

Clinic & ranch the hub for Leone family

Peak View Ranch is the main hub for Dr. Rick & Trish Leone family. Their seedstock cattle & quarter horse operation, and adjacent Peak View Animal Clinic are integral parts of their daily lives, plus they have wheel spokes of family, school and community activities.

Rick earned his veterinary medicine doctorate from Colorado State in 1988. His first vet job took him and his Shorthorn cattle to Nebraska. When his parents' Colorado Springs home was condemned for airport expansion in 1990, Rick and his cattle moved back to Colorado and he partnered with his parents to start Peak View Ranch, located south of Fowler.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Meanwhile, Trish grew up in a well-traveled Air Force family, then settled in Black Forest and started a horse training business. In 1988, she double graduated with bachelor's degrees in Animal Science and Equestrian Science from colleges in Missouri.



After their marriage in 1996, the couple opened Peak View Animal Hospital, with Rick as the primary vet and Trish as the office manager. The Leones and their crew focus on equine, small animal, food animal and repro at the hospital, which was expanded in 2016 to its current location about a mile from the original barns. They offer a state-of-the-art practice and perform advanced reproductive services including embryo transfer on cattle, horses and small ruminant animals. Dr. Leone, along with Drs. Trevor Redden and Carol Ann Lipinski, enjoy great relationships with many working ranches. The clinic also offers a mobile unit which routinely travels to Rocky Ford, Avondale, Ordway, Olney Springs and Fowler.

Both the hospital and ranch are customers of WW Feed & Supply, which creates custom-designed rations including feed for their children Gabri's and Val's show livestock.

"WW Feed does an outstanding job for us designing and mixing rations, and their inventory of feed and supplies is excellent. Curt and Susan provide excellent customer service and they are great people," Dr. Leone said.

The entire family is involved in livestock shows, sports, church, 4-H, FFA, and livestock judging. Dr. Leone currently serves as vice president of the Am. Shorthorn Association board, and he previously served as president of the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine and on the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association leadership.



Wean your calves early?

With the extreme drought still having a firm hold on much of our trade area, one of the quickest and least painful steps ranchers can take is to wean their calves immediately. It's actually possible and fairly easy to wean any calf more than 60 days of age, and doing so will take an enormous load off your cowherd. The cows need for protein drops

from 9-10% of the diet when lactating, to 7% when dry. Energy needs are reduced by about 15% when the cow no longer has to support a nursing calf, making it possible for most cows to maintain body condition and rebreed on dry grass, or on grass with a minimal amount of protein supplementation, as long as there is plenty of the dry grass.

Young calves will do fine without their dams, as long as their nutritional needs are met. If fed right, you may find your calves weigh the same or even more in the fall than they normally do when nursing the cow all summer.

The key is nutrition. Calves that weigh less than 250-300 pounds have *continued page 3* ▶

Youth clinic filled with hands-on lessons

WW Feed & Supply offered its Steer-Aid Clinic on June 2 for 4-H and FFA youth. Sullivan Supply provided Stock Show U “professors” Mike, Koby & Kaly Cone. The trio demonstrated daily hair care, clipping & show-day grooming, plus helped each youth clip on their own calf. For showmanship, the Cone family and WW Feed & Supply’s Russell family provided one-on-one help with basic showing tips as the cattle line stretched across the entire Bent County Fairground’s pavilion.



We post news and specials, plus many clinic photos on:
www.facebook.com/WWFeedSupply



Range mineral special offered all June

June is the perfect time to stock up on beef range mineral. WW Feed & Supply is offering its **LONG-TON special** on bagged beef range cattle mineral through June 30. For every 10 bags of range mineral you purchase, we’ll give you an 11th bag FREE.

As a further bonus, for each full ton you purchase and pick up at one time, you’ll receive an extra bag for a total of 5 free bags. We have a variety of beef range minerals on hand, including our popular High Plains 12:9 high-copper, no-selenium mineral that is balanced &

customized for this area; another custom mineral using hydroxy trace minerals for faster absorption; and new ADM Advanced Mineral Performance Technology (AMPT) mineral in a couple



formulas. AMPT is a premium mineral shown to increase gains, body condition, immune

Why feed mineral?

After calving, a cow requires a huge amount of calcium, phosphorus and other vitamins and minerals to maintain herself while also producing milk and preparing to rebreed. Feeding a balanced, complete mineral package is important.

response, fiber digestion and reproductive efficiency.

Vitamin A supplies are rebuilding following the worldwide shortage, and prices have begun to moderate.

WW Feed also carries a custom mineral tub fortified specifically for this area, and a new

AMPT mineral tub. These are mineral tubs (not protein tubs) that allow convenience with consistent consumption.



Insect control improves animal efficiency

Mosquitos and flies have begun to multiply, so it’s time for insect control. WW Feed & Supply carries an assortment of fly sprays, rubs, powders and insecticides to help control flies

on your livestock and around your facilities.

Tempo, Permethrin and other liquid insecticide concentrates are available for perimeter treatments. We also have sprays

and spot-ons for various species. Dust bags and cattle rubs, as well as pour-ons, are ways to administer fly control. Come by, or check out *Shop Our Store* section on www.WWFeed.com

Need help with herd handling?

Inspect our portable Arrowquip Q-Catch unit, which features an 86-series vet squeeze chute, 8-foot alley and 16-foot tub. In addition to new equipment for sale, WW Feed & Supply allows area ranchers to RENT this portable Arrowquip unit to work your herd, and then bring the unit back.

Remember, you can also schedule our cattle semi and driver to aid with your larger transportation needs.

Durable equipment

Upgrading your corrals or water system this summer? We’ve got your equipment in stock:

- Powder River panels & gates
- Arrowquip squeeze chutes, loading chutes, tubs, alley sections, and portable combo units.
- Rubber tire tanks
- Sioux Steel poly tanks

Drought herd management

It's on every rancher's mind. How do I best continue cowherd production during this drought? There are many drought management questions, but I'll address two at this time:

- Do I cut down the cowherd by culling deeper than usual or feeding them to maintain current herd size?

- Do I early wean to save cost?

Cutting the cowherd is among the most important considerations, but when this happens it is difficult to bring the herd back into production when the drought subsides. Even though feed costs tend to be higher during drought conditions, feeding maybe the best option.

When choosing this option, it's important to contain the herd near feed storage, so you limit transportation costs. Cows must be fed a complete ration to maintain body condition during lactation and breeding. It's important to never cut feed ingredient requirements for protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. This is not the time to skimp on nutrient intake, or it will have an effect on current and future production of the cow and her progeny. So, look for a total mix ration that's balance for the required nutrients, plus forces in the vitamins and minerals with a high quality mineral supplement. Protein supplementation also may be required if the ingredients quality is low. This is even more vital for first-calf heifers, because they're still growing, so their nutrient intake is crucial.

When pasture isn't adequate, consider placing the cows in a dry lot or a small pasture to feed them. This actually requires less feed than when the cow is required to walk and gather her own daily forage. In

Early weaning continued from page 1 »

minimal rumen function and won't perform well on high-roughage diets. At these young ages, their digestive system is much more like a pig's than a cow's, so high-quality, low-fiber feeds are key. Turning the calves out on pasture, even good, green pasture if it were around, will limit performance, and simply tossing them a bale of alfalfa isn't much better. These light calves should be started on a high-energy, low-fiber, highly palatable and well-fortified diet until they are at least 300 pounds.

There are several options to allow you to do this, from supplementing your own feedstuffs to complete ready-to-feed rations.

Stop in or give us a call to explore the best way to grow your early-weaned calves. And make sure you talk to your veterinarian as well, since you may want to use a different vaccination and treatment strategy compared to normal fall weaning.

**Nutrition
Corner**
by
**Dr. Gerald
Walker**



other words, her maintenance requirement is less than on pasture.

Normally a cow requires between 24 and 28 pounds

of dry matter feed per day to meet her needs. However, in a small lot or pasture trap where she's fed in a bunk, her dry matter feed intake may be cut to around 20 pounds to meet her needs. This requires more labor, but reduces feed costs and allows cattlemen to keep their herd and keep it producing at an optimum level. Rations should be mixed to ensure a 12% protein level and maintain total digestible nutrients (TDN) of at least 58-62, depending on body condition score and herd age. If first-calf heifers can be fed separately, do so with a ration of at least 13-14% protein and TDN of 60-63.

If there is the option to keep the cowherd on minimal grass, a good cake or cube, or liquid energy protein supplement can be used to keep the cows in good productive shape. WW Feed & Supply can help with each of these supplements.

Another drought management option is to **early wean** the calf crop.

Early weaning cuts down the nutrient requirements of the cow, insuring that pregnancy rate is not sacrificed by protecting her body condition. Calves may be early weaning around 300 to 350 pounds, if necessary, and placed in a dry lot until that are 550 to be shipped to a grow yard. Early weaning first-calf heifers, has been shown to improve conception from 59 to 97%.





Show feeds and supplement choices

It's count-down to fair season. WW Feed & Supply is keeping a variety of show feeds and supplements on hand.

In order to keep the products price competitive, fresh and high quality, we carry ShowTec show feeds for lambs, goats, and swine, plus some Purina and Colorado Mills feeds. Our very successful WW Lamb Chop, and WW Winner's Choice beef feed are formulated and made right here. As always, we can **custom build** show feeds to meet your specific needs, whether you're looking for an economical feed for that first-year showman or something with all the bells and whistles for the youth working hard to win the show.



And don't forget our full line of Sullivan grooming products as well as blowers, clippers, blades and our blade sharpening service.



Hospice & WW Feed say 'Thanks for the support!'

WW Feed & Supply's *Ranchers for Hospice* wall has some new brands added in Year 2 of the project. Our thanks to all those area ranches who renewed their brands with donations to Hospice, plus the addition of Miner & Darlene Blackford, Brad & Starla Johnson, Tracy & Sherri White, Winters Cattle Co., and Jesse & Jodi Zimmer who were added to the wall in 2018. Thanks for your generosity to Arkansas Valley Hospice!