

Introduction to Pinkeye

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure!

Three ways to help prevent pinkeye:

1. Reduce Eye Irritants
2. Control Face Flies & House Flies
3. Vaccinate

Reduce your cattle's exposure to potential eye irritants such as: wood, fiberglass splinters, sharp metal, dust and pollens.

Control flies by using: ear tags, sprays, back rubbers, face rubbers, dust bags, spot-ons, pour-ons or fly predators. For more information on fly control, contact your ANIMART Territory Manager or Inside Sales Representative.

Reduce the severity and number of pinkeye cases in your herd by vaccinating 30 days before the start of fly season. It is especially important to vaccinate younger animals.

For more information contact:
1.800.255.1181 | info@animart.com

Pinkeye is a common infectious disease affecting one or both eyes of cattle. Pinkeye is caused by an infectious virus known as *Moraxella bovis*. Infection typically lasts 4 to 8 weeks, but can last longer. As the eye heals, scar tissue will gradually disappear and vision will be restored. In severe cases, a white scar may persist and interfere with vision or result in permanent blindness. Pinkeye is spread by face flies and house flies feeding on secretions and then traveling from animal to animal or by direct rubbing of eye secretions between animals.

Symptoms of Pinkeye

Early Signs

- Redness and inflammation in the pink part of the eye
- Excessive tearing
- Eye may "close" due to pain and to avoid sunlight

Late Signs

- Cornea becomes cloudy or white and eroded or raised
- Circular spot develops near the center of the cornea

What is the cost?

Production loss

- Weight and milk production loss make cows less profitable until pain subsides and normal feeding habits resume
- An animal with both eyes affected has extreme difficulty finding feed and water unless restricted to a small pen by itself

What herd management techniques help prevent Pinkeye?

- Reduce initial eye irritations and limit sharp objects from traumatizing eye
- Establish a fly control program
- Vaccinate prior to fly season, consult with your herd health veterinarian or ANIMART veterinarian for proper vaccination guidelines for your particular herd

Pinkeye Treatment

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PINKEYE ONLY VACCINES

MAXI/GUARD

by Addison Labs

- Helps stop the spread of contagious outbreaks
- Broad coverage with 8 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- 21 day slaughter hold

PILIGUARD PINKEYE TRIVIEW

by Merck

- Cross-reacts against 103 strains of pinkeye-causing bacteria
- Dose: 2 ml subQ 3-6 weeks prior to onset of pinkeye season
- 60 day slaughter withdrawal

PILIGUARD PINKEYE-1 TRIVALENT

by Merck

- Contains 3 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- Dose: 2ml subQ or IM 3-6 weeks prior to pinkeye season
- 60 day meat hold

PINKEYE SHIELD XT4

by Novartis

- Contains 4 strains of *Moraxella bovis* to elicit broad-spectrum antibodies
- Dose: 2 ml IM
- 60 day slaughter hold

SOLIDBAC

by Zoetis

- Contains 8 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- Administer the entire contents of one clip channel subQ in the base of the ear or in the neck of cattle using the SoliDoser® delivery system
- 21 day slaughter hold

PINKEYE & 7-WAY VACCINES

ALPHA 7MB-1

by Boehringer-Ingelheim

- Vaccine protects against pinkeye and 7 major clostridial diseases
- Dose: 2 ml subQ
- 60-day slaughter hold

20/20 Vision 7

by Merck

- Vaccine protects against pinkeye and 7 major clostridial diseases
- Dose: 2 ml subQ, repeat in 3-4 weeks, every year
- 21-day slaughter hold

OTHER PINKEYE TREATMENTS

VETERICYN VF PINKEYE SPRAY

- Prevents and controls pinkeye outbreaks
- Reduces redness, irritation, discharge, drainage, pain and swelling

OXYTETRACYCLINE

- LA-200
- Bio-Mycin 200
- Agrimycin 200
- 300 Pro LA **Rx**
- Draxxin **Rx**

Shuteye Patches

- Protects eye from irritation
- Helps to control the spread of infection

PINKEYE TREATMENT TIPS

- If an outbreak were to occur, vaccinating the entire herd can help stop the the spread of disease and significantly reduce pinkeye incidence
- After applying an eye patch, keep animal confined in a dark shelter, to promote eating and drinking
- A poorly adhered patch allows egg-laying house flies in, which may result in maggots
- Eyelid flap surgery may be needed for severe cases of pinkeye
- Fly Control is Crucial
- Early Treatment is the Key to Success!

