

## Calving Basics and Common Malpresentations

Stages of calving:

- Stage 1: Dilation of the cervix
- Stage 2: Delivery of the calf
- Stage 3: Delivery of the placenta

Signs of Stage One:

- Restless/pacing, leaving the herd, twitching tail, loose rear end, tight udder

Intervention:

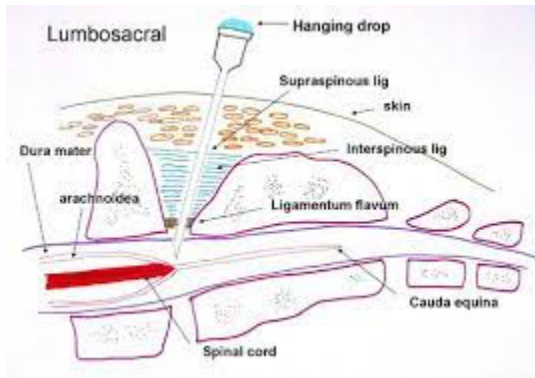
- After the water bag has been out and there is no progress for 1-2 hours, examine cow
- Straining hard with no progress for 30 minutes, examine cow
- What rule of thumb do they follow?

Cleaning back end of cow before going in:

- Wipe off poop, blood, etc.
- Clean hands, glove up!

Epidural:

- scrub/alcohol area
- 2% Lidocaine ready to go (6 ml for a cow, 5ml for a heifer)
- Put 18 gauge 1.5" needle in space between vertebrae, just through the skin
- Put a drop of lidocaine in needle and advance it, when it goes down on its own, you are in the right place
- Inject 5-6 ml lidocaine
- If the block doesn't take, you can repeat it one more time safely



Normal Presentation:

- Soles of toes pointing down, both feet in the canal, head between legs
- Sometimes the calf is too big and the heifer/cow is too small. Don't over use force if no progress is happening (2 people pulling)
- Pull slowly and time pulling with the cows contractions

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Malpresentations: \*\*Do not pull on malpresentation. Push calf back to make space and try to manipulate into a normal presentation

- Head back
  - Bring head into correct position (may need to use a snare, chain or twine)
- Leg back
  - Reach in and locate leg and carefully bring into position
- Upside down
- Backwards
  - Once you get to a point where umbilical cord will break, get calf out ASAP
- Breech (Rump first, tail calf)
  - Use chains to work leg up, protect uterine wall
  - Epinephrine 10 ml IM will relax the uterus to allow for easier manipulation
- \*hip lock - angles are important, pull at an angle

Uterine problems:

- Tear
- Torsion
- Prolapse

Reviving calf:

- Tickle nose with straw
- Rub with towels
- Clear mouth
- Set up sternally
- Hold upside down?
- Medicine: Epinephrine (1 ml under tongue or IV), Dopram (1 ml under tongue); Dexamethasone (if hard pull or swollen tongue, 3 ml IM)

Retained Placenta:

- Within the first 24 hours:
  - Oxytocin immediately (1-5 cc IM/IV/SC)
  - Repeat with another dose the next day
- After 24 hours:
  - Lutalyse (5cc IM) OR Estrumate (2cc IM)
  - Repeat once 12-24 hours apart
- If cow is sick:
  - Penicillin (5 ml per 100 # daily for 3 days IM) OR
  - Excede (1.5cc/100# @ base of ear, one dose; may repeat in 72 hours)
- Calcium can help the uterus contract:
  - Oral - drench, gel or bolus
  - IV - CMPK or Calcium Gluconate (give IV calcium slowly)