

CF1 – David Smith

Using a Systems Thinking Approach to Solve Herd Health Problems

Livestock production systems are complex adaptive systems. Despite the complexity, people make adaptive management decisions hoping to maximize utility (profit, pride, productivity) while minimizing losses due to disease. Veterinarians, by virtue of their medical training and routine visits to food animal production systems, are uniquely positioned to understand what actions and behaviors put their clients' herds and flocks at risk for losses due to pests and disease. For example, rather than blaming rotavirus, we may recognize that the cause of an outbreak of diarrhea on a dairy was due to the decision to put the person responsible for colostrum management out on a tractor to chop silage. Managing complex adaptive systems is not easy because the outcomes are difficult to predict. In this clinical forum we will discuss how to use systems thinking to help clients make decisions that maximize the health and productivity of their animals as well as the economic well-being of their operation. In addition, we will discuss the barriers to implement this type of thinking in veterinary practice and how to make systems thinking a profitable part of the practice.

CF2 – Meredyth Jones Cook

Survival Kit for Cattle Vets Doing Small Ruminant Work

Let's get together and chat about small ruminant medicine through the eyes of the bovine practitioner: what can we apply to small ruminants from cattle and in what ways are small ruminants not little cows? This will be an open discussion to ask questions, share practice tips and learn from each other how to provide outstanding care to small ruminants.

CF3 – Stephen LeBlanc

Using sensor-based data to manage reproduction and health in dairy cows

Many dairy herds have activity monitoring systems for estrus detection as part of their toolkit for reproductive management. This technology is well established but there are opportunities to fine-tune its use. Attention is now turning to use of activity, rumination, or other sensor or automated milking system data to detect or help manage health problems. This is promising but evidence on validity and utility can be scarce. Bring your experiences and questions to discuss this emerging area of dairy herd health management.

CF4 – Eric Behlke

Beef Cattle Implant Selection and Protocols

This clinical forum will provide guidelines for selecting appropriate growth promoting implant recommendations to beef cattle clients for different production scenarios. Also, this clinical forum will focus on the differences between the most common growth promoting implants, along with information regarding re-implant regulations.

CF5 – Erin Royster

Mastitis Treatment Strategies

Limited antimicrobial options, an increasing array of non-antibiotic “treatments”, and a lot of unknowns when it comes to the mastitis pathogens we are dealing with. Given all this, what is the best approach to mastitis treatment on today’s farms? What factors should you consider when designing mastitis treatment protocols? What are the barriers that keep people from implementing our treatment protocols successfully? How do you even know what success looks like? Bring your own questions and experiences for an in-depth conversation on mastitis treatment strategies. We can discuss diagnostics, difficult pathogens, antimicrobial choices (or the choice not to use antimicrobials at all), selective therapy, treatment duration, monitoring and more.

CF6 – Brandon Treichler

Developing and Assessing Milk Quality Programs on Robotically Milked Dairies

The ability to produce consistently high-quality milk is core to the maintenance of a milk market for our clients, maintaining consumer trust in dairy products, and regardless of the premium structure economically advantageous. Despite this, as more dairies invest in automation technologies such as robotic milking, these introduce more complex variables to account for and can be an imposing barrier for advisors such as Dairy Veterinarians to provide value to clients in this space. Despite this, there is a great deal that veterinarians can offer to RMS clients, playing a key role in their milk quality program. We will discuss the basic overview of how to develop and build quality programs in robotically milked dairies as well as practical ways to monitor and assess those systems. We will cover at a high level the differences in equipment, what tests can easily be performed and how to set up and run those tests as well as what basic equipment is required. Lastly we will discuss strategies to work with the equipment dealers to provide maximum value to your clients. As a clinical forum, the format is extremely

flexible and lends itself to audience directed discussion. Please come with questions in mind and be willing to share your perspectives and experiences to enrich the discussion.

CF7 – Maurice Cottman

Courageous Conversations: Identity and Belonging in Veterinary Practice

In this clinical forum, participants will join in a facilitated discussion to explore issues related to identity (including but not limited to race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, background) facing veterinarians in rural practice. Participants may share personal stories of experiences in the field or communities in which they practice and how these experiences have impacted their sense of belonging in bovine practice. Senior veterinarians or veterinary practice owners who want to learn more about the value of embracing diversity in their teams and how to be an ally to other veterinarians in their practice are also encouraged to attend. The goal of this forum is to engage in meaningful and productive conversation to gain a broader understanding of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in veterinary medicine so we can move our profession forward, together.