

Fescue Toxicosis, Footrot & Pinkeye

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***1997 Beef Cow-Calf Health & Management
Monitoring System (NAHMS), USDA-APHIS-VS***

Footrot (0.8 infection rate)

Pinkeye (1.3% infection rate)

. . . the two most prevalent conditions
affecting all breeding beef females.

Foot Rot



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Foot Rot

- “Foul in the foot”
- Bacterial infection with inflamed, painful foot and deep tissue invasion
- bacteria
 - *Fusobacterium necrophorum* (Biotypes A & AB)
 - *Dichelobacter nodosus* (*Bacteroides*)
 - *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*
 - *Porphyromonas* species

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Foot Rot – Clinical Signs

- Mild lameness
- Oily discharge at skin-horn junction – primarily between the bulbs of the heel
- May have mild to moderate swelling
- Foul odor, painful to the touch
- Tissue between claws is dead with proliferation of tissue in an attempt to heal

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Foot Rot

- Most common in BEEF cattle, particularly yearlings
- Bacteria invade through damaged skin, cause tissue destroying, deep invasive infection
 - Water softened interdigital area (standing in mud or other moisture)
 - Traumatic injury to interdigital area
 - Occurs in dry summer pasture with stubble

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Foot Rot – Treatment

- In some areas may disappear in summer w/o treatment when the feet dry out
- Mild cases: clean foot, apply drying agent (copper sulfate 5%)
- Wrap feet with topical antibiotic dressing??
- Moderate or more severe cases: most effective treatment is injected antibiotics EARLY
 - Drugs of choice include oxytetracycline (LA-200), ceftiofur (Naxcel), procaine penicillin (20,000 IU/lb), and florfenicol (Nuflor)

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Foot Rot – Prevention

- “Avoid damage to feet from mud or coarse grazing stubble”
- Footbaths (2% formalin, 5% copper sulfate)
 - Become contaminated almost immediately
 - May serve as means of spreading problems
- Feed organic iodine (EDDI) 10-15 mg/hd/day in loose salt mix
- Feed zinc methionine (Zinpro)- may help
- Avoid mineral deficiencies (copper, selenium)

Foot Rot – vaccination

- *Volar (Intervet)*
- *Fusogard (Novartis)*
 - Initial and booster (3-4 weeks later)
 - Booster annually or when conditions favorable
- May be of some value but often of limited effectiveness
- Use strategically to cover times most at risk

