PINKEYE OR INFECTIOUS BOVINE KERATOCONJUNCTIVITIS (IBK)

CAUSES

Pinkeye is usually caused by the bacteria *Moraxella bovis* and *Moraxella bovoculi.*

Factors such as sunlight, flies, *Mycoplasma* bacteria, Bovine Herpesvirus, foreign bodies (e.g,. dust, plant awns), and crowding of animals (e.g,. for shade) may predispose to disease.

There are breed differences in susceptibility, with cattle that have white skin/hair around the eyes being at higher risk.

PINKEYE IS THE MOST COMMON EYE DISEASE OF CATTLE.

Corneal opacity (cloudiness)

Red line of inflammation around corneal opacity

Eye rupture and protrusion

CLINICAL SIGNS

- Excessive blinking, or partial to complete closure of eyelid
- Tearing of eye and sensitivity to light
- Opacity or cloudiness of eye surface (cornea), red line of inflammation around corneal opacity, corneal ulcers
- Salivation

Usually, one eye is affected, but may be both. As the lesion heals, there is varying white scarring on cornea, which may affect vision. Pain associated with disease can reduce feed intakes and weight gain.

In severe cases, the eye can rupture and protrude, resulting in permanent blindness.

TREATMENT

- Most cattle will recover spontaneously, but treatment can reduce healing time, severity of disease, and pain.
- Follow your veterinarian's treatment protocol and never use unapproved products on the eye.
- Eye patches will help reduce discomfort and keep flies off the affected eye to reduce disease spread.
- In the case of a ruptured eye, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- In an outbreak, contact your veterinarian about disease control strategies.

PINKEYE IS CONSIDERED A RISK-BASED VACCINE. DISCUSS WITH YOUR VETERINARIANS TO SEE IF THIS IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR HERD.

VACCINATION

Pinkeye is considered a risk-based vaccine.

Two commercial Pinkeye vaccines are available in Canada. However, vaccine effectiveness has not been well established in controlled field trials. Discuss with your veterinarian whether to use existing vaccines and their potential cost:benefit in your herd.

PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT

Fly control can help reduce disease occurrence and spread in the summer. Ensure good trace mineral status of your herd. Reduce crowding of animals (e.g., provide sufficient shade for the whole herd).

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY · Western Canadian Animal Health Network · Manitoba Beef Producers · Boehringer Ingelheim · Saskatchewan Lakeland College · Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence · Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association · SCA Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association · BCRC Beef Cattle Research Council · Elanco · MERCK · zoetis · HIPRA