

VET'S VIEW

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Finish the fly season

As summer comes to an end and leaves begin to turn yellow and red, make sure that your cows don't! Iowa beef farmers routinely encounter anaplasmosis and/or Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) each fall. Both of these diseases are primarily transmitted by biting flies and it is common to see an uptick in disease in late summer and early fall as fly control diminishes.

Most fly tags that were applied early in the grazing season no longer provide enough active ingredient. Other mechanisms such as oiler or dust bags can be easily implemented to increase fly control until frost occurs. It may be a good idea to rotate insecticides at this time to make sure that resistant flies are not a problem.

Anaplasmosis is caused by a protozoan parasite (*Anaplasma marginale*) that is spread by ticks and biting insects. Additionally, it can be transmitted by needles or surgical equipment.

Once the parasite reaches the blood stream, it infects red blood cells (RBCs) where they multiply. Anemia results from destruction of the RBCs and animals develop icterus (yellow colored mucous membranes of mouth, eye and vulva).

Initially, cattle will have a fever along with increased heart and respiratory rate. Cattle may exhibit neurologic signs due to lack of oxygen to the brain as anemia progresses. Older animals may die because their bone marrow is not responsive enough to produce more red blood cells in time.

Besides fly control, anaplasmosis can be prevented by feeding CTC at a rate of 0.5 mg/lb body weight daily for 30 days. Although mineral mixes are commonly used to deliver CTC, intake is variable between animals and some cows will not be protected. The best way to provide CTC is by mixing in feed to insure consistent intake.

EHD is primarily a disease in white tail deer but is also commonly seen in cattle when there is an outbreak in deer.

Cattle infected with the EHD virus will have a high fever, anorexia and difficulty swallowing. Some cattle may have ulcers and hemorrhage around mouth and occasionally at the coronary band. Death is uncommon but can occur. There is no treatment for this disease beside supportive care.

Fly control is a little more difficult as the virus is transmitted by a biting midge, gnats or mosquitos. Since these insects tend to not spend a lot of time on the animal, they may not accumulate enough pesticide during feeding to kill them. Fogging with an approved insecticide during the evening when it is calm can provide the best control.

Moving cattle to pastures away from common deer areas can also provide some protection.

Implementation of control measures now can help prevent your cattle from turning yellow or red with the leaves. Consult your veterinarian or extension specialist for more information on fly control or disease prevention.

A simpler solution to high-grain corn residue

"Now in my area
we refer to Lactipro
as the miracle bug."

- Eric Ostendorf
Cow Calf Operation Central Nebraska



**Turned 300 cows out to graze a
46 bu/acre corn residue field**

Have you grazed high-grain fields in the past?
In the past, fields with this much corn were abandoned due to the high risk of acidosis and founder.

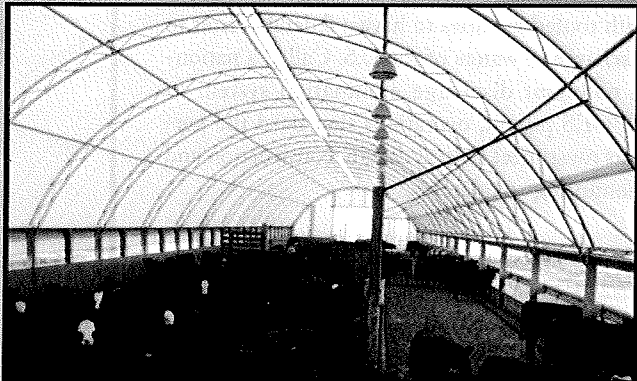
How did Lactipro help you utilize this field?
We drenched the cows with Lactipro and turned them out onto the field. To be honest I was scared to death that I was going to find a pile of dead cows in my field. We didn't add any sodium bicarbonate to the water or take any other precautionary measures. None of our cows got sick during the grazing period and when we pulled the cows off the field we didn't see any long toes. The cows we turned out were bred and I was a little concerned about the impact on the fetus. We calved as easy as we ever have and had no negative effects on the calves.

Would you recommend Lactipro?
Yes, I was very impressed with Lactipro and have recommended Lactipro to several other producers. Anytime we have fields with large quantities of grain on the ground we will use Lactipro no questions asked.

Lactipro


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