



A NEWSLETTER OF DAKOTALAND FEEDS

Summer Management Considerations

It's been an odd summer with spotty, extremely heavy rains, flooding, and occasional cooler temperatures. Regardless of the weather, there are management practices that can still pay.

The grass has had plenty of moisture in most places, so the height of the forage means eye irritation in many cases. Pinkeye outbreaks are common in years when the forage is tall in both cows and calves. Pinkeye is one of the most difficult diseases for beef producers to manage. Unfortunately, there is not a highly effective, commercial vaccine for the disease. Some vaccines may help, but studies have mixed results.

Methods to reduce healing time include patching eyes and treating with antibiotics. Patches can help protect the eye from further irritation and damage. Antibiotics can reduce the growth of the bacteria causing disease, again reducing healing time. Active infections of pinkeye will show an ulcer or erosion of the outer layer of the eye, or cornea. As the eye heals, a scar will form and the surface of the eye will appear smooth again. Many times, this results in the eye having a white or 'blue' spot. After these spots form, the infection is no longer contagious.

Flies can contribute to pinkeye or other diseases during summer months. Feed-through fly control can be an effective method to reduce fly populations. Starting to feed a product like Altosid® or ClariFly® at this point in the summer will have some effect, but it will not be nearly as effective as starting at the beginning of the summer. These products need to be in the manure to stop the development of the fly larva and because of the life cycle of the fly, you won't see results for almost 2 weeks. With the wet areas this summer, ClariFly® (diflubenzuron) may be an option to consider on pastures because it controls stable flies which breed and reproduce in organic matter like small ponds or potholes. Sprays or rubs can also help knock down fly populations but care needs to be taken because flies can develop resistance to different pesticide products, yielding them ineffective in the future. The parasitic wasps are helpful for controlling flies in the feedlot setting.

Another potential issue to watch out for this summer is anaplasmosis, which can be spread by some biting flies and ticks. This disease showed up last summer and is likely to show up again. Aureomycin can be used for prevention and control of anaplasmosis. We can supply this through a mineral to the cows or creep feed for the calves. While anaplasmosis typically does not impact calves the way that it does older cows, it could potentially help the calves get through an immune challenge. Summer pneumonia in calves is the primary reason to use Aureomycin in creep feed, and it seems that we have some later summer pneumonia pop up nearly every year. With hotter days forecasted, that could easily trigger some health challenges.

If you have cow-calf pairs on grass, getting creep feed out for the calves this year is a home run. With creep feed prices being low in relation to cattle prices, now is the best time to creep feed. Our past trials have shown that we have very efficient conversions of less than 5:1 over 70 days on creep. At a price of \$320/T, it is \$0.80 to put on a pound of gain. With calf prices at over \$2.50 per pound, it makes sense to get as much weight on the calves on grass as possible. You can net over \$60/hd with 70 days on creep feed when the calves eat about 5 lb. per day. You can almost pay for a used creep feeder in a single year.

With current commodity prices, it could make sense to move to a limiter product like an Accuration®/corn mix. Having a limiter in the mix is important because it makes the calves eat smaller meals spread out over

In a Nutshell:

- **Pinkeye outbreaks may occur with tall forage**
- **Treating pinkeye can result in better outcomes**
- **Flies can be controlled with feed-through products**
- **Watch for anaplasmosis in pasture cattle**
- **Creep feeding makes a lot of money this year**
- **Calves can be switched to limiter mixes**

time that prevent the rumen pH from dropping too drastically. Smaller amounts of starch avoid the negative associative effect that can happen when calves consume too much starch on a high-forage diet. If calves are consuming over 1.5% of body weight in creep feed, it is likely time to either wean the calves or move to a limiter type product.

There is never a slow time of year, and it is easy to get behind when the to-do list gets longer every day. Management practices are worth more now than they have been for a long time because of the current cattle market. The cattle are worth a lot right now, so let's manage them well to maximize our profitability.

Roxanne Knock, PhD

What do you need to be thinking about this time of year?

- Get your creep feeders in shape to put out in pastures and ***get creep feed out for spring-born calves***
- Keep mineral in place for the cows on pasture
- Feed ***Altosid***® or ***ClariFly***® to control fly populations
- Get prepared for heat stress for cattle in the lots—shades, sprinklers, extra water tanks, etc.
- Ask about feeding Diamond V® XP Yeast for heat stress
- Get your feed storage area ready for silage season and get your inoculant lined up
- Watch for signs of anaplasmosis in your herd—older cows are typically more affected

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