

Instructional Scenario

Managing Herd Health



Course/Duty Area: Operating the Farm Business/Producing Livestock

Scenario:

You purchased a group of feeder steers over the winter break to finish out on your farm's feedlot. Your goal is to market freezer beef to area customers in time for the summer grilling season. Two weeks after returning home from the sale barn, you notice that several of your steers aren't eating or drinking as much as usual. They are coughing and have runny noses.

Big Question:

What are common livestock respiratory diseases, and what management strategies can be used to manage herd health?

Focused Questions:

- What kind of information would be helpful to gather before calling a veterinarian?
- Which resource persons can help with making herd health plans?
- What preventative measures should be implemented when transporting livestock?
- What biosecurity measures should be used when introducing new livestock to your facilities?
- Who could serve as herd health advisors?
- What are common livestock herd health treatments for respiratory diseases?
- What are some zoonotic diseases associated with cattle, and why is this a concern in this scenario?

Student Project or Outcome:

Students will research bovine health. They will initially focus on general bovine health facts and then expand to include typical respiratory health diseases, treatments, and treatment protocols. They will investigate local authorities and resources on livestock health. Lastly, they will develop a herd health management plan.

Project-Based Assessment:

- If available, have a large animal veterinarian or agricultural extension agent visit with students to discuss health care for livestock common in your community.
- Students can develop an animal health field guide that focuses on common infections and non-infectious diseases. They should include resources such as a prevention checklist and common terminology.

Teacher Resources:

- [Beef Quality Assurance YouTube Channel](#)
- [Masters of Beef Advocacy](#)
- [The Center for Food Security & Public Health](#)

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