

Bovine Dystocia Management

This session will discuss normal labor and how to identify when a dystocia is occurring in a ruminant, as well as when it is necessary to intervene to aid delivery of the calf. Instruction for proper handling of the cow and restraint will be discussed to aid in a safe working environment. Additionally, common malpositions and postures will be covered, along with how to correct them, if possible. Situations where vaginal delivery is not able to be facilitated will be identified, and cesarean section and fetotomy will be reviewed.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Jessica Rush grew up in rural Alabama working on her uncle's family farm. During this time, she developed a great love for cattle and reproduction. She received a BS in Animal Science from Auburn University followed by her DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. Following graduation, Dr. Rush accepted a position in a rural mixed animal practice in Ashland, AL. After 5 years in private practice, she returned to Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine as a Theriogenology resident in 2015. Following completion of the residency program and achieving board certification by the American College of Theriogenology in 2018, Dr. Rush accepted a position as Assistant Clinical Professor at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine of Food Animal Medicine and Surgery. Since becoming part of faculty, Dr. Rush works to further develop the urogenital surgery service. She enjoys training the AU CVM palpation team and devotes a large amount of extra time to these students. She serves as the faculty advisor for the AU AABP club. Her research interest includes bovine reproduction and beef cattle health with emphasis on venereal diseases and infertility, particularly in the bull.

Learning Objectives:

1. Determination of when a cow is having a dystocia and when to intervene to administer assistance
2. Education of client/producer about when to seek veterinary assistance
3. Proper manipulation and correction of malposition or malposture to facilitate delivery of calf

Agenda:

- Dystocia Management in Cattle
 - Normal Labor
 - Dystocia
 - Identification of dystocia

- When to intervene
- Normal presentation, position, and posture of neonate for deliver
- Common causes of dystocia and how to correct if possible
 - Abnormal presentation, position, and posture of neonate
 - How to correct to facilitate delivery
 - Fetal maternal disproportion
 - Fetal defects
- Caesarean section
 - Surgical sites
 - Surgical technique
- Fetotomy

References:

1. Hilton, WM., Glynn, D. Management and prevention of dystocia. pp. 404-408 In Bovine Reproduction 1st edition. Hopper. 2015 Wiley and Sons.
2. Drost, M., Dystocias and accidents in gestation. pp. 409-415 In Bovine Reproduction 1st edition. Hopper. 2015 Wiley and Sons.
3. Walters, K., Obstetrics: Mutation, forced extraction, fetotomy. pp 416 – 423 In Bovine Reproduction 1st edition. Hopper. 2015 Wiley and Sons.
4. Mochal-King, C., Obstetrics: Caesarean section. pp. 424-430 In Bovine Reproduction 1st edition. Hopper. 2015 Wiley and Sons.