



## 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*

June 2006



- Branded Beef
- Premise IDs
- Fly Control
- Prepare now for Spring 2007 feed
- Potpourri
  - Cattle conformation
  - Fertilizing
  - Bedding for steers

### Calendar

August 9-13	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka, CA
August	Cattle Tour, Shasta Valley. Specific date to be determined.
Sept 6-10	Butte Valley/Tulelake Fair, Tulelake, CA

### Question: Do you think there will be more branded beef in the future?

If your answer is yes, then ask yourself what is needed to satisfy most branded beef products. The answer is usually some type of specification. And, those specifications are usually met by records of production; how it was produced. For example the quality grade doesn't matter, what does matter is that the cattle were fed diets high in grain for at least 90 days. If fed like Choice, they will eat like they are Choice grading. So, the records and production practice of feeding a high grain ration for at least 90 days is the important point.

Whatever the specific branded product promotes or guarantees is the practice that must be reliably and accurately proven. Typically these factors are not ones that can be inspected. "No antibiotics" are established by records.

"Red books" are a method to collect and verify some production practices. For many circumstances they are adequate records, at least for today. But increased accuracy and accessibility of the records will probably be needed in the future. These demands will probably be tied to individual electronic animal identification.

If you think branded or specified production may be important in the future there are some steps listed below that you can take today.

### Branded Beef

- A) Obtain a premise ID number. This will allow you to use, at any time in the future, electronic animal identification. You don't have to immediately start, but the premise ID is the first step.
- B) Consider electronic ear tags for replacement heifers. In a few years the entire herd would be tagged but the buy-in isn't too much each year.
- C) Prepare written instructions or guidelines on how you vaccinate/treat sick cattle, and types of feeds being used.
- D) Prepare written guidelines on how you bring new cattle into the herd. Are they tested for any diseases, what is their source, and are they kept separate for some period of time?
- E) Use "Red books" or computer applications to record what you actually do, and to whom (ID needed).
- F) Be prepared to tell sellers of your practices, and work to obtain premiums for your practices and your records to verify those practices.

### Premise IDs

Some producers are finding electronic identification (EID) can help verify age and source, potentially bringing more dollars. The first step in animal identification is premise identification. Over 2,000 California producers have premise ID numbers. Information about premise ID numbers can be found at [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/id\\_info.htm](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/id_info.htm). Obtaining a premise ID does not mean you have to start using EID or start identifying cattle individually. It does help get you ready to do that, and may be requested by some buyers. It is voluntary.

Premise ID numbers can be obtained by completing a form and mailing it to the

California Department of Food and Agriculture. Forms can be printed from the web at: [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/pdfs/animal\\_id\\_entification\\_CA\\_premid\\_form08-05.pdf](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/pdfs/animal_id_entification_CA_premid_form08-05.pdf).

Premise ID numbers can also be obtained directly over the web at: <http://www.californiaid.org/>.

### Fly Control

Cattle pests such as flies affect cattlemen by increasing treatment costs, lost production, irritation to the cattle, and the diseases they can transmit. Fly infestations cost the U.S. cattle industries more than \$1.6 billion yearly. Horn flies alone cost cattle producers \$876 million a year. Horn flies are very stressful to cattle because they take 24 to 38 blood meals per day—per fly! California cattlemen report that face flies are the worst pests, followed by horn flies and stable flies.

Face flies, in addition to producing eye irritation due to their feeding behavior, serve as mechanical carriers of the causative agent of Pinkeye in cattle (infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis [IBK] caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*). Pinkeye consistently ranks as one of the top five most costly diseases in California beef cattle. Feeding by horn flies, stable flies, horse flies, and other bloodsucking flies mechanically transmits several disease organisms as well as causing irritation and decreased weight gains. Both face flies and horn flies develop resistance to insecticides over time. For maximum prevention, it is advisable to switch the class of drug you use each year or two. If you used an organophosphate ear tag last year, use a pyrethroid ear tag this year. Additionally, if you plan to use a pyrethroid ear tag this year, use an organophosphate spray this year. Alternating the classes of drugs in this manner will increase the success of your preventative program. It is also recommended that application of ear tags be delayed until the fly population is relatively high so that the possibility of the flies

developing resistance this year is lowered. Sprays, back rubbers, face rubbers, and dust bags can be helpful in reducing the fly populations early in the season, before ear tag application. Then, as the fly populations increase, apply the fresh ear tags to achieve maximum benefit. Always follow the manufacturer's label directions for ear tag application. If they call for two ear tags--use two ear tags! If you need ear tags to prevent Pinkeye in the calves--use the tags in the calves. In the fall always remove the ear tags. If the ear tags are left in the cattle over the winter, the flies (particularly the face flies) will develop resistance to the drug you used and it will no longer be as effective.

Face flies and horn flies lay their eggs in cow manure and the larvae can only develop in cow manure. Therefore, some of the compounds that are fed or given orally that kill the larvae in the manure can be very effective. One example of this is the insect growth regulator methoprene. This compound is an insect growth regulator (IGR), which is safe, and resistance does not develop to this product. It can be used in "feed-through" products, where the drug passes through the manure unchanged and kills the fly larvae in the manure. Other insecticide products are available that can kill the fly larvae when used as a "feed-through", such as Rabon. Rabon is an organophosphate and resistance can develop to this compound. Some of the eartags now contain a compound that increases the effectiveness of the insecticide. One of these compounds is piperonyl butoxide (PBO) and it increases the activity of the primary insecticide in the ear tag. You may notice that a few of the products available last year are no longer on the market in California.

- 1 Plan ahead for insecticide and ear tag purchases; fly season will arrive.
- 2 Consult with your veterinarian regarding active ingredient(s) in these products and their record of effectiveness in your area.
- 3 Always follow instructions, warnings, and precautions: these products can be toxic to you, your children, pets, and others working with them around the chute. Use disposable latex gloves when handling the ear tags. Keep the donuts and coffee away from the tags!

Follow label withdrawal times and keep records of treatment dates, products and lot numbers.

*Please Note, the active ingredients (listed in the table on the following page) are available under a number of brand names and those listed are examples only and not specific endorsements or recommendations.*

**ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

**IMPORTANT DETAILS TO  
REMEMBER FOR FLY CONTROL  
AND PESTICIDE USE ARE:**

## CALIFORNIA REGISTERED PESTICIDES FOR CATTLE: 2006

### EAR TAGS

<b>PRODUCT NAME</b>	<b>ACTIVE INGREDIENT</b>	<b>CHEMICAL CLASS</b>	<b>MANUFACTURER</b>
Co-Ral Plus	Diazinon+Coumaphos	Organophosphate	Bayer
Cylence Ultra	beta-Cyfluthrin	Pyrethroid+PBO	Bayer
<b>Diaphos R<sub>x</sub> *</b>	Diazinon+Chlorpyrifos	Organophosphate	Y-TEX
Double Barrel	Cyhalothrin+Pirimiphos	Organophosphate	Schering-Plough
Dominator	Pirimiphos	Organophosphate	Schering-Plough
GardStar Plus	Permethrin	Pyrethroid	Y-TEX
Max-Con	Cypermethrin+Chlorpyrifos	Pyrethroid+Organophosphate	Y-TEX
New Z Diazinon	Diazinon	Organophosphate+PBO	Farnam
New Z Permethrin	Permethrin	Pyrethroid	Farnam
Patriot	Diazinon	Organophosphate	Boehringer-Ingelheim
OPTimizer	Diazinon	Organophosphate	Y-TEX
Python & Python Magnum	Zeta-cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	Y-TEX
Saber Extra	Cyhalothrin	Organophosphate	Schering-Plough
Super Deckem II	Permethrin	Pyrethroid	Destron-Fearing
Warrior	Diazinon+Chlorpyrifos	Organophosphate	Y-TEX
<b>Zeta Gard*</b>	Zeta-cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	Y-TEX

**\*Available only through a licensed veterinarian.**

### SPRAYS

<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Example Brand Names</u>
Dichlorvos	Vapona
Permethrin	Ectiban, Permethrin, Atroban, Permethrin, Insectrin
Tetrachlorvinphos	Rabon
Tetrachlorvinphos-Dichlorvos	Ravap

### POUR-ON APPLICATIONS

<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Example Brand Names</u>
Cyfluthrin	Cylence
Fenthion	Lysoff
Permethrin	DeLice, Expar, Hard Hitter, Ectiban, Atroban, Ultraboss
Cyhalothrin	Saber

### BACK RUBBERS AND FACE RUBBERS

<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Example Brand Names</u>
Permethrin	Ectiban, Insectrin
Tetrachlorvinphos-Dichlorvos	Ravap

### DUST BAGS

<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Example Brand Names</u>
Permethrin	Permethrin, Ectiban
Tetrachlorvinphos	Rabon dust
Zeta-cypermethrin	Python

### FEED-THROUGH INSECTICIDES

<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Example Brand Names</u>
Tetrachlorvinphos	Rabon oral larvicide
Methoprene	IGR Mineral, Starbar

## Prepare now for Spring feed in 2007

It may seem too early to start thinking about spring feed next year, but probably the most economical, water efficient feed is to plant triticale or triticale plus annual rye in August or the first week in September at the latest for most of Siskiyou County. It should be in the ground by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August to get fall feed, spring 2007 feed and a hay crop in 2007. Planting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August will require a couple light irrigations, which may be possible for more people this year. The early planting and small irrigation will get the plants going early, so light grazing in October is possible.

Following a winter dormancy, grazing can start again in late March or early April. Then given a chance to regrow, hay can be cut. In some years the only irrigation might be the small irrigations in August. Other years may require one or two irrigations in the late Spring. Total production from all 3 periods has been nearly 10 tons of hay equivalent under grower conditions. If fall feed is not needed and spring feed to graze followed by a hay crop is sufficient, planting can be delayed until October to early November (the typical planting window for winter cereals).

Producers that have land with season long water and not in a permanent crop may want to consider planting triticale plus annual ryegrass (Bison variety for similar) in August. Field trials have shown that combination produces forage for grazing in October and in the Spring, that is mainly triticale. Then the annual ryegrass begins to become dominant and the field will yield similar or superior to an established fescue/clover field during the summer. However, instead of tailing-off in September with the cooler temperatures, the annual ryegrass will provide high quality pasture through October. Those pastures would be ideal for weaned calves. These options with annual ryegrass do require season long irrigation similar in amount to a fescue pasture.

## Potpourri

**Cattle conformation.** Call it the 3 bears syndrome. Recent research suggests that when we evaluate cattle for retention in the breeding herd, teat size and udder conformation can be too small and tight, or too large and big. The former condition is associated with reduced weaning weights, presumably due to reduced milk production. The latter females have excellent milk production but calves have difficulties obtaining the milk. In this case the best udders and teats might be not too small and not too big. When possible use genetics for milk production (maternal weaning wt EPD or milk EPD), otherwise seek middle ground, not too small, not too big.

**Fertilizing.** This might be a good year for a split application of nitrogen fertilizer for grass pasture and hayland. Most trials have shown an economical response even at today's higher fertilizer prices when growth is not limited by moisture. As a conservative, ballpark value, anyone using up to 65 to 75 lbs. of nitrogen (300 - 350 pounds of ammonium sulfate) in the spring should expect a response using another 50 to 75 lbs. of nitrogen (from ammonium sulfate or urea) applied after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It is best to apply the fertilizer right before irrigation.

**Bedding for steers?** A trial in North Dakota compared finishing steers in identical pens that had no bedding, modest (just enough so they didn't have to lie in snow) or double the modest amount. Performance and income benefited from the bedding. Daily gain: 2.8, 3.7, 3.5 lb/day, feed conversion: 7.6, 5.8 and 6.2 lb/lb, % Choice: 23, 45, 63, for no bedding, modest and 2x modest. Net return was \$61 and \$81 per head greater for modest and 2x modest bedding. Bedding cost was \$1.13, \$5.77 and \$10.15. We are learning that many processes such as marbling (grading) is progressive and starts long before finishing. Producers backgrounding weaned calves may want to consider these results, especially when feeding conditions suggest bedding might be helpful.

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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