

**Stevens Veterinary Services**  
**Production Animal Consultation**  
**Dr. Stevens**

**Feedyard: 330**  
**Date: 7/17/2014**

BLM Horses:

- 1) General Health:
- 2) Pen Space:
- 3) Individual Issues:
- 4) Documentation of Body Condition:

1) General Health:

- a) There are less than 2% of horses showing low body condition scores
- b) Euthanasia has been necessary for several horses that are down the last few days
- c) We have had moisture and the pens are slick which may be increasing downer situations for some of the older lower body condition horses
- d) You are doing a nice job observing the horses, evaluating for quality of life, and making the proper decisions for euthanasia if necessary

2) Pen Space:

- a) Pen space looks more than adequate and normal body condition horses are very comfortable
- b) The horses in the 50's alley that were sorted from the long alley are some of the stronger more aggressive horses and on average have a higher body condition score

3) Individual Issues:

a) There is flea bit grey that has tumors behind both ears - watch close and if this horse begins to decrease weight or have an abnormal gait euthanize

b) As described above there are a few (less than 2%) horses that are smaller and thinner with body condition scores 3 or lower (1-9 scale)

4) Documentation of Body Condition:

a) Continue to document abnormal body condition scores and the date they are noticed so that we can track if the body condition score is decreasing

b) The 2% of the population that has a low body condition score will need to increase body condition or be euthanized prior to winter conditions

Thanks for today's visit. Please call if you have questions.

Corbin Stevens, DVM

## **Production Animal Consultation**

**Dr. Stevens**

**Feedyard: 330**

**Date: 8/5/2014**

BLM Horses:

I had the opportunity to meet with management and Joe with the BLM today to discuss the health and wellbeing of the horses at Beef Belt. Below is a summary of that meeting and suggested interventions.

### 1) Condition of Horses upon Arrival:

a) I estimated 5% of the horses to be in poor body condition score (3 or less) when they arrived at the feedyard

b) There was added stress for the horses during gathering, transport, and acclimation once at the feeding facility

c) Weather conditions during the month of July were abnormally wet with lower than normal temps (70's) for 7-10 days followed by a few days over 100 degrees and several days with slick pen conditions also adding stress

d) The result has been higher than expected death loss during the acclimation phase the first 45 days in the feedyard

### 2) Documentation of Deads and Post Mortems:

a) It has been suggested that more post mortems be performed to confirm cause of death with a diagnosis

b) A death certificate was developed by Joe to be used by management to document expired horses to include a more thorough ID

c) Post mortems and blood samples should be collected from the next several horses needing euthanized to rule out hyperlipidemia, hypoproteinemia, and other metabolic disease processes not related to being geriatric or having musculoskeletal issues

d) Unexplained deaths and horses with adequate body condition that die should also have a post mortem performed to determine cause of death

3) Recommendations for Interventions to Slow Death Loss:

a) Sort horses prior to shipping to the feedyard to reduce stress and allow for different feeding management of lower body condition horses once at the feedyard facility

b) Confirm feed is of good quality (test) and has adequate amount of protein and energy to maintain horses with normal body condition and consider feeding thinner horses separate

c) Allow horses to exercise outside the pen to better acclimate to the feedyard confinement environment and provide for a mechanism to sort the weaker or thinner horses from the group

d) Determine feasibility of building a facility for handling individual horses needing treatment, sorting, and standard care

e) Be sure horses that are not socially confident at the bunk are getting enough to eat

f) Document daily horses that are losing weight or have a health issue that needs addressed

Thanks for today's visit. Please give me a call if you have questions.

Corbin Stevens, DVM