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Hopkins County Beef tips

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Why should you think about BVD?

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BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) is a disease of cattle caused by a virus. Virus infections are usually prevented by vaccination, and there are only few virus infections that can be controlled with medications. The BVD virus can cross the placenta when pregnant cows are infected, causing abortions, stillborns and weak calves. If the cow gets infected between 30 and 150 days and the fetus survives, the calf becomes tolerant of the BVD virus creating the persistently infected (PI) stage of the disease. PI-BVD calves often do not show clinical signs of the disease but instead they act as carriers, dispersing viruses in massive amounts in mucus, tears, nasal discharge, urine, feces and semen. The majority of the PI animals die by age two, usually with mucosal

discharge, but before they die, they become the primary source of BVD infection to other cattle. Some cases of PI BVD die of old age, live and breed disseminating between 1,000 to 10,000 virus particles daily.

The only good thing about PI BVD cases is that those are usually a small percentage of the national beef herd (1% of the nationally born herd). PI -BVD calves are generally known as weak

also be born from PI dams, but this is in only a small percentage of the cases (10%).

It cost of BVD to the cattle industry was estimated in more than of \$2 billion dollars annually for 2005.

Over 90% of the PI-BVD calves are born from healthy dams. A PI-BVD calf in your herd does not mean you need to get rid of its mother. You should test dams of PI-BVD calves before culling.

PI-BVD animals should be identified and removed from your herd. The testing usually involves the collection of serum or a portion of the ear from a notch. Recent diagnostic test can be very accurate and economical. Please call the Texas AgriLife Extension in Hopkins County at 903-885-3443 for further information.

About 40% of PI calves survive to feeding age

calves, and often succumb in the pastures, with their death attributed to the wrong cause.

PI- BVD animals can

Fall Armyworms

By Dr. Allen Knutson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Two species of armyworms attack forage and field crops in north Texas. The fall armyworm is most abundant during August through early November in north Texas and feeds primarily on bermuda grass, wheat and rye grass, although it attacks many other crops. The true armyworm is common during April and May when it attacks wheat, rye

grass, winter pastures, and seedling corn and sorghum. Both caterpillars can occur in very large numbers, can consume a crop almost overnight, and will move in large masses or armies to adjacent fields in search of food. Armyworms attack many different kinds of plants and when food is scarce, they can feed on plants not normally attacked. The fall armyworm

apparently does not overwinter in north Texas. Moths fly north from south Texas each year to re-infest the area. Outbreaks often occur in late summer and fall and follow periods of rain which create favorable conditions for eggs and small larvae to survive. Irrigated fields are also highly attractive to moths for egg laying, especially during drought conditions.

Fall Armyworm Control

Life Stages of the Fall Armyworm.

Eggs. Eggs are laid in masses of up to 50 eggs on the grass leaves and are difficult to find. Eggs hatch in 2-3 days.

Caterpillar. Fall armyworms are green, brown or black. A distinct white line between the eyes forms an inverted Y pattern on the face.

Pupa. The full grown armyworm tunnels into the soil and transforms to the pupae, an inactive, non-feeding stage. In 7-10 days, the moth emerges from the pupa and repeats the life cycle.

Moth. The fall armyworm moth has a wingspan of about 2

inches. The front pair of wings are dark gray with an irregular pattern of light and dark areas.

Management.

The key to managing fall armyworms is to detect infestations before they have caused economic damage. The presence of chewed leaves can indicate armyworms are present. Small larvae chew the green layer from the leaves and leave a clearing or window panel effect and consume only a small amount of foliage. For this reason, infestations can go unnoticed unless the field is closely inspected.

Labeled Insecticides for Armyworm Control in Pastures and Hayfields.

Malathion: 57% and Malathion ULV. Zero days to harvest or grazing.

Mustang Max (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin). Applications may be made up to 0 days for forage and hay, 7 days for straw and seed screenings.

Tracer. Do not allow cattle to graze until spray has dried. Do not harvest hay or fodder for 3 days after treatment. There is no preharvest interval for forage. Treat when eggs hatch or when larvae are small.

HOPKINS COUNTY BEEF TIPS

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Beef Cattle Workshop

The fall seminar beef cattle workshop organized by Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Hopkins County will be conducted Tuesday November 10th 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Dr. Steve Blezinger (BLN consulting services) will talk about the upcoming feed and grain markets, cost management feed and supplementation strategies for the small

beef producer and developing of a complete mineral program. Brad Fain (Pfizer Animal Health) will share with us the new developments in vaccines and antibiotics and the steps to insure the effectiveness of those products. The workshop will be conducted at the Professional Ag Workers Building located on Connally Street, City Park, behind the city

swimming pool. Dinner will be served. The workshop and dinner is free. RSVP to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office in Hopkins County at 903-885-3443. The dinner will be sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, ABC Nutrition and Multimin.

Up-Coming Events

- Professional Ag Workers Hay Show. Hay producers will get a free hay test on every entry. Entry dates October 5-9 and 12-16, 2009. Submit entries at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office -Hopkins County. Free.
- Private Applicator Training and CEU course. November 4, 2009. Hopkins Regional Civic Center. Current licensees can get their required yearly 5 CEU. Private license applicants can take the course and present the test. Cost \$15 lunch included.
- Beef Cattle Workshop, November 10th, 2009. Professional Ag Workers Building. Information of nutrition and vaccine management. Free, meal included. RSVP to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Hopkins County (903-885-3443).