

VET'S VIEW

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Veterinary Medicine

After spending two hours in the emergency room for a laceration on my hand, I am glad I am in veterinary medicine instead of human medicine. It would be impossible to take care of the multitude of routine and emergency calls that an average beef cattle veterinarian sees every day if we were as inefficient as human medicine is. After talking to three different people in the exam room I was finally admitted as a patient and had a few sutures placed in my hand. The good news is the cut wasn't that bad and I was not at risk of dying (except from boredom).

Beef cattle veterinarians can have a hectic day and can't afford to waste your time or theirs on needless paper work. They try to see patients as fast as they can in order to take the best care of your livestock that they can. It doesn't matter if the emergency is in the middle of a cold winter night during calving season or in the fall after a long day pregnancy testing cows- your veterinarian is available. However, paperwork is sometimes needed.

The new VFD rule that goes into effect January 1 will require some degree of paperwork depending upon your usage of feed grade antibiotics. Make some time in the next few weeks to discuss what needs to be done as we transition into this new rule. Most veterinarians are like me and don't like paperwork so this new regulation is as difficult for them as it will be for you. Working together, a veterinarian, your feed distributor and you can navigate the new regulations and minimize any issues.

One of the few pluses with the emergency room is you can always get in. Have you tried making an appointment to see a medical professional lately? It is not uncommon to have to schedule things months in advance and you always worry that something that you can't get out of will come up and you will have to cancel and reschedule. Fortunately, your beef cattle veterinarian lives in the community with you and is almost always available. Do you need to get your cattle pregnancy checked or vaccinate your heifers? I bet if you call your veterinarian they can schedule an appointment within the next week or less.

Your veterinarian is proud to practice veterinary medicine and is available to help you maintain the health and productivity of your cattle. Working together we will be able to keep each other gainfully involved in the beef cattle industry and continue to provide consumers with safe, wholesome and tasteful product for dinner. Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year.



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