NAH
LIVESTOCK CONSULTING

The Livestock Letter

Vol. 4, Issue: 8

202 AR 27 Nashville, AR

870-845-1122 Ext. 4

Do You Have Deadly Passengers in Your Pasture?

Tick-borne diseases pose a significant threat to cattle in our state. Ticks are eight-legged parasites that undergo four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. All ticks are obligate blood feeders, which means they must bite and consume blood from a host to survive and progress through these stages. This ongoing need for a blood meal, along with the ability to carry a wide variety of disease-causing viruses, bacteria, parasites, and other pathogens, makes them highly effective vectors for transmitting diseases.

The economic consequences for cattle herds can be severe, including the death, infertility, reduced weight gain, and decreased milk production. Significant tick-borne threats to U.S. cattle producers include cattle tick fever, anaplasmosis, and Theileriosis. The symptoms of these diseases, such as fever and anemia, are very similar, making diagnosis and treatment more complicated.

The most significant disease in our geography to consider at this time of year is *Anaplasmosis.* This disease can lead to severe losses for producers, including cattle deaths, abortions, reduced weight gain, and an increased cull rate. Cattle that recover from acute *Anaplasmosis* can remain persistently infected for the rest of their lives, carrying low levels of bacteria and continuing to infect blood-feeding ticks, which can then transmit the disease to other animals. In addition to being spread through tick bites, *Anaplasmosis* can also be transmitted mechanically via instruments, such as needles and scalpels, that are contaminated with infected blood, as well as through biting flies.

Another disease of concern is *Theileria orientalis.* Unlike most tick species, the Asian longhorned tick can reproduce asexually through a process called parthenogenesis, where female ticks produce cloned copies of themselves. This ability has likely contributed to the tick's rapid establishment of populations in the U.S., as a single female can produce thousands of offspring. This tick species tends to prefer cattle and is often found in extremely large numbers on infected animals. Such infestations can be severe enough to cause significant blood loss in these animals. Currently, there are no approved treatments for *Theileria* in the U.S.; however, providing supportive therapy for cattle is critical to help them survive.

Producers should monitor cattle for signs of tick infestations and consider early diagnostic testing at the first indication of any suspected illness. Controlling tick populations largely relies on the effective use of chemical acaricides, including topicals, pour-on's, and sprays. Applying these treatments during peak transmission times, such as the summer months, can help prevent the spread of disease. Additionally, incorporating CTC (Chlortetracycline) into the mineral supplement can be beneficial in controlling *Anaplasmosis* in herds. Vaccination for *Anaplasmosis* in endemic areas my be considered to develop herd immunity.

FALL 2025 SAVINGS!

Valid 8/1/2025-10/31/2025

$18 on Ivomec Plus 1000ml

$12 on Ivomec Plus 500ml

$20 on Eprinex 5L

$40 on Eprinex 10L

*Minimum quantities apply.

Elanco & Cydectin Rebates

$7 per liter rebate on Cydectin PO

$40 per box Component Implants

Up to $75 rebate on Anti-Infectives

$25 rebate on $500 worth Insecticides

*Minimum quantities apply.

Valid 1/1/25-12-31/25

Rebates up to $200 on Draxxin & Draxxin KP

10% Rebate on Zoetis Vaccines & Dewormers

12% Rebate on Zoetis Vaccine, Implants & Dewormers

All programs subject to change

Visit our website

www.NashvilleAnimalHospital.net

Follow Us on Facebook

Contact Us @

Dr. Robert Bonner, DVM

nah@nashvilleanimalhospital.net

Meg Harrington BS,CVT,VTS(PAIM)

mharrington@nashvilleanimalhospital.net

To order from our pharmacy call 870-845-1122 Ext. 4.

Free shipping on drop ship orders over $150