

June 10, 2019  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## SOACDF Meetings Scheduled

The informational meetings for the 2019-2020 projects through the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation will be in July. Make plans to attend one of these meetings if you plan to apply for grants this coming year.

The local meetings will be on July 2 in the evening at the Cherry Fork Gym and on Friday, July 5 at the Southern Hills Career and Technical Center administration building at 10:30 a.m. If you have questions about the meetings, or the programs, you can call the Foundation at 937-393-2700 or check out the website. The web address is <http://soacdf.net>

## Preventing Pinkeye

If you have cattle, you know how much of a pain pinkeye can be. Treating calves during the summer months when you are busy, watching calves struggle, and the lack of success in treating all add up to frustration. In recent years some locally made vaccines have showed some success. The following is the first part of an article from Dr. Michelle Arnold, DMV from the University of Kentucky. The remainder of the article can be found in the Beef Blog posted on June 10. I will put the remainder in this column next week as well.

Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK) or "Pinkeye" is a costly and exasperating disease for the beef producer and industry. A field trial published in 2009 found an average weaning weight difference of 18 pounds less (range 9-27 lbs) in calves that experienced pinkeye versus those that did not. Calves with corneal scars are often discounted at sale, further increasing the economic cost of IBK to producers.

Despite the well-known economic impact of disease, adequate and timely treatment of cases is challenging because cattle are grazed far away from facilities during peak occurrence in summer months. Preventing the disease has proven difficult because so many factors contribute to the development of pinkeye including environment, management, season of the year, concurrent diseases, and the animal's genetic makeup and immune system.



Vaccines, whether commercial or homemade, have not been found consistently effective in clinical trials. Once pinkeye begins in a herd, it is highly contagious and can spread rapidly. Careful attention to control of contributing factors, especially fly control, and prompt, effective treatment of cases are necessary to reduce the spread and limit the damaging effects of the disease.

Prevention of pinkeye is difficult because it is a complicated, multifaceted disease. The best plan is to reduce or remove as many risk factors as possible that can result in damage to the corneal surface. Any damage will allow the bacteria to cling to the corneal surface and grow.

Many different combinations of contributing factors such as ultraviolet rays from the sun, face flies, excessive eye irritation, nutritional deficiencies, and stress may work together within a herd at one time. Prevention is based on maximizing herd immune status, controlling face flies, minimizing exposure to the bacteria, and maintaining as irritant-free environment as possible.

As of now we do not have a 100% effective way to prevent pinkeye from showing up in our livestock there are some steps can be taken to help reduce the impact this year.

Next week's column I will provide Dr. Arnold's details concerning the following 5 points concerning preventing pinkeye.

1. Maximize Herd Immune Status
2. Control Face Flies
3. Maintain an irritant free environment
4. Minimize exposure to *M. bovis* and *M. bovoculi*
5. Does vaccination work?

### **Dates to Remember**

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| June 10 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Call 800-282-1955 or online go to <a href="http://pested.osu.edu">http://pested.osu.edu</a> |
| June 28 | FAMACHA© & Fecal Egg Count Workshops in Caldwell   |
| July 12 | Ohio Forage and Grassland Council's annual Sheep and Forage Tour starting and ending in Jackson  |
| July 13 | Ohio Sheep and Hay Day on July 13 <sup>th</sup> at the Jackson Agricultural Research Station   |

July 7-13 Adams County Fair