

# Managing beef-on-dairy on a feedyard

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## Abstract

This talk walks through a systemic approach to evaluating incoming beef-on-dairy-cross calves entering into a feedlot and how to tailor protocols and management practices specific to each lot or group. There are numerous unknowns and different environments that beef-on-dairy-cross calves are raised in during the nursery and backgrounder phases. Thus, when formulating standard operation procedures, it is critical to get as much information on a group as possible, ranging from a history, on-site necropsy and diagnostics, and tailoring facilities to a smaller framed calf, etc. Producers and veterinarians alike need to be mindful of the Holstein genetics, factoring in different disease pressures and management and attitudes.

## Case study

The case study reviews how to evaluate a group of beef-on-dairy-cross calves when they are experiencing a pneumonia outbreak. We review vaccinations and mass medication events along with current necropsies and additional diagnostics (such as antibiotic sensitivity). This helps us make a well-informed decision for processing vaccinations and whether to use prophylactic antibiotics. Evaluating facilities and stocking density is a must to ensure these cross calves are not under additional stress. If calves are overstocked or unable to readily access feed, water and a dry place to lay down, the immune system will be suppressed and morbidity and mortality will increase. Regular visits are pivotal to long-term success since stressors are not static, and if disease insults become prolonged, we create railers and dead calves.

## Conclusion

There are many different factors to consider when formulating standard operation procedures and management practices when feeding out beef-on-dairy-cross calves. Since they are on feed substantially longer than native cattle, small insults become additive, and mortality and railers can quickly add up, affecting a producer's bottom line.

