

Preface

Stocker Cattle Management



Mark F. Spire, DVM, MS



Robert A. Smith, DVM, MS

Guest Editors

The stocker/backgrounder operation plays a significant role in the cattle industry. It provides a transition in a calf's life from its place of birth to placement in a confined feeding operation. To compete successfully in this segment of the industry, a producer must understand forage management, economics, animal husbandry, and animal health issues. For veterinarians to provide beneficial service to this segment of the industry, they must be well versed in all aspects of stocker management.

We have asked the contributors to this issue to provide veterinarians information concerning the most recent advances in the art and science of managing a stocker operation. These authors are experts in their fields. We are indebted to them for providing sound science and years of experience to readers over a broad range of topics—from procurement, transportation, economics, forage and range management to health programs and record analysis. They have committed a significant amount of time to this effort. We truly thank them for their fine work.

We hope readers find the information timely, practical, and well adapted to their efforts to support an important segment of cattle industry. On

behalf of the entire Elsevier publishing team, particularly John Vassallo for shepherding this project, we hope you enjoy the final product.

Mark F. Spire, DVM, MS
*Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology
College of Veterinary Medicine
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506, USA*

E-mail address: Mark.spire@spcorp.com

Robert A. Smith, DVM, MS
*Veterinary Research and Consulting Services, LLC
3404 Live Oak Lane
Stillwater, OK 74075, USA*

E-mail address: cowdr@sbcglobal.net