

Brad Tipton

Extension Educator, Ag/4-H Youth Development & C.E.D
Canadian County OSU Extension Office
Phone 262-0155, Fax 262-2267
E-mail: brad.tipton@okstate.edu

Prevent Anaplasmosis

Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease of cattle caused by a blood-born organism. Anaplasmosis causes severe anemia because of the destruction of red blood cells resulting in poor performance, abortion, and even death.

The organism that causes anaplasmosis is moved from animal to animal by transmission of infected blood. In most cases, anaplasmosis is spread by biting insects that take on a blood meal from an infected animal and then move to a susceptible animal.

Insects are not the only cause of anaplasmosis transmission. Unclean vaccination needles or surgical tools (such as dehorers) have also been shown to cause outbreaks of anaplasmosis. Cattle producers need to make sure that equipment is cleaned of all blood between uses.

Medicated mineral mixes have been useful in reducing the risk of anaplasmosis on Southern Plains ranches. Chlortetracycline (CTC) consumed at the rate of 0.5 mg / pound body weight daily during tick and horse fly seasons will help prevent sickness due to anaplasmosis. CTC may be administered in medicated feed; salt-mineral mixes offered free choice, and medicated blocks.

Most producers will choose to purchase commercially prepared medicated mineral mixes or blocks for use during the vector season. They certainly want to read and follow the label instructions closely. Read the label to see that it is in fact "labeled" for anaplasmosis control. A consistent and appropriate intake of the mineral is critical to a successful anaplasmosis prevention program.

Placement of mineral feeders and blocks can aid in achieving optimum mineral intake. Place them in areas where cattle spend a lot of time. Minerals should be placed in loafing areas, near water sources, in shady areas, or any other location that tends to be a popular place for the herd to congregate.

Summer often becomes a busy time of year for ranchers (especially during haying season). Don't forget to check the mineral feeders or blocks to be certain that they are supplying the minerals that your cows need. If you suspect that an animal in your herd has anaplasmosis, call your veterinarian for help with treatment.

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability or status as a veteran and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References made to commercial products or trade names are with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments cooperating.