



# COW SENSE CHRONICLE

APRIL 2014

## PREVENTING PINKEYE

Summer 2013 was a challenging one for pinkeye in our region. When I wrote about pinkeye in last September's issue of Cow Sense Chronicle, I heard from many of you who had experienced pinkeye breakouts. Is there a way we can prevent this from happening in summer 2014?

Pinkeye is a highly infectious disease that results in infection of the eye and inflammation of the conjunctiva (the inside lining membrane of the eyelid). Although pinkeye is non-fatal, it has a marked economic impact on the cattle industry. A bacteria, *Moraxella bovis*, has historically been the primary infectious agent initiating pinkeye. Factors causing irritation can allow for the invasion of the bacteria and thus, pinkeye formation. These may include excessive sunlight, face, house and stable flies, plant material and dust.

A multi-faceted approach to pinkeye prevention is probably most effective. A thorough fly control program is a critical step to limit the spread of pinkeye in a herd. Pinkeye vaccines are also available and can help boost the animal's immune system against the *Moraxella bovis* bacteria. Although vaccines may not completely prevent pinkeye, they will generally reduce the severity of an outbreak. It's important to vaccinate before fly season and to follow label directions to achieve maximum benefit.

Some producers may find vaccination more helpful than others. These differences are probably related to strain differences between the pinkeye strain affecting a herd and the strain included in the vaccine. For example, *Moraxella branhamella ovis* has been isolated from some pinkeye cases and has been found to possess many of the same virulence factors as *M. bovis*, but only *M. bovis* is found in pinkeye vaccine.

Let's all hope for a pinkeye-free summer in 2014!

# **RACING TO THE FUTURE: 2014 MONTANA NUTRITION CONFERENCE AND LIVESTOCK FORUM GRANTREE INN, BOZEMAN, MT**

## **Tuesday, April 22, 2014**

11:00-12:30 – Registration

12:30 – Welcome

1:00-2:00 – **Water Quality and Mineral Supplementation** – Dr. Mark Petersen, USDA-ARS Fort Keogh

2:00-3:00 – **Mycotoxins: Importance in Montana** – Dr. Barry Jacobsen, Montana State University

3:00 – Break

3:15-4:15 – **Treating Low Quality Forages to Improve Feeding Quality** – Dr. Tim Bodine, Performix Nutrition

4:15-5:15 – **Application of Genomic Selection: New Frontiers in Animal Breeding** – Dr. Jennifer Thomson, Montana State University

5:30 – Social

6:30 – Dinner and Program

Scholarship presentations

Evening speakers: **Social Media – Understanding the power of reaching our customers** –

Carrie Mess, Wisconsin Dairy Farmer and Ryan Goodman, Manager of Communications, Montana Stockgrowers Association

## **Wednesday, April 23, 2014**

7:00-8:00 – Breakfast, Grad student poster judging

8:00-9:30 – **Think You Know Who Gets Your Property When You Die? Think Again...Even If You Have a Will!** – Dr. Marsha Goetting, Montana State University

9:30 – Break

9:45-10:45 – **October 2013 Blizzard in South Dakota: What Are the Ramifications?** – Dr. Ken Olson, South Dakota State University

10:45-11:45 – **Using Feed-Grade Antibiotics in Livestock: What Changes Should We Prepare For?** – Dr. Russ Daly, South Dakota State University

11:45-12:00 – Presentation of graduate student poster awards – Dr. Pat Hatfield

12:00 – Conference wrap-up

**\$115 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE; \$135 AT THE DOOR**

**NEW FOR 2014! REGISTER ONLINE AT:**

<https://www.montana.edu/nutrition/>

**COMPLETE CONFERENCE BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT:**

<http://animalrange.montana.edu/conferences.htm>

Questions for Rachel?  
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# APRIL 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Annual Leave	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Collegiate Stockgrowers	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> MT Nutrition Conference and Livestock Forum	<i>23</i> Collegiate Stockgrowers	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Ennis Ag Day	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> SAY Weigh Day	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>			