Southwest Pregnancy Diagnosis Program

Savannah Daniels-Hidalgo County, Jack Blandford-Luna County, Steve Lucero-Sandoval County,
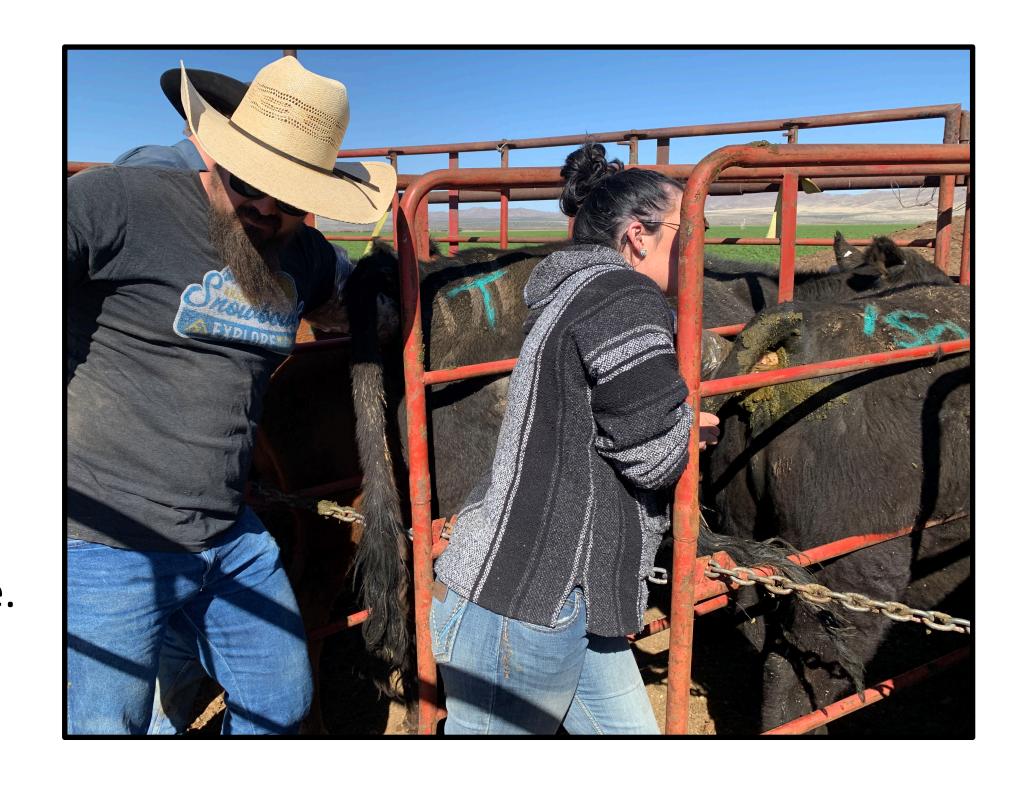Tracy Drummond-Catron County, Sidney Gordon-Otero County

Situation

Cattle producers make critical business and herd management decisions based on the breed back of their cattle. This pregnancy diagnosis program helps in deciding between keeping or culling a cow, or when a cow will calve. Many ranchers will call in a vet or a certified individual to pre-check all their cattle for a fee. Unfortunately, there are limitations for certified individuals to do this because of a lack of large animal vets and very rural communities.
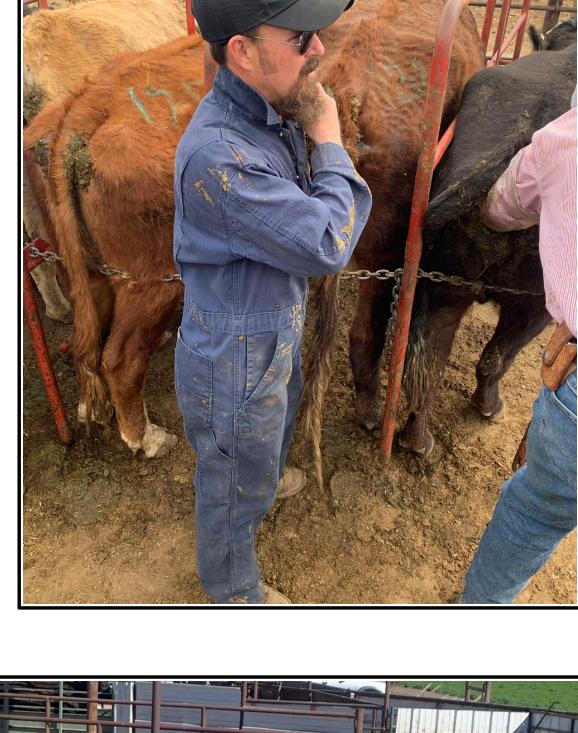
This program serves as a ranch awareness course, to provide knowledge and skills for ranchers, foremen, and cowboys to diagnose pregnancy stages themselves. After this course, participants will have the ability to identify an open cow vs a bred cow.

Extension's Response

This program encouraged many hands-on opportunities as well as lecture-setting lessons

- Lectures on "Importance of Pregnancy Diagnosis", "Importance of Vaccination in your Operation", "Introduction of Female Anatomy", and "Pregnancy Diagnosis Methods"
- Handling, understanding, and identifying female anatomy with reproductive tracts
- Watch and practice with ultrasound and blood test
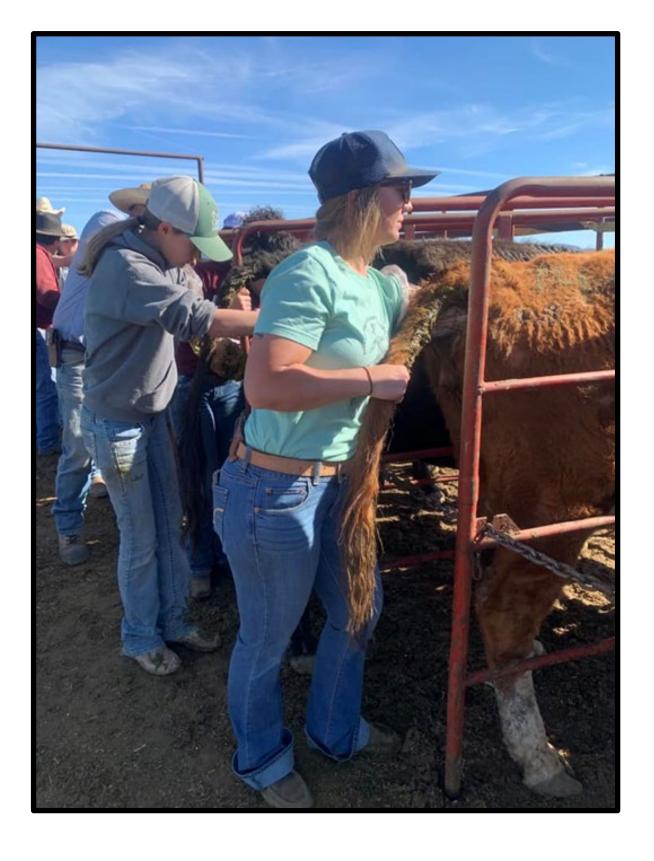- Opportunity to palpate 100 head of cattle as cows that are open, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trimester

Results of Program

After the program, participants were given an evaluation. The results are as follows:

- 100% of participants reported that they acquired skills and knowledge to help increase their efficiency, enhance profitability, or increase quality of life
- 100% of participants reported that they acquired skills to start or enhance their pregnancy diagnoses in their cattle operation
- 86% of the participants reported that they were likely to execute pregnancy diagnoses in their operation
- 80% of those reported that they strongly agree with enhancing knowledge and skills

Long Term Impacts

A survey was given to participants were given out a year after the program. The results are as follows:

- 80% reported that they had practiced diagnosing cattle pregnancies over the last 12 months
- 75% of respondents reported that they determined to be 71% and higher to diagnose all stages of pregnancy
- 100% reported that they would plan to diagnose pregnancies in the future
- 100% reported that the pregnancy diagnosis program was helpful to their operation

Contact Us

Hidalgo County Cooperative Extension

575-542-9291, hidalgo@nmsu.edu