



## Controlling Pesky Flies

As summer approaches, livestock producers should evaluate and select pasture fly control options available for their specific management system. There are three fly species in our area which could economically impact pastured livestock; the **horn fly**, **face fly** and **stable fly**.

Economic losses associated with **horn flies** are estimated at more than \$800 million annually in the US. Horn fly feeding causes irritation, blood loss, decreased grazing efficiency, reduced weight gains and a decline in milk production. Horn flies have also been implicated in spreading mastitis.

**Face flies** around the eyes causes eye tissue damage, which creates susceptible tissue for eye pathogens, and increases risk

of contracting pinkeye. Pinkeye is a highly contagious inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva of cattle. Controlling face flies is a key to reducing most pinkeye problems.

Historically, **stable flies** have been pests of feedlots and dairies but they are also serious pests of pasture cattle. The effect of the stable flies on weight gain performance is similar to that of livestock in a confined operation. Research conducted at the University of Nebraska utilizing yearling steers, recorded a reduction in avg daily gain of 0.44 lbs. per head with animals which did not receive an insecticide treatment compared to animals which received a treatment.

**Fly Control:** There are many chemical application methods available to reduce fly numbers; backrubbers, dust bags, insecticidal ear tags, pour-ons, oral larvicides, and sprays. Designing an effective fly control program will depend on efficacy, cost, convenience, and herd health management practices.

For more information on developing your own fly control program, contact our clinic today!



# Summer Pneumonia

## Can you prevent this disease in your operation?

One of the most frustrating things that can happen to a cow/calf producer is to have a set of healthy growing calves start developing pneumonia during mid-summer while the calves are still nursing the cow. With some operations, this is an annual event, while with others it only happens sporadically.

Summer time pneumonia generally happens when the passive immunity (antibodies) from the dam's colostrum naturally diminishes, and the calf's own immune system has not had any exposure to the viruses or bacteria that usually cause this pneumonia that would result in production of active immunity.

We know that the primary bacterial species involved in pneumonia are passed from the nasal cavity of the cow to the nasal cavity of the calf at a very early age. However, these bacteria rarely cause disease merely by being present – there usually has to be some sort of stressor that triggers the onset of pneumonia, such as a sudden cold rain, hail storm, extreme heat, dust, aggravation from massive fly populations or dry pasture conditions that suddenly cause their dams to drop in milk production, etc. Also, viruses such as IBR, BVD and BRSV, that are carried by some cows in the herd and shed intermittently (IBR, BRSV) or continually (persistently infected BVD carriers), can establish an infection once colostral antibodies wane in the calf. The presence of internal parasites can also weaken the calf's immune system, making it more susceptible to these pneumonia-causing organisms.

Whether summer pneumonia is experienced for the first time, or prevention efforts fail, early detection is critical to treatment success. There are many antibacterials that can be used to effectively treat the bacterial portion of the disease if treatment is initiated early enough. However, if sick calves are detected too late in the course of the disease, damage to the lungs may be so extensive that the calf becomes chronically affected or dies. With the heat of summer upon us, undetected pneumonia will usually progress much faster than pneumonia cases that arise during the cooler months.

Normally, most cow/calf producers expect everything to be on "cruise control" for the summer. The tendency may be to get a little lackadaisical. However, pneumonia in suckling calves is one disease problem that requires vigilance to keep from experiencing devastating losses during the summer months.



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## Did you know??

Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis, AKA pinkeye. It's common. It's highly infectious. It can cause discomfort and even blindness. And, it's probably impossible to totally eradicate. But, with the proper management techniques, you can help reduce its incidence—and your herd's risk.

### Pinkeye facts

- ✓ Pinkeye is most common during summer months
- ✓ Younger cattle seem to be more susceptible
- ✓ Can be a painful disease
- ✓ Can make cattle eat less
- ✓ Affected cattle squint or hold eyes shut
- ✓ Usually affects only one eye
- ✓ Ulcer begins near the central part of the cornea
- ✓ Ulcer may expand to occupy most of the cornea
- ✓ It may erode the entire thickness of the cornea
- ✓ It can cause edema, and "blue eye"
- ✓ It can rupture the eye, causing permanent blindness
- ✓ Recovery period varies; usually from 1-5 weeks
- ✓ Pinkeye results in high annual economic losses

### Pinkeye Risk Factors

- ✓ Dry dusty environment
- ✓ Sunlight
- ✓ Flies
- ✓ Lighter skin around the eyes
- ✓ Trace mineral deficiencies can compromise immunity

### Progression of Clinical Signs

- ✓ Excessive tearing
- ✓ Frequent blinking or squinting
- ✓ Decreased appetite due to pain
- ✓ Corneal ulceration and cloudiness
- ✓ Potential blindness or eye rupture

### Reduce Your Chances for a Pinkeye Outbreak

- ✓ Vaccinate before there's a problem
- ✓ Minimize the presence of flies
- ✓ Use disinfectants and disposable gloves when working pinkeye affected cattle
- ✓ Promote optimal health and immunity
- ✓ Provide mineral supplementation
- ✓ Reduce dust

# STAY CONNECTED!

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# Welcome Dr. Jared Jacobson D.V.M to Garver's Animal Health Center!

Garver's Animal Health Center is proud to announce that Jared Jacobson, D.V.M., will be joining their family of clinics as a Veterinarian, beginning June 30, 2014. Dr. Jacobson specializes in both Companion Animal and Large Animal veterinary medicine. He will begin seeing new patients on June 30, 2014. You may schedule an appointment by calling 641-932-3455.



Dr. Jared Jacobson

Dr. Jared Jacobson graduated with an Animal Science Bachelor's degree in 2009 and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University in 2013. He grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa where his family raised swine, cattle and sheep as well as grew corn and soybeans. He became interested in veterinary medicine while in 4-H at a young age. Growing up on a farm, Jared developed a special interest in beef cattle and swine medicine. He gained experience in swine medicine through two summer internships in Iowa and Minnesota. "While I love working with farm animals, I enjoy the variety of a mixed animal practice and the excitement that it brings," Jacobson said.

In June of 2012 Jared married Jessica Bernard and they currently live in Waterloo with their pets, dogs Jada and Dolly and cats Jersey and Bagheera. In his free time Jared likes to watch baseball, enjoy the outdoors and run with his wife and dogs. He will be moving to southeast Iowa shortly before he begins working for Garver's Animal Health Center in June.

"It is always gratifying to add another member to our veterinary staff, especially when they are from Iowa and are so passionate about veterinary medicine. Dr. Jacobson will make a nice addition to our team because he shares our philosophy of treating patients. We treat every animal like it is our own, and look forward to introducing you to Dr. Jacobson" clinic owner Matthew C. Garver, DVM said.



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