**Feedlot Veterinarian Reflects on Career**

The agriculture industry is one lacking not only veterinarians, but leaders of all kinds. With most rural veterinarians being stretched across counties, it is getting harder and harder to find and keep good vets around. Beef Marking Group is extremely fortunate to work with a man who is not only an amazing veterinarian, but a leader.

Dr. Nels Lindberg attended vet school at the University of Kansas and started his career in 2005. He is versatile, proficient, and a skillful man of many talents. Lindberg is not only a veterinarian, but a public speaker, father, husband, and entrepreneur. Spending the majority of his childhood in Lewis, Kansas, Dr. Lindberg now lives and works in Great Bend, Kansas. With a passion for people, life and animal health, Lindberg said he has made a life for himself doing what he loves, caring for livestock and teaching others how to properly do so. One of the many ways he does this is through public speaking.

Earlier in his career, as Lindberg was growing as an individual, his speeches on animal health slowly transitioned to encompass leadership.

“I was consulting feed yards and realizing not only were there problems animal health related, but I could see there were a number of people challenges that these managers would have to deal with,” Lindberg said.

Lindberg said he “began to tie his speeches on animal health into leadership.” This eventually evolved into him giving speeches over the topic of leadership and how to be a leader within your job force.

Now an active member and part owner of Production Animal Consultation, Lindberg is constantly in contact with new yards and new people. From a veterinary perspective, Lindberg said he is able to tie in the science that goes into these animals with the leadership it takes to make these yards run smoothly and efficiently.

“We consult feed yards from a veterinary perspective across the board on animal health, data, research, cattle handling, cattle stewardship, horsemanship, stockmanship, facility design, and of course from my aspect the leadership development within these feed yards,” he said.

Since 2005, Dr. Lindberg has worked with BMG to train cattle doctors, offer new perspectives and care for animals.

“On a daily basis, I’m a feed yard consultant, and so my passions are feed yards, small business, [and] animal health,” Lindberg said. “I love to help these feed yards have the best health possible, through science, through decision making and through improving our people.”

Lindberg said working with BMG from the beginning of their Progressive Beef program allowed him to watch the program and company grow. Lindberg said he appreciates what BMG is trying to do-validating to the consumer that feed yards are doing what they say they are doing, which is putting animal care and animal health at the forefront of their operations.

“As veterinarians, we play a role in the training and education process of beef quality assurance,” Lindberg said. “We serve as a verification role within these yards to, again, make sure these crews are doing what they say we are doing in a humane and stewardship manner.”

Within BMG, Lindberg is spending time with cattle doctors every visit, making sure this goal of humane and ethical stewardship is achieved and communicated effectively. Helping these doctors evaluate animals and make disease diagnosis allows for more accurate prediction of how to treat and care for these animals. Lindberg said the software they use along with the training they receive allows these yards to uphold this humane treatment and ultimately the health of all animals within their yards.

“At the end of the day, [BMG] is trying to bring extreme clarity and transparency to the consumer on what we do every day, and that is an extremely difficult task to do,” Lindberg said. “They have evolved over the years into an organization that does it better than anybody I know.”

With the shortage of veterinarians graduating into the field of large animal medicine, it is hard to tell where the future of feed yards and veterinary practice lies, Lindberg said. Lindberg emphasized the need for rural veterinarians and students from these rural areas who want to return to this environment.

“We have a shortage because a number of these schools seem to want to take more out of state kids and more kids geared toward small animal medicine than ones designed to not only practice in rural America, but live in rural America,” Lindberg said.