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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Now is a Good Time to Control Lice

With livestock markets all only a shadow of what they were a year to 18 months ago there is even more of a need to do the best management that you can. One aspect of good management is controlling parasites that can impact the health and production of your livestock.

Lice can be a problem that causes several issues when it comes to livestock. The animals will often rub on fences, gates, buildings, trees or whatever else they can find. This rubbing can cause damage particularly fences and in some cases buildings. The structures are one problem, but the additional feed that the animal takes in cost you money, but in the end is basically feeding the parasites.

The following is from a veterinarian with Zoetis and it appeared in a recent Beef Blog. There are some useful tips throughout, but the bottom line is you need to make the application. This is directed toward beef cattle, but most of the tips are not beef specific. There are several products that will control lice, and if you have not already done so, it is time to get it done.

Lice are a common annoyance to cattle, especially in winter months. “Cattle producers and their herds experience more lice problems during the wintertime, by far,” said Jon Seeger, DVM, managing veterinarian with Zoetis. “Now is the time to treat cattle for lice.”

If cattle are rubbing, biting or scratching with irritation at their neck, shoulders or rump and/or have hair loss in those areas, they could have lice. Lice rob energy from cattle, which can result in anemia, slowed disease recovery and decreased weight gain during infestation.

**Sucking lice:** With relatively small, narrow heads designed to pierce the skin and suck blood, sucking lice can cause anemia, with production loss in heavy infestations. Sucking lice can do serious damage in large numbers and even kill young calves.

**Biting or chewing lice:** With larger, rounder heads, biting lice feed on skin debris, scabs and blood. Chewing lice do not cause a direct production loss. This biting insect causes severe irritation and discomfort to cattle. Cattle may experience such irritation that they could damage working facilities, fences, trees and feed bunks, using them as rubbing posts for some relief. Their coats may appear rough, with patches of hair loss.

The eggs of both lice types cling to the hair and hatch within 14 days. Adults live up to 28 days, with females laying an average of one egg per day.

Treat cattle for lice during the fall months, beginning in October, as populations are growing. Administer DECTOMAX Pour On to aid in controlling both biting and sucking lice. Consider a



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follow-up treatment two to three weeks later to allow time for any eggs to hatch but not mature into adults. Assume lice are present upon receiving a load of cattle. Treat and quarantine the group. Move cattle to a different pasture to avoid any commingling over the fence with untreated cattle, as lice are easily spread.

This was written by Zoetis, and is useful information. However, I need to point out there are several pour-on products that are labeled to control both biting and sucking lice. Remember the first treatment will kill the lice, but the eggs may survive. For better control a second application is most likely key to getting good control.

### **Control for Problem Weeds**

I touched on this subject a few weeks ago, but thought it was worth a reminder. Most of the crop is harvested and we continue to have some good temperatures for spot spraying some of the problem weeds. The frost over the past week ended the growing season for many things, but not Poison Hemlock. The use of a broadleaf selective like 2,4D or Crossbow in the next few weeks can be effective in controlling this weed that has already had some significant growth and is dark green and easy to find if you know about where that patch was last year. If you get close, you will find it.

### **Dates to Remember**

Veterinarian Feed Directive Meetings with new FDA rules starting on January 1 for feeding medicated feeds, minerals, etc. Representatives from feed companies, OSU Extension and local Veterinarians will be available to answer questions. These rules will apply to all producers, **including youth**.

Nov. 17 Hillsboro Elks by Master Feed Mill in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 29 Union Stockyards in Hillsboro with meal at 6:00 and program at 7:00 p.m.