

Topic of the Month

Pink Eye

Pink Eye in cattle is caused by a bacterium called *Moraxella Bovis*. This bacteria is contagious, meaning it spread directly from cow to cow. The method of spread is primarily by flies, but it can occur with inanimate objects like hay. The bacteria infect the animal's cornea and cause the immune system to react. In the process of trying to clear the infection, the immune system damages the cornea causing the damage we are all familiar with like corneal ulcer and tearing.

Pink eye can be controlled with a few management practices. We are in the peak of pink eye season, so this is the time to act. First, animals grazing pastures with grass in head can irritate their cornea allowing easier access for the bacteria to cause infection. **Clip pastures if the grass is in head.** Second, since flies are the primary mode of spread of the bacteria from one animal to another, fly control is imperative to control pink eye. **Control Flies.** Third, ultraviolet light from sunlight can cause irritation to the cornea making infection easier. Providing shade will reduce this risk. **Provide shade.**

Vaccination has been tried with variable success. There are perhaps hundreds of strains of the bacteria that cause Pink Eye and vaccination with one strain does not provide cross protection against the others. If you are fortunate to have the strain on your farm that is represented in the vaccine, it will be effective. If not, you will see no protection. But the only way to know is to try.

Treatment is best with systemic antibiotics like Oxytetracycline (Agrimycin or LA 200.) There are other effective treatments like injecting eyes. If you have animals suffering from pink eye, call for an evaluation.

Practice News

- Dr. David Welch will officially retire from White Oak Veterinary Clinic. If you have questions relating to your medical records where he was involved, please contact us for follow-up. If there are questions about ongoing diagnostic efforts or interpreting diagnostic tests, involving Dr. Welch, you can call the office and leave a message so that he can get back to you. Our goal is that diagnostic efforts and communication continue smoothly. We wish Dr. Welch abundant happiness in his retirement and success in his future endeavors.
- White Oak Veterinary Clinic is also excited to announce that we will be adding a member to our team. Dr. John McCormack will be joining us later this summer. Dr. McCormack's background includes veterinary school in Ireland, with several years of intensive clinical experience there following his graduation.
- We extend our congratulations to McWilliams Farm as they celebrate 30 years of dairy farming in Somerset County.

In The News

Last month, a merger was announced between Select Sires Inc., and Accelerated Genetics. According to the dairysite.com, "This impending endeavor will create a well-rounded genetics program and solution-based animal health care product line that will fit the needs of dairy and beef producers worldwide. Producers can expect to continue working with highly qualified, passionate individuals, who know and understand the cattle breeding industry."

Commodity Futures

Prices

As Of June 30, 2017

Corn	\$3.845/bu
Soybean Meal	\$316.70/ton
Milk (July)	\$15.72/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$116.30/cwt

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- The Somerset County 4H Dairy Show will be held Thursday, July 6, followed by the Black and White Show on Friday, July 7.
- The 117th Annual Somerset County Fair will be held August 19-26, 2017.