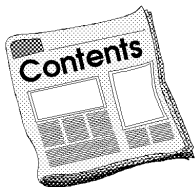


## SISKIYOU STOCKMAN

What's New in the "Top of the State". A report for Siskiyou Livestock Producers put out by the Farm Advisors Office, Cooperative Extension of the University of California, located at 1655 South Main Street, Yreka, California 96097

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### Calendar

Aug 7 - 11	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka
Aug 22	Annual Cattle Tour, Butte Valley
Sept 4 - 8	Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair, Tulelake

### PINKEYE THERAPY

Last month we discussed fly control methods. One of the important aspects of fly control is decreasing face fly infestations as a method of helping to prevent pinkeye in cattle. Another aid in the prevention of pinkeye is to clip the pastures if grass is too long and headed out. This will decrease much of the irritation to the cattle's eyes that can initiate the beginnings of a pinkeye outbreak. The irritation of dust, plant pollen, or weed seeds will promote the heavy shedding of the pinkeye bacteria (*Moraxella bovis*) by a few "carrier cows" in the herd. These carriers spread the organism by contact and face flies to the rest of the herd and the susceptible animals will become infected and have clinical pinkeye.

*If pinkeye cases do occur, what are the treatment options?* One of the professors in the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis has completed several years of research on this subject. Dr. Lisle George has examined several methods to treat pinkeye and these and other methods are summarized below.

First, if you are going to examine the eye for a foxtail or other weed—use disposable latex exam gloves. You can obtain these from your veterinarian or other animal health product source. After you have touched the eye (extracted the foxtail or treated the eye) or nose area, throw the gloves away. They are badly contaminated with the pinkeye bacteria. If you used a halter or nose tongs to restrain the animal, disinfect this equipment. Nolvasan®

disinfectant is a good choice for this procedure. Use disposable needles and syringes for any treatments.

The pinkeye agent is a bacterium and therefore, antibiotics are indicated for treatment. The question has been, "Which antibiotic, what dose, what route?" The best two treatments are as follows:

1. Long-acting tetracycline (Biomycin® or LA-200®)

Dose: 20 mg/kg body weight (9 mg/lb.)  
Route: intramuscularly or subcutaneous (these products are irritating to tissues and should be given sub-Q whenever possible) both are labeled for sub-Q use.  
Frequency: Two injections 48 to 72 hours apart.

2 NuFlor® (florfenicol)

Dose: 20 mg/kg body weight (9 mg/lb.)  
Route: Intramuscularly  
Frequency: two injections 24 hours apart

3. Alternatively, NuFlor® can be used as single injection for longer action.

Dose: 40 mg/kg body weight (18 mg/lb.)  
Route: Subcutaneous  
Frequency: one treatment

NOTE: If the tetracycline product is not labeled for pinkeye, you must obtain a prescription from your veterinarian, as this constitutes an extra label use of this product. Also, NuFlor® is not currently labeled for pinkeye and you must have your veterinarian's prescription to use this drug for pinkeye in cattle.

Both of these treatments work very well. Continued use of tetracyclines in areas with high numbers of anaplasmosis cases can make the cattle susceptible to sickness due to anaplasmosis. Consult with your veterinarian regarding this potential problem.

Another treatment option is to give Penicillin as an injection under the white part of the eyeball (the sclera). If you are not expert in this method, have your veterinarian train you on the proper way to administer this treatment. Do not attempt this method without training. To achieve good results, give 1 ml (1 cc) under the sclera of both eyes for at least 3 days. This method achieves good results; but is less effective than the use of oxytetracyclines or NuFlor®. Again, you will need your veterinarian's prescription for the use of penicillin if it is not labeled for use in pinkeye.

For many years Furox sprays or powders (Nitrofurazone, Furox®, Topazone®, NFZ Puffer, P.E. 7, etc.) placed into the eye were used for the treatment of pinkeye. This method was not as effective as the above methods. However, beginning on May 1, 2002 this treatment became illegal for cattle. This is irrespective of whether you have a prescription or not. Do not use the furacin-type drugs in cattle more.

Still available for pinkeye treatment is the Gentocin® Pinkeye spray. This product is sprayed into the eye to help kill the *Moraxella* organism. As with all treatments that are placed directly into the eye, proper restraint is necessary and the use of disposable latex gloves is recommended. Remember that material placed into the eye only stays there a few minutes before the tears wash it out.

For many years, treatment with dexamethasone (Azium®) has been popular. Research indicates that when this is given under the sclera, there is no difference in the rate of healing. Therefore, use of this product is not usually recommended.

Keep written records of treatments and results. Discuss these with your veterinarian as you reevaluate pinkeye prevention and treatment plans for the future. Also, if your cattle are copper deficient or selenium deficient, the number of Pinkeye cases will be greater and the severity will be worse. Be sure your mineral program is

working, as this is important in the animal's

immune response to this bacterial pathogen. Originally prepared by John Maas, D.V.M., M.S., Diplomate, ACVN & ACVIM, Extension Veterinarian, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

Siskiyou County is selenium deficient for cattle. The only areas that I have personally sampled and found adequate were on the east side of the county on lakebed type soils, all other un-supplemented cattle have been deficient. If you are not supplementing with selenium at more than 20 ppm your cattle are likely selenium deficient. If you aren't sure, check with your veterinarian. Supplements may be injection, salt mixes or rumen-resident boluses.

The likelihood of copper deficiency in the county is half of selenium, based on research sampling. About half of all cattle will be copper deficient. Copper is most easily supplemented with fortified salt mixes or rumen boluses.

**Grazing Management**

With improved water supply compared to last year, many producers are not in as precarious situation for forage and hay. Moving beyond crisis management, this year presents an ideal opportunity to adopt new grazing management practices. Many people have evolved grazing practices that go beyond set stocking where a fixed number of cattle are placed for the season on a pasture. Most of these programs involve a "put-and-take" of cattle on and off the pasture. These programs often are better at providing adequate amounts of forage for cattle. However, they sometimes are not ideal for plant management. There is no recipe but ideal grazing programs try to optimize plant and animal needs to maximize grazing.

Intensive grazing programs in the Siskiyou County area generally recognize a need for about 25 days rest for grass plants between grazing. Different climates and grass species will have different requirements. Research and observation has shown that adjusting paddock size and number of cattle so the grass that is ready for harvesting is consumed in about 3 to 4

days is a good compromise. Depending on the amount of forage present, usually about 10,000 to 20,000 pounds or more of cattle are placed on a paddock for about 3 to 4 days. To achieve the desired rest between grazing, about 8 paddocks are needed. Cattle are on 7 paddocks for 3 to 4 days each, allowing 21 plus days of rest before re-grazing a paddock. Improvements vary, but often increases of 50 percent or more are observed. Pastures that traditionally carried 1 1/4 pairs for the summer will handle nearly 2 pairs. Usually the single biggest challenge is providing stock water for drinking. The cattle quickly learn to move through the gates to new feed, requiring frequent but small amounts of time to move cattle. Subdivision of pastures is usually accomplished with single wire electric fences. All but the most electric-loving cattle learn to respect the fences, even though they are only a psychological barrier.

Every site is different so general principals have to be adapted for the location. However, most producers have found that small changes in grazing management can pay big dividends. Check with me for specific details.

This is your copy of the Siskiyou Stockman, which you requested, or which we thought would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,



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