

How Pink EYE Affects Cattle



The pinkeye infection occurs in the eyes and nasal cavities of infected cattle. Pinkeye secretions cause the eyes to become heavily swollen and ultimately make it difficult for cattle to open their eyes. Many animals are known to have spontaneously recovered from these stages, but the recovery rate is only 2% without any treatment.

Excessive weeping of the affected eye(s) and spots in the center of the cornea of the eye are major risks. If there are more spots eye-fluids may flow out, which may lead to permanent blindness.

Please contact your veterinarian for best treatment options.



Note from Veterinarian, Jacob Jacobson Learn More About the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

Have you used any antibiotic through mineral, creep feed or top dressed this year? Antibiotics delivered via feed, mineral or in ration, have long been used to treat or prevent many diseases common in cattle production. However, beginning January 1, 2017 there will be some big changes to the way feed grade antibiotics can be used, which will be regulated under the Veterinary Feed Directive.



What is a Veterinary Feed Directive?

A veterinary feed directive (VFD) has been in place since 1996 and was created to regulate antibiotic use. Currently the only antibiotic for beef cattle requiring a VFD is tilmicosin. Starting January 1, 2017 antibiotics that are determined to be medically important will require a VFD. These include, tetracyclines, neomycin, tylosin and tilmicosin. A veterinarian must write a VFD, similar to a prescription, which is then given to the feed mill who will provide the medicated feed. The owner, veterinarian and feed mill must save records for two years. In order for a veterinarian to legally write a VFD there must be a veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR). This means the veterinarian has been involved and is familiar with the clients operation within the last 12 months.

How Will This Affect Me?

Under the VFD requirements, extra-label usage of antibiotics provided through feed will be strictly prohibited. Antibiotics prescribed under a VFD must follow the labeled dose, duration of use and indication for use. For example, Aureomycin will still be able to be used to prevent anaplasmosis as it is endemic to southeast Iowa, but only the labeled dose for anaplasmosis will be allowed. Other indications that Aureomycin is labeled for include, treatment and control of bacterial pneumonia caused by Pasteurella, treatment of bacterial enteritis (scours) caused by E. coli and reduction of liver condemnations due to liver abscesses. It is important to note that there are no pinkeye or foot rot claims for this product. Extra-label of Aureomycin is prohibited thus a VFD can not be prescribed for pinkeye or foot rot indications.

How to Prepare

Unfortunately, we will no longer have the crutch of antibiotics in certain scenarios and we will have to do a better job focusing on the basics. Better management practices to focus on include: improving biosecurity, sanitation, nutrition, low stress handling and utilizing vaccination protocols to help develop superior immunity and maintain calf health. This fall at the time of pregnancy checking or processing calves take time to speak with one of us to discuss any questions you have especially pertaining to the new VFD regulations.

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Different Types of Preg Checks

Veterinarians have several options for testing if your cow is pregnant, including palpation, ultrasound and a blood test. Each method has advantages and disadvantages and what you choose may depend upon your individual operation.



Palpation – Rectal palpation is the traditional method. Indications of pregnancy can be detected as early as 35 days – and definitely by 45 days – by feeling the uterus, ovaries and uterine arteries through the rectal wall.

Ultrasound – Ultrasound can detect pregnancy earlier than palpation, sometimes as early as 30 days after breeding (but more commonly after 21 days), but is more expensive and requires equipment and electricity.

Blood test – Several tests using progesterone measurements in blood and milk have been developed to confirm pregnancy.

Contact us to schedule a preg check today!

Common Signs of Scour

- Watery stools that may be brown, grey, green, yellow in color. Occasionally blood and mucus may be evident in the stools.
- Calves are often weak and depressed, and may lose their desire to nurse.
- Calves develop a sunken-eyed appearance as a result of dehydration.
- Calves may stagger or sway as they walk; this often reflects weakness, low blood sugar concentrations, and/or alteration of the acid-base balance of their bodily fluids.
- Calves become too weak to stand. Left untreated, death typically occurs within 24 hours.
- Depending on the cause(s) and the severity of the infection, a case of scours in a calf can last 1-2 days or as long as 2 weeks.

If you suspect your calf has scour, contact us today! Something you should notice is a decreased weight of gain to weaning. Some types of scours can be prevented by vaccinating your cows.

STAY CONNECTED!



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