In the beef industry, calves are sold at auctions for a wide range of prices, which becomes problematic for calf producers to obtain a consistent and predictable revenue. Understanding the important factors that influence calf sale price would allow farmers to make informed decisions about the best time to transport and sell their calves. A gap in the research we are hoping to fill is the influence of health score on the auction price of dairy cattle. The objective of this study is to determine if there is an association between calf health parameters (heart girth, navel, and attitude score) and auction price. Randomly selected calves (n=359) were medically examined, which included collecting navel and attitude scores as well as the heart girth measurement. Heart girth is the measurement around a calf’s chest cavity to determine the size of the calf. A previously validated calf health scorer from the University of Wisconsin was used, and auction prices were recorded. We hypothesize that calf prices will decrease as heart girth decreases and attitude and navel score increase. If actual results match our expected result, then we can make a positive correlation between attitude and navel scores of calves and auction price. In addition, we can make a negative correlation between heart girth and auction price. The implications of this study can allow farmers to only transport the calves that will profit the farmer based on the health score and heart girth of calves.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | Culture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments: Overall this is a solid study. I have made some edits to the abstract to help with the overall flow. The author could work a bit on writing more concisely – avoid repetitive statements. For example, the hypothesis and predicted results are the same just stated differently. Make sure words/phrases are defined clearly for a reader who is not in the field of study. Overall – good job!