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec1907.pdf
- Pulling Pigs During Farrowing Assistance- Pork Information Gateway @ porkgateway.org/resource/pulling-pigs-farrowing-assistance/
- The Foaling Mare- UNL Extension @ extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1874.pdf
- The Process of Kidding-Penn State Extension @ extension.psu.edu/programs/courses/meat-goat/reproduction/the-process-of-kidding
- Assisting the Ewe at Lambing- Dr. S. John Martin -Veterinary Scientist, Sheep, Goat and Swine/OMAFRA @ omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/sheep/facts/98-091.htm
- Parturition in Livestock-Purdue Extension @ extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/as/as-561-w.pdf
- Colorado Crisis Service (Rural Mental Health) @ coloradocrisisservices.org/

