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2013 has been stressful for cow/calf producers

▲ Late winter has caused many calving dilemmas



Russell and his son Jay Foster are shown with an Angus calf, born on their farm this April. This spring has been especially challenging for area cattlemen with unexpected snow events that lingered on until near the end of April.

South Dakota State University Extension cow/calf field specialist Warren Rusche stated in an online article that he is worried about losses to this year's calf crop, due to the weather.

"This is the worst kind of weather to calve in," wrote Rusche in iGrow.

"In wet, cold, windy conditions like this, it doesn't take much to lose a newborn calf. The risk of death from hypothermia is very real in these conditions."

Up until last Wednesday, cold conditions and snow events were ongoing this spring, a big change from

last year. March and April only had six days of temperatures above 40 degrees this spring. In 2012, March 5 was the first 42 degree day and the temperatures pretty much went up from there with 70 degrees on March 13 and 77° on March 16. On April first the high was 86 degrees

in Clark.

This year, April first was 29°, March 13 was 28° and March 16 was 14° and these were the high temps for the day. Spring moisture has fallen in the form of snow and ice versus spring rains this year.

According to data at the USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System, over 60 percent of calves that die before weaning are either born dead or lost within the first 24 hours after birth.

"For those producers who have planned on calving in early to mid April, historically that has gotten them out of the winter weather. This year those producers have gotten caught in the ugly transition from winter to spring. We haven't seen spring yet up to this past weekend.

"The producers that are set up to calve indoors have fared better than the later group. One doesn't expect to have five snowstorms in mid April. It's been pretty challenging for those calving in the April 9-23 window. We've had a lot of death loss reported. You could hardly design a worse calving time outdoors than we've had the last couple of weeks. Weather stress could also cause ongoing problems in the future. Cattle crowded in yards tend to make matters worse in picking up pathogens and spreading disease. A lot are fighting scour bugs as they spread throughout the pen.

In measuring temperatures, the
Cow/calf producers
(continued on page 3)

Producers will get a late start this spring

It's the first of May and there has been very little, if any field work done in Clark County.

Although recent snows and freezing rains brought much needed moisture to part of South Dakota, it didn't do much to bolster spring planting prospects according to the USDA, National Agriculture Statistics service, South Dakota field office.

Mid April week, the average snow depth across the state was reported at 6.6 inches and the latest round of storms ground spring field work to a halt. USDA says only .7 days were suitable for field work which may lead to one of the latest planting seasons in recent history.

Mark Rosenberg, SDSU Extension Agronomist from the Aberdeen office agrees that this may be one of the latest starts in a long, long time. "Let the snow go away and the soil thaw before getting in the field. Get prepared as best you can. It's not ideal what Mother Nature has done so far this spring, but there still are a lot of options out there," says Rosenberg.

"The recommended planting time for spring wheat is April-May. The optimal planting time for corn and beans is mid to late May, but all three crops can be planted through mid June, but the later you plant, the greater the risks. Outside factors will weigh in like seed varieties and availability.

Jeff Olson, Clark County Eleva-

tor manager said he hasn't heard of anyone around here getting into the field yet to plant. Rick Flatten, manager at Wheat Growers in Willow Lake had the same to say of producers in the southern part of the state.

On Monday the Willow Lake agronomists got into the alfalfa and hay fields to spread fertilizer and Flatten estimates maybe the middle of this week, they will be able to hit the grain fields.

In Clark, Monday was also the first time this spring the sprayers were able to hit the pastures and they were starting on spraying their first corn ground, 500 acres worth in the south end of the Raymond valley.

Rick Garvin of the Agronomy Center at the Clark County Farmers Elevator commented "If we don't get the rain forecast for Wednesday and Thursday we should be running hard by the end of the week."

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
April 23	37	15	0
April 24	35	19	.13
April 25	47	16	0
April 26	64	34	0
April 27	75	37	0
April 28	70	38	0
April 29	70	36	0
2013 precipitation to date			3.97"
2012 precipitation to date			6.37"

Retirement - hard decision for Thoreson

▲ "I really enjoyed working with the kids"

"We played school all the time growing up and I was always the teacher - never the student," says Julayne Thoreson of her younger years growing up in Lake Benton, Minn., the daughter of Ken and Clarice Nordmeyer. I was one of five children and after going to school all day - I'd come home and 'play school' with my younger siblings, Karen, Glenyce, Craig and Lee. I was always the teacher - never the student. My mom was a sixth grade teacher and my grandma was also in education. She was a principal. My brother is a principal now, too.

Following graduation from South Dakota State University this spring, my youngest daughter Lynnea will be teaching sixth grade in Arlington next year. It's in our genes I guess. I've always just loved teaching. When I was away from it for a few years when I started my family, I really missed it and would even have dreams of being back in the classroom."

Thoreson will retire from her teaching position at the Willow Lake School this spring after 34 years of teaching. "It's been a difficult decision and in my thought pattern the last few years. With the Common Core standards to be implemented for 2014-2015, and coming into play now, I would just be getting into it, learning the different ways of teaching and then only use them for a short time. So the

timing was right for my retirement. I'll still keep busy and would like to volunteer at the school for various things they need."

"For the last 10 years, I've been a 'school marm' (teacher) at the Laura Ingalls Wilder one room school in De Smet in the summers. I'd like to continue with that, maybe help out a little more there."

You know when you think about it, the one room school concept had it all going on. They had individualized lessons, they had a gifted program - the kids could learn listening from the older students' lessons. They had special ed - the kids could listen in on the younger students' lessons, learning them again if they didn't catch it the first time. They had cooperative learning, doing things and figuring things out together. They also learned a sense of community responsibility taking turns keeping the school building clean, bringing in wood and taking care of the school. "And no extra money had to be pumped into the system to make it all work." They even had their own 'PC' - personal chalkboard. Now it's a personal computer that is their 'PC'.

"Education is really changing in how the focus is mass customized learning. Trying to fit each child's needs and have them learn at their own pace. The logistics of making that happen need to be worked out I think. In the future, I see teach-

ers becoming more facilitators. The information is all on the Internet and the teachers will be showing them how to get the information and guiding students how to learn

ment of Health reported 86 cases of staph infection resistant to the antibiotic methicillin (the bacterium is called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA) in 2012. North Dakota had 89 cases in 2011, the latest figures available on the N.D. Department of Health website.

Many of those who are sick with MRSA are elderly and already sick



Julayne Thoreson will be retiring at the end of the school year from 34 years of teaching. Shown in her familiar spot at the head of the class in her American History room in Willow Lake, it hasn't been an easy decision she says as she loves teaching. "They keep you young" she says with a smile. "I've really enjoyed working with the kids."

There needs to be a blend of
Thoreson
(continued on page 3)

Clark Tae Kwon Do holds annual tourney

This Saturday, May 4, is the 12th International Clark Tae Kwon Do Tournament at the Clark High School gym.

Teams from South Dakota and surrounding states will be in attendance and two teams from as far away as Puerto Rico and Mexico will be attending. All Clark students will be performing.

The tournament will have multiple highlights including a tag

team match between South Dakota and Puerto Rico. Each tag team will have five students performing, including Jake Jones and Paige Paulson from Clark. Another highlight will be a men's black belt grand champion battle. Jones will be representing Clark in this event.

The tournament begins at 11:00 a.m. with registration from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Some in Dakotas see link between antibiotic resistance and use in livestock

A story by
Dakotafire
dakotafire.net

By Christopher Cumo and Heidi Marttila-Losure
Dakotafire Media

The success of antibiotics has dramatically changed the way we think about illness and recovery

since their development in the 1940s.

Ailments that used to have long recovery periods or a high risk of complication or even death have been made manageable with the use of antibiotics. A few doses of "the pink stuff" and children with strep throat or ear infections can go back to school in 24 hours.

Unfortunately, antibiotics are not as potent as they used to be. Our thinking may need to change

again—both in how we treat illness, and, some experts argue, in how we raise livestock. Recent studies have drawn a link between the use of antibiotics for animals and antibiotic-resistant bacteria in humans, and some leaders in medicine and agriculture in the Dakotas have agreed with those findings.

The rise of resistance

Resistant bacteria now swamp antibiotics that had once been effective for treating people, according to

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