

## Topic of the Month

### Pink Eye

Summer is upon us and with it will bring the return of pink eye. Here are a few things to consider:

Pink eye is a contagious bacterial infection of the cornea and is spread primarily by face flies. There are a few steps you can take to prevent severe outbreaks, but don't expect to eliminate the risk for infection in all of the cattle on your farm. That's probably an unrealistic goal.

Since the infection is spread by flies, fly control is of paramount importance. While a detailed discussion of fly control is beyond the scope of this newsletter, consider insecticide ear tags; pour on, insect growth regulators in the feed, fans to move air and even parasitic wasps. Whatever the method(s), if flies are reduced, so will your number of pink eye cases.

Control cornea damage. Knock down pasture grass that is in head and prevent "tunneling" in to round bales of hay that may cause micro trauma to the cornea. Microscopic scratches in the cornea allow the bacteria easy access to cause infection.

There are several vaccines available that are effective with if you are fortunate enough to pick the same strain that is on your farm. There is no practical way to know this, so it is usually a shot in the dark. Occasionally, the shot may hit its mark.

Effective treatment is best achieved by injectable antibiotics. Occasionally, we may want to inject an eye, but this is usually reserved for advanced cases that didn't respond to prior antibiotic therapy. Oxytetracycline (Agrimycin, LA-200) and Draxxin are both approved to treat pinkeye, although only oxytetracycline is approved in lactating dairy cows. Please consult one of us for other specific treatments if necessary.

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(July) as of May 31	\$6.62
Soybeans(July) as of May 31	\$15.10
Soybean meal(July) as of May 31	\$447.20
Cheese (May) as of May 31	\$1.83
Class III(May) as of May 31	\$18.51
Class III(June) as of May 31	\$17.78
Class III(July) as of May 31	\$18.39

## Practice News New Hours

- Beginning July 6, 2013, the office will no longer be staffed on Saturdays, but we will continue to make routine farm calls on Saturdays.
- On Saturdays, medicines can be arranged to be picked up at the office in the afternoon by calling the office and leaving a message.
- Emergency fees will continue to not be in effect until after 12:00 noon on Saturdays

## In The News

### Congressional battle over dairy policy is not over.

Craig Thomas, Michigan State University

Extension

From: Dairyherd.com

In mid-May 2013, both the Senate and House Agricultural Committees passed preliminary versions of the FARRM Act, commonly referred to as the farm bill. Both the Senate and House versions of the farm bill contained the Dairy Security Act (DSA) and rejected the Dairy Freedom Act (DFA) commonly referred to as the Goodlatte and Scott Dairy Amendment.

However, the fight over future farm bill dairy policy has not ended as supporters of the Goodlatte and Scott Amendment have the support of a rather broad coalition of over 150 organizations including food manufacturers, grocers, retailers, restaurants, dairy processors and even several key dairy farmer organizations.

To view the details of the DMSP please refer to the Congressional Research Service publication Dairy Proposals in the 2012 Farm Bill.

([http://www.nmpf.org/files/file/R42736\\_101812.pdf](http://www.nmpf.org/files/file/R42736_101812.pdf))

## Upcoming Events

Save the date: White Oak Veterinary Clinic's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open House will be held on July 11. Please look for more details to come.