

Hands-on Beef Cattle Welfare

ISBCW offers hands-on workshop to start symposium.

Story & photos by *Kasey Brown*, associate editor



The 4th International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare offered an extensive hands-on workshop to begin the three-day symposium. The workshop was housed at the Jeff & Deb Hansen Agricultural Student Learning Center on the Iowa State University campus in Ames July 16.

The hands-on sessions began with a demonstration from Dee Griffin, veterinarian at the University of Nebraska Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center, on creating a pole syringe to administer medication to a calf in a trailer, creating an applicator for meloxicam and demonstrating rope techniques that won't hurt the animals you are restraining.

► **Left:** Dee Griffin explained that both a meloxicam applicator and a pole syringe could be made at home with affordable materials.



► Tom Noffsinger demonstrated working cattle with low-stress methods through a handling facility, chute and Bud Box.



► **Left:** The Iowa State Jeff & Deb Hansen Agricultural Student Learning Center had ample room for hands-on stations for participants of the 4th International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare.

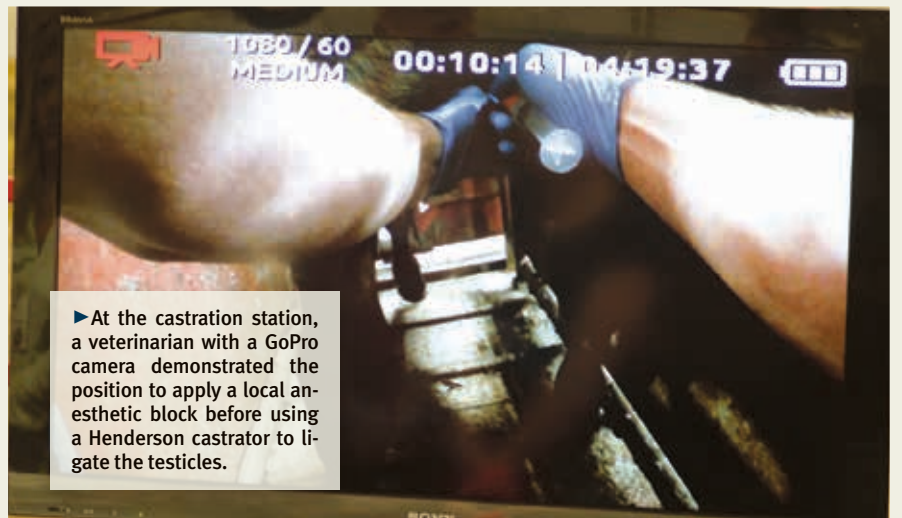
► **Below:** Griffin presented several knots that can be used on the ranch to restrain animals without hurting them.

“We have a responsibility to provide cattle with physical comfort, disease protection, nutritional needs and emotional stability,” said veterinarian Tom Noffsinger, who demonstrated low-stress handling. “Veterinarians understand that physical and psychological stress play important roles in cattle disease resistance and performance levels.

“Caretakers can be trained to realize that all human contact with cattle impacts

animal well-being,” he continues. “Human contact can create a very positive impact or can create an impact that can devastate cattle health, performance, and cattle and human safety.”

Stations included pain mitigation for castration and dehorning, creation of a meloxicam applicator, and humane euthanasia with captive bolt. There were also stations with information on Beef Quality Assurance, air prods and a pole syringe.



► At the castration station, a veterinarian with a GoPro camera demonstrated the position to apply a local anesthetic block before using a Henderson castrator to ligate the testicles.

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► **Left:** The Henderson castrator can be attached to a handheld drill and serves as a quick, bloodless castrator.

► **Below:** Attendees could dissect a scrotum to understand where to apply the local anesthetic.



► **Above:** An air prod was available for test use instead of a hot prod. The prod emits a noise and the end vibrates instead of producing an electric shock.

► **Right:** The Iowa Beef Industry Council provided literature on beef cattle welfare.





► **Left:** Griffin explained how to find the correct location to inject local anesthetic to mitigate dehorning pain.

► **Below:** Beef Quality Assurance information, including when to replace needles, was on display.



► **Above, below and lower right:** Attendees could make their own meloxicam applicator, using knots taught by Griffin.

