COST-EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF SEASONAL DISEASES IN CATTLE

MONITORING, EARLY TREATMENT WITH BROAD-SPECTRUM NOROMYCIN 300 LA HELPS KEEP CATTLE HEALTHY YEAR-ROUND.

There is no shortage of production-robbing diseases in cattle, no matter what month the calendar says it is. As producers know, dealing with sick cattle is a year-round concern and each season brings with it different challenges, from respiratory diseases to eye and foot infections, to enteric and other systemic infections.

The keys to successfully keeping cattle healthy and productive year-round includes frequent monitoring and early treatment, says Eric Moore, DVM, director of technical services for Norbrook North America. "No matter what type of cattle or operation is involved, the fundamentals to keeping cattle healthy and productive are the same: good herd management, frequent surveillance and early, aggressive treatment," he says.

Dr. Moore emphasizes that frequent monitoring is especially important when weather conditions are changing, when cattle are being moved or stressed, when new cattle are introduced, or when other changes occur. "Any kind of change to the cattle's environment can bring with it a number of potential health problems. That's why it's critical producers be especially vigilant during those times and monitor their animals often while knowing what symptoms to look for."



Seasonal diseases can be a bit more predictable and manageable for producers, notes Dr. Moore. "Generally, producers and veterinarians will see more cases of foot rot in late winter and early spring; pinkeye in the summer; and pneumonia in fall and spring, for example. But depending on conditions, some other systemic bacterial infections can happen almost any time of year, which further complicates overall herd health."

Two other bacterial cattle diseases that can occur more seasonally are pneumonia (shipping fever) and enteritis (scours), which can be more devastating in younger cattle. When identified and treated promptly, both can be quickly and effectively controlled with an oxytetracycline antibiotic.

Some of the more common production-impacting health challenges cow-calf producers face in the spring and summer that are hard to prevent are foot rot and pink eye. Left untreated, both can lead to more serious, chronic health problems. Fortunately, with a watchful eye and early treatment, these infections can be easily and cost-effectively managed by producers with fast-acting injectable oxytetracycline such as Noromycin 300 LA.

While both ailments are highly dependent on pasture, weather and other conditions, foot rot is more problematic when cattle are kept in wet, muddy and manure conditions or hard, rough terrain. Caused by the Fusobacterium necrophorum bacteria, it results in swelling and inflammation between the toes, leading to lameness and reluctance to walk.

Pink eye is a highly infectious eye condition that can affect cattle of all ages, often on tall-grass pastures and in environmental situations that can irritate the eye. Flies are a major irritant and vector for the disease, so controlling them and other sources of irritant is critical. Delayed treatment of pink eye can result in loss of the eye, reduced performance and a less marketable animal.

"Bacterial diseases in cattle need to be treated quickly and effectively with the best tools available and that are appropriate for the situation," says Dr. Moore.

"Noromycin 300 LA is an excellent treatment tool because of its broad label indications, and for many years has been proven to be safe and effective in treating many common bacterial diseases."

