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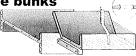
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# **Huber Slats**

1497 - 170th St. • Wellman, IA 52356 Bill Huber • Ph. 319-646-2907

#### Fenceline bunks

#### Key Benefits



- Acts as both a feeder & a fence for human protection
- Rounded interiors reduce feed waste
- Camphor edges reduce neck abrasions
- Bunks align to form any length
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete
- Reinforced with solid rebar frame welded in place
  Optional concrete ends with drain holes available
- Features recessed post to prevent cattle from rubbing
- on post or cable
- Cable shim reduces wear & lengthens the life of cable
- Concrete step poured in the end of each bunk provides support for adjacent bunk
- · Optional end steps are also available

# Yard bunks Key

damage from freezing.

**Benefits** 



- Allows livestock to feed from both sides and ends.
  Rounded interiors reduce feed waste and prevent
- Rounded camphor edges reduce neck abrasions.
- Solid concrete ends feature drain holes. Drain holes may be plugged for use as a waterer.
- Concrete footing poured on the end of each bunk keeps feed at the appropriate height.
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete using 3/8inch aggregate reinforced with solid 1/2" rebar on 6"x 6" wire mesh squares.

# **VET'S VIEW**

Grant Dewell, DVM Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine Iowa State University

# Feedyard receiving programs are key to animal health

s cattle feeders start to fill up pen space this fall, it is important to make sure your cattle are set up to succeed. There appears to be an opportunity for positive returns, but problems with respiratory disease can turn a group of calves from profitable to a disaster if animal health is not properly addressed. The first step is to buy calves that have been properly preconditioned. The Iowa Green Tag program is the most successful pre-conditioning program.

Once you have purchased your calves, make sure that they are received into the feedyard smoothly. Almost all calves will undergo some degree of stress before they arrive at your feedyard. Buying calves with lower stress loads (direct from farm, not comingled, minimal distance transported) will help decrease the risk of respiratory disease. However, it is also important that you do not add to their stress load once they arrive.

It is advisable to hold off filling pens with new cattle until you have finished harvesting corn for the year. Not being able to devote 100% effort to your newly received cattle can lead to a catastrophe.

Ideally, calves should be received in clean dry pens. If pens are wet, muddy, snowy or it is extremely cold, then bed the pens with ample corn stalks to allow all the calves to lie down. Trucking even a short distance can be hard on calves and they need to lie down and recover after unloading.

There is growing evidence that low stress receiving programs to acclimate calves to the feedyard can improve animal health and performance. If you can, attend a low stress cattle handling seminar and implement these practices into your receiving program.

Calves will also have some degree of dehydration depending on the time since calves left their home farm. Water tanks should be cleaned out before new cattle are placed in the pen so there is a good supply of fresh clean water.

Many calves will also not have eaten since they left their home and long stem grass hay is the most appetizing feed for stressed calves. Once calves have started eating hay you can slowly transition them to a concentrate ration.

Nutrition is key to keeping your calves healthy. Talk with you nutritionist or ISU Extension Beef Specialist to develop the appropriate receiving and step rations for you.

## **Review processing needs**

Once calves have had 12-24 hours to recover from being shipped to the feedyard then they can be processed with the appropriate procedures. There are many products available that can improve the health of calves. Discuss specific programs such as vaccines, antibiotics and dewormers with your veterinarian.

One product that should be addressed this year is Vitamins A & E. The long dry summer preceded by last year's drought has resulted in deficiencies of both. Because these vitamins are critical to the immune system, it may be advantageous to include an injectable A & E product into your receiving processing.

Finally, make sure that you observe your newly arrived cattle at least once a day. If calves are at a higher risk for respiratory disease because of a less-than-ideal vaccine program, being unweaned prior to arrival, co-mingling, long transportation etc. then it may be beneficial to observe these cattle twice a day for the first 3-4 weeks.

Pull and closely evaluate any calf that is depressed, off feed or is showing respiratory symptoms. Calves with respiratory disease need to be treated immediately with the appropriate antibiotics to minimize lung damage that can either kill the calf or decrease performance.