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OSU EXTENSION NEWS

# Anaplasmosis prevention

Many Oklahoma beef producers associate anaplasmosis with horse flies, and keep up a prevention program only during fly season.

Unfortunately, many of these same producers are still experiencing anaplasmosis problems well into the winter, because biting flies are only a minor vector compared to other ways the disease can be transferred. In many areas, especially wooded or brushy pastures, ticks are more important vectors than biting flies.

Ticks are an all-year problem in many areas of Oklahoma, so the control program also needs to be maintained all year. Stockmen also spread the disease from carriers to susceptible animals by not removing all traces of blood from equipment when processing and working adult cattle. The organism can be carried by needles, dehorner, castration knives, ear taggers, or any other implement that draws blood. It is sometimes possible to determine the source of the outbreak by the way cases develop. When insect vectors are responsible there will usually be one sick animal, followed several weeks later by multiple cases. If human transfer is the case, several sick animals will show up at the same time 2 to 4 weeks after the cattle were worked.



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