

## Acclimating Cattle into Feedlot

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## Acknowledge

- Renee Dewell
- Tom Noffsinger
- Suzanne Millman
- Becky Parsons



United States  
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## Acclimation

- Train cattle
- Herd
- Initiators



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## Acclimation

### Desensitize

- New environment
  - Pen
  - Feed
- New people
- New experience
  - Feed truck
  - Processing

### Social Behavior

- Lost herd structure
  - Cow herd
  - Dam
  - Other calves
- New herd mates
- New Home

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## Methods and Materials

- Auction market, commercial feedyard
- Conventional, Acclimated groups
- Acclimated 3 times over a 10-day period, 2x prior and 1x after initial processing
- 3 sentinel calves from each pen for serum measurements

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## Acclimation

- Day 1
  - Form group
  - Move around pen
- Day 2
  - Form group, walk past person
  - Walk through processing barn
- Day 3
  - Processed
- Day 4 or 5
  - Move around pen as group

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## Results

### Control Calves



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## Results

### Acclimated Calves



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## Behavior Scoring

- Chute Behavior
  1. Calm with no movement
  2. Restless shifting movement between processing events
  3. Frequent, continuous contact with chute
  4. Violent struggling

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## Behavior Scoring

- Exit Behavior
  1. Calm walking or trotting
  2. Run or jump out of chute
  3. Freezing, may need encouragement to exit

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## Calm in Chute / Walk-Trot Exit

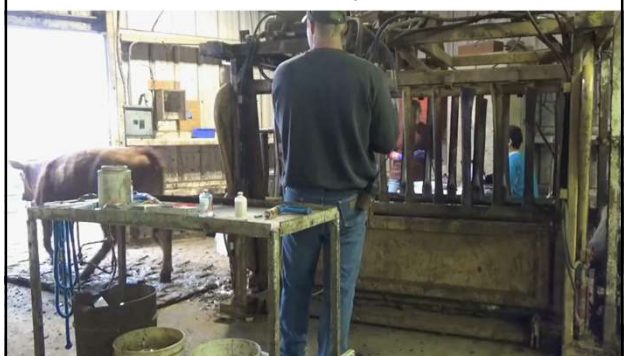


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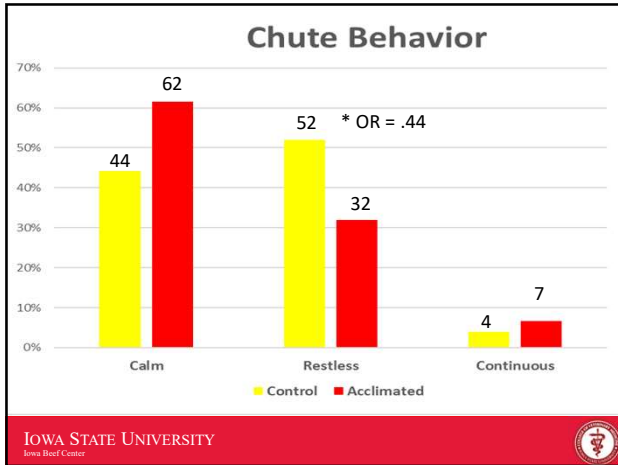
## Restless in Chute / Freeze Exit



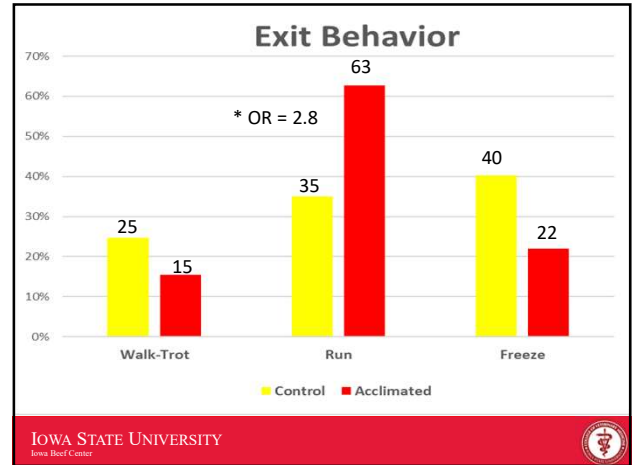
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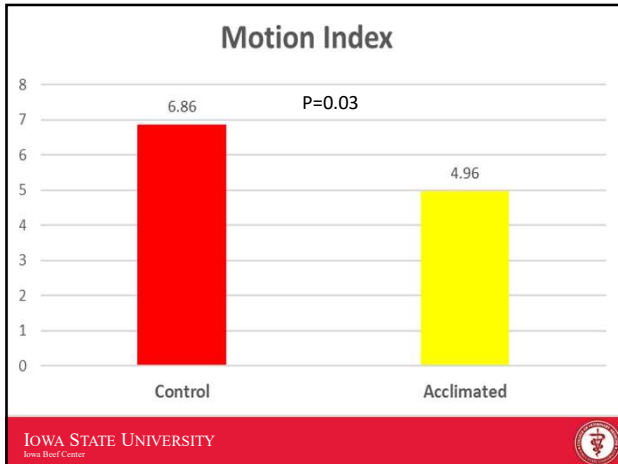
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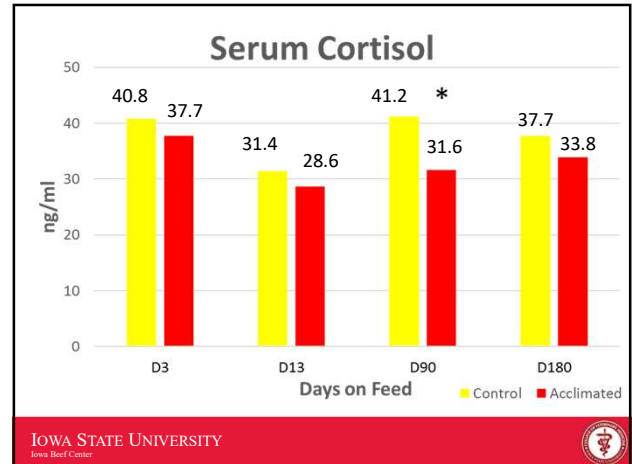
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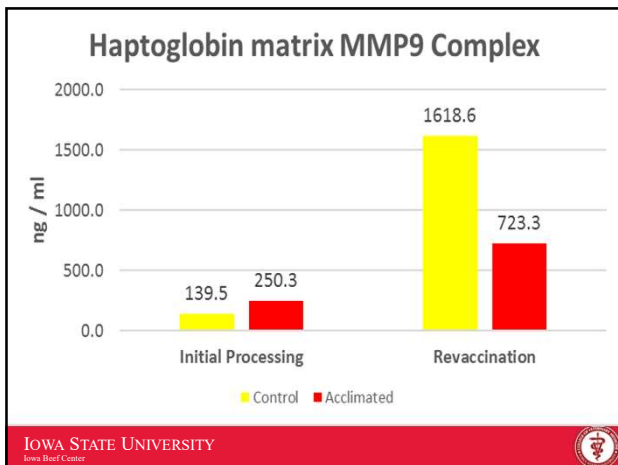
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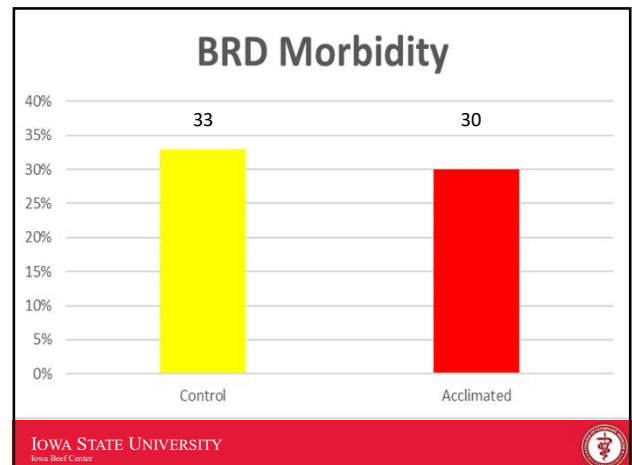
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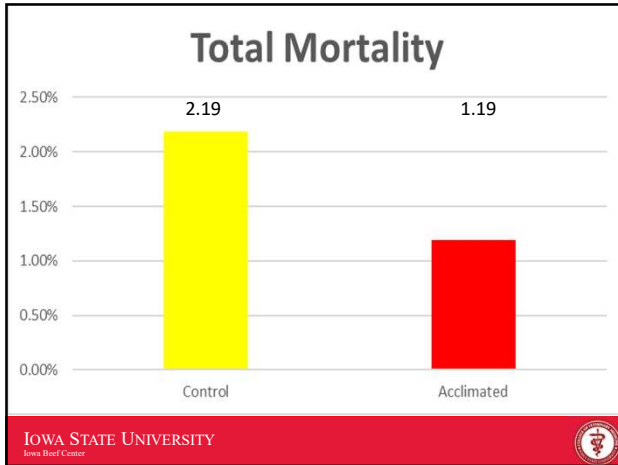
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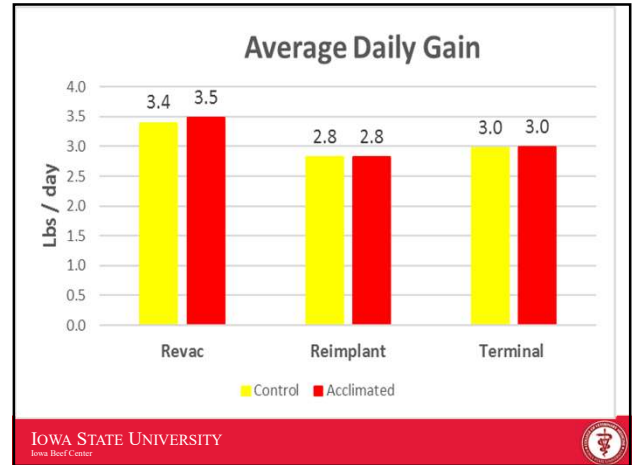
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### Methods and Materials

- Single source Florida
- 14 pens
- Conventional, Acclimated groups
- Acclimated 3 times over a 10-day period, 2x prior, no trip through processing barn and 1x after initial processing

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### Health

	Conventional	Acclimated	p-value
Respiratory Morbidity	17.5 %	14.9 %	0.13
Total Morbidity	19.4 %	16.3 %	0.08
Respiratory Mortality	0.11 %	0.0 %	0.24
Total Mortality	1.09 %	0.11 %	<0.05

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### Conclusion

- Acclimation Improves
  - Behavior
  - Stress cortisol
  - Inflammatory response
  - Mortality

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