

# Introduction to Pinkeye

Professional Veterinarian Services Technical Bulletin



Pinkeye is a common infectious disease affecting one or both eyes of cattle. Pinkeye is commonly caused by an infectious bacteria known as *Moraxella bovis*. Other emerging causative agents include *Moraxella bovoculi* and *Mycoplasma bovoculi*. 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.

## 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, long grass and pollens.

Control flies by using: ear tags, sprays, back rubbers, face rubbers, dust bags, spot-ons, pour-ons and/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.

## Symptoms of Pinkeye

### Early Signs

- Redness and inflammation in the white 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 prevent sharp objects from traumatizing their eye. Keep brush short.
- 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

### I-Site XP

by AgriLabs

- Safe in lactating cows
- Broad coverage with 8 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- Dose: 2 mL SQ
- 21-day slaughter hold

### MAXI/GUARD

by Addison Labs

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

### Moraxella Bovoculi

by Addison Labs

- NOTE: This product is conditionally licensed. Producers must have a valid VCPR with an ANIMART veterinarian to purchase. May be sold direct to veterinarians.
- Protects against 8 different *Moraxella Bovoculi* isolates
- 21-day slaughter hold

### Ocu-Guard MB-1

by BIVI

- Broad coverage with 8 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- Dose: 2 mL SQ
- 21-day slaughter hold

### Piliguard Pinkeye-1 Trilavent

by Merck

- Contains 3 strains of *Moraxella bovis*
- Dose: 2 mL SQ or IM 3-6 weeks prior to pinkeye season
- 60-day slaughter hold

### Pinkeye Shield XT4

by Elanco

- 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 SQ in the base of the ear or in the neck of cattle using the SoliDoser® delivery system
- 21-day slaughter hold

## OTHER PINKEYE TREATMENTS

### Veterincyn Pinkeye Spray

- Reduces redness, irritation, discharge, drainage, pain and swelling

### Antibiotics

- LA 200 / Bio-Mycin 200 / Duramycin 72-200
- 300 Pro LA **Rx** / Noromycin 300 LA
- Draxxin **Rx**

### Shuteye Patches

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

## PINKEYE TREATMENT TIPS

- Vaccinating the entire herd can help stop the spread of disease and significantly reduce pinkeye incidence
- Consult your veterinarian to determine which vaccine is best for your herd
  - Some strains of pinkeye aren't covered by commercial vaccines, necessitating the use of an autogenous vaccine
- 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!**



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