

Lesson 1
Preconditioning
Questions with Answers

1. According to the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), what six things are typically included in a preconditioning program?
 - a. Weaned at least 3 weeks before sale
 - b. Trained to eat from a bunk
 - c. Castrated
 - d. Dehorned
 - e. Treated for parasites
 - f. Properly vaccinated against clostridial and BRD pathogens
2. What are the top five pieces of information buyers would like to have before negotiating a price for calves?
 - a. Vaccination program
 - b. Date weaned
 - c. Breed of sire and/or breed composition of cow herd
 - d. Have calves been weaned?
 - e. Weaning ration/nutrition program
3. List 10 or more things that may cause stress:
 - a. Fatigue
 - b. Hunger
 - c. Thirst
 - d. Dust
 - e. Anxiety
 - f. Ammonia buildup
 - g. Adverse weather
 - h. Parasites
 - i. Weaning
 - j. Castration
 - k. Dehorning
 - l. Shipping
 - m. Poor sanitation
 - n. Mixing with other cattle
 - o. Unnecessary or abusive handling
4. Dehorning and castration should be done when calves are young, preferably _____ to _____ months of age. When calves are not worked earlier, to reduce stress, these procedures should be done _____ to _____ weeks before weaning but not at weaning time. (1, 3, 2, 3)
5. If vaccination programs are not administered correctly, they tend to fail. According to John Paterson, Montana State University, what are five common reasons why vaccination programs fail?
 - a. Time – at least 2-3 weeks after injection and preferably longer
 - b. Malnutrition – low protein or energy diets or low consumption
 - c. Immune status – calves not fully developed
 - d. Parasites – reduced effectiveness

- e. Vaccine handling – sunlight, heat, freezing
 - f. Stress – weaning, shipping
6. Decreasing stress at weaning can lead to increased _____ and _____. (health status, lifetime feedlot performance)
 7. _____ is when the cow and calf are separated usually out on pasture by a single fence so that cow and calf contact can still be made. (fence line weaning)
 8. The most important part of the nutrition program at weaning is to _____:
 - a. Put weight on the calves before they are sold so that you can get a bigger check from the feeder
 - b. Stimulate intake of a balanced ration to build immunity and combat illness**
 - c. Get them to eat enough just to call them ‘bunk broke’ when describing them to potential buyers
 9. _____ is usually the least expensive and most overlooked nutrient in starting calves. Water
 10. List 4 things to avoid in order to ease handling stress.
 - a. Avoid shadows
 - b. Avoid contrasting colors of paint
 - c. Avoid long or straight snakes
 - d. Avoid small holding areas
 - e. Avoid dusty, poor ventilated holding areas
 - f. Avoid slates/holes in the sides of equipment or alleys
 11. Typically preconditioned cattle have lower/higher ADG, lower/higher morbidity rates, and lower/higher mortality rates. (higher, lower, lower)
 12. It has been documented that cattle that require treatment twice or more during the feedlot phase had lower _____, however, had more desirable _____ grades. (hot carcass weights, yield)
 13. True/False. In the data presented, preconditioned calves resulted in tougher steaks. (False)