

# ON THE RANCH

## Nebraska's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program

October 5-7, 2018  
Fort Robinson State Park

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, or BOW, offers hands-on workshops for adult women with an interest in learning outdoor skills such as hunting, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, among other outdoor endeavors. Workshops are tailored primarily to women who are new or who are beginners eager to improve their skills.

For more information and to register:  
<http://outdoornebraska.gov/bow/>

## Snow or Water What's the Difference?

Are you getting tired of winter? Tired of hauling water or chopping ice? Well maybe, just maybe you can let your cows eat snow from recent storms for their water needs.

Snow sometimes can be a good source of livestock water. Research from Canada and several northern states have shown that cows can eat 30 to 40 pounds of snow per day to meet their water needs. And some ranchers already rely on only snow to provide water on their winter pastures.

To be successful using snow as your water source, several conditions must be met. First off, the snow must be clean and fresh. We've all heard jokes about eating yellow snow, but it's no joke if that is what your cows are depending on. Snow that's crusted over, filled with dirt, or heavily trampled is not adequate.

Second, the cows must be in good shape. It will take body heat energy to melt the snow they eat so thin cows or sick cows should not be forced to rely on snow for water. Lactating cows also should have a good source of liquid water.

Make sure the cows are eating an adequate diet to provide the extra energy needed to melt that snow. Cows that go off feed or aren't eating enough might be having trouble getting enough water from the snow. After all, they do need to learn how to effectively graze snow to get enough water.

Lastly, be sure to have an alternate water source readily available. Snow availability and snow conditions can change rapidly.

Snow can be used as the only source of water for many livestock, saving time, money, and potentially extending grazing to remote areas or later in the season. However, monitor intake and cow condition carefully to be successful.

Written by: Bruce Anderson, Extension Professor,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



## Calving & Handling Calving Difficulties-A Review

*This article is a brief summary of a paper titled “Calving and Handling Calving Difficulties” (<https://go.unl.edu/f2q9>) by Robert Mortimer DVM, who is Emeritus Faculty at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine Biomedical Sciences. The paper is summarized by Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator.*

The process of birth for a calf and the first few hours after the calf is born is a critical time that is foundational to a calf for success or failure later in life. Calf losses in the beef cattle industry frequently occur due to calving difficulty. Stress on the calf due to calving difficulty leads to an increased likelihood of sickness and death loss later in life. Calves experiencing difficulty at calving tend to have a harder time maintaining a normal body temperature after they are born and also have a diminished ability to absorb antibodies from colostrum. When producers understand the process a cow goes through when a normal calving occurs, they can identify problems that require intervention. Timely identification of problems and appropriate intervention during a calving difficulty improves the likelihood that a live calf will be delivered.

In the “Calving and Handling Calving Difficulties” paper, Dr. Mortimer outlines 3 things that cow-calf producers should be aware of related to the calf during the delivery process. These are presentation, position and posture.

- Presentation refers to how the calf is coming, frontward, backward or transverse (crosswise).
- Position refers to whether the calf is right side up or upside-down.
- Posture refers to the relationship of the calf’s legs and head to its own body.

Based on understanding these three things, the producer can identify the process which will need to occur to either assist a cow with a calf in a normal presentation or correct an abnormal presentation to deliver the calf through the birth canal.

Dr. Mortimer outlines four management decisions that impact the outcome of calving difficulty. These four decisions are:

- Frequency of observation
- When to intervene
- Identifying if the calf can be delivered vaginally by forced extraction
- When to call for professional assistance

Dr. Mortimer gives a detailed process producers can go through to aid in their decision making as to when to assist a cow in labor and identify if they have the skills needed or should call for professional assistance. Dr. Mortimer gives practical tips and suggestions for facilities, equipment and procedures that can be helpful to producers to increase the likelihood of delivering a live calf. Timely decision making of when to call for professional help is the most important factor in increasing the survivability of the calf and the cow.



Preparing ahead of time and having a plan for how to handle calving difficulty can help minimize calf loss. Photo courtesy of Troy Walz.

A new crop of calves is something cow-calf producers look forward to each year. Preparing ahead of time and having a plan for how to handle calving difficulty can help minimize calf loss. Reading through the “Calving and Handling Calving Difficulties” (<https://go.unl.edu/f2q9>) publication is a good way to review the calving process and consider ways to increase success should cows need assistance during calving.

# Nebraska Equine

# WEBINAR

Series

Connect with us on Zoom every 2nd Monday of every month.

Topics: nutrition, diseases, biosecurity, parasites, equipment, rulebook, judging, veterinary care, conformation.

**N** EXTENSION

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Nebraska Equine Webinar Series is a great place for 4-H leaders and/or parents and senior aged youth to gain knowledge in many different areas. Each month will cover a different topic and have various experts in those areas. The webinars will be online through zoom.

- **September 11, 2017 - Nutrition** presented by Dr. Lena Luck, UNL Youth Extension Horse Specialist
- **October 9, 2017 - Horse Show Welfare** presented by Dr. Kris Hiney, Equine Extension Specialist from Oklahoma State University **CANCELLED**
- **November 13, 2017 - 4-H Horse Stampede** presented by Dr. Lena Luck, UNL Youth Extension Horse Specialist
- **December 11, 2017 - Horse Show Trends** presented by Dr. Kathy Anderson, UNL Extension Horse Specialist
- **February 12, 2018 - Genetic Diseases** presented by Dr. Jessica Petersen, UNL Assistant Professor
- **March 12, 2018**
- **April 9, 2018**
- **May 14, 2018**

If you missed the webinars or want to register for a future one visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/webinar-series>

## 2018 Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings Cost: \$40 at training plus \$25 billed from NE Dept. of Ag

Licensed private pesticide applicators can buy and use restricted-use pesticides in their farming operations after completing this training. Private applicators needing recertification in 2018 should have or will receive a letter notifying them from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and their local Nebraska Extension Office. The Department of Ag letter includes a bar code, which eliminates the need to complete the standard NDA application form for those wanting to recertify.

Date	Time	Location
March 1, 2018	9:30 AM	O'Neill, Holt County Courthouse Annex
March 1, 2018	1:00 PM	Hartington, City Auditorium Basement
March 1, 2018	6:00 PM	Hartington, City Auditorium Basement
<b>March 7, 2018</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Verdigre, Methodist Church</b>
March 8, 2018	1:00 PM	Neligh, Courthouse Basement
March 14, 2018	1:30 PM	O'Neill, Holt County Courthouse Annex
March 22, 2018	1:00 PM	Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center
March 26, 2018	1:30 PM	Spencer, Our Savior's Lutheran Church
April 10, 2018	9:00 AM	Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center
April 11, 2018	9:30 AM	O'Neill, Holt County Courthouse Annex