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# The Great Plains News Feed

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Feedlot Tracking

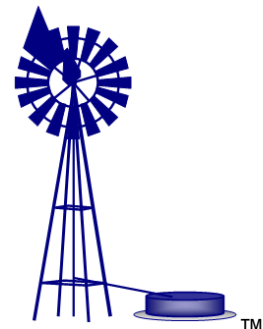
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**March / April  
2013**

# The Latest Across the Plains



## **Save Money \$\$\$ Test your Feeds**

Tests are relatively inexpensive, usually costing less than \$18, for the information derived. Contact our office to set up an appointment to have us pull feed samples if we have not done so yet.

## **What's New in the Industry**

Pfizer has started producing some Synovex® implants again.

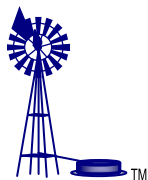
Recent research (Bernhard et al, 2012) reported the effects of supplemental KemTRACE® Chromium propionate on performance of newly received feedlot cattle. For the 56 day receiving period calves supplemented with Chromium had improved gain and feed efficiency with reduced treatment for respiratory disease. KemTRACE® Chromium propionate is an integral part of several starter supplements and receiving feeds we have formulated over the last year.

## **We want to hear from you....**

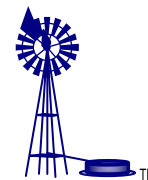
Do you have a question you would like one of the nutritionists to address in depth in our newsletter? Just submit your question through our website [www.gplc-inc.com](http://www.gplc-inc.com) and we will get to work on it.

## Calendar of Events

- **Mar 6-7** Wichita Falls Ranch & Farm Expo, Wichita Falls, TX
- **Mar 6-7** Triumph of Ag Expo, Omaha, NE
- **Mar 11-13** Midwest ASAS/ADSA, Des Moines, IA
- **Mar 14-16** North American Farm & Power Show, Owatonna, MN
- **Mar 14-17** Four States Ag Expo, Cortez, CO
- **Mar 22-24** Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention & Trade Show, Fort Worth, TX
- **Mar 23-24** Agri News Farm Show, Rochester, MN
- **Mar 26-28** Mid America Farm Expo, Salina, KS
- **Mar 26-28** WPS Farm Show, Osh Kosh, WI
- **April 10-12** Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Great Bend, KS
- **April 15-18** NIAA Annual Conference, Louisville, KY
- **April 17-19** Agri-Marketing Conference & Trade Show, Kansas City, MO
- **April 18-20** Southern Plains Farm Show, Oklahoma City, OK
- **April 23-24** Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference, Fort Wayne, IN



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## Timely Reminders



### Beef

- ✓ Locate **and clean** calving equipment.
- ✓ Consider adding Rumensin® to calving mineral to help control coccidiosis in cows.
- ✓ Be preparing to supply free choice minerals with higher magnesium levels for cattle grazing new, lush pastures.
- ✓ Adjust rations and feeding levels for cows that have calved and are now lactating.
- ✓ Evaluate cows for body condition and sort off and feed thinner cows as needed after calving.
- ✓ Evaluate spring and summer feed needs and discuss the possibility of booking feed for summer.
- ✓ Watch for lice and pour the cattle with a generic pour-on if needed.

## CTC Controls Pneumonia and Anaplasmosis



By Ki Fanning, Ph.D., Ruminant Nutritionist

Chlortetracycline (CTC) is one of the least expensive antibiotics that can be incorporated into feed to treat sick animals. It is broad spectrum and has many different clearance levels that can be employed to accomplish different production goals. It can be used as a growth promotant when fed continuously at 70 mg/head/day. Chlortetracycline can be used to control bacterial pneumonia associated with shipping fever when continuously fed at 350 mg/head/day. It can be used to control Anaplasmosis when continuously fed at 0.5 mg/lb. of bodyweight; or it can be used to treat bacterial enteritis caused by *Escherichia coli* and bacterial pneumonia caused by *Pasteurella multocida* when fed for 5 days at 1 g/cwt. of bodyweight.

There are many different product concentrations (2, 4, 10, 20, 25, 50, 90, and 100 g/lb.). This allows for several different delivery mechanisms. For cattle on pasture, it can be incorporated into range minerals or cubes. For calves in a grow yard, we can incorporate it into a starter/grower balancer supplement, or crumbles can be top-dressed on

top of feed in the bunk. It is not legal to feed with Rumensin® but is legal to feed with Bovatec®. Therefore, CTC and Rumensin® cannot be combined together but Bovatec® and Aureomycin® branded CTC can be mixed together in the same feed.

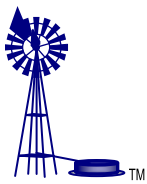
Range Minerals: Normally 2800 g/ton of CTC is the floor-stocked mineral which provides 350 mg/head/day at a 4 oz. consumption. Many people use it for alleviating fescue toxicosis even though this level is only intended to control bacterial pneumonia caused by *Pasteurella spp.* This level of CTC feeding does not control Anaplasmosis.

Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease of cattle that causes destruction of red blood cells. It is transmitted by ticks, flies, mosquitoes, and animal processing equipment such as needles. The disease is caused by a minute parasite, *Anaplasma marginale*, found in the red blood cells of infected cattle. Symptoms are anemia (pale skin), a drop in milk production, extreme nervousness or aggressive behavior, rapid weight loss, fevers of 104° to 107° F, abortions, and death. To control Anaplasmosis, a mineral which provides 0.5 mg/lb. of bodyweight/day is needed. To achieve this, a mineral fed at 4 oz. to a 1400 lb. cow needs to contain 5600 g/t of CTC.

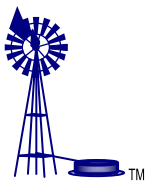
Other benefits of CTC include a 19 - 21 lb. greater weaning weight in suckling calves (Corah et al. 1991), improved reproduction and conception rate (2% improvement) due to better control of uterine infections and faster return to estrus (birth 21 days earlier is worth \$38 per head), and pinkeye can be minimized when feeding CTC. If CTC is fed for the entire year at 700 mg/head/day it would cost less than \$10/head/year (\$5/head for a 2800 g/ton mineral). The return would be \$36 per calf (\$1.80/lb. X 20 lbs.) plus the value of the improvement in reproduction (\$14/head), totaling \$40 return on a \$10 investment.

Receiving Cattle: Chlortetracycline can be very effective at reducing calf pulls. The protocol that we follow when receiving calves is to start feeding CTC on day three or four (after the cattle are eating well) and feed at 1 g/cwt of bodyweight for five days. Remove it for one to three days and then run the CTC for another 5-day feeding period. For home raised calves, two 5-day treatments is probably enough. For calves that are long haul and high risk, we may run up to six 5-day feedings. For a 500 lb. calf, a 5-day treatment at 1 g/cwt. bodyweight will cost between \$0.70 and \$1.00 per head for the five days.

Feedlot Cattle: We recommend to pulse-dose feedlot cattle for three to five days at 1 g/cwt. of bodyweight each month to help clean up their disease load and improve gains. Additionally, foot rot is a common problem in feedlots which the use of CTC has been



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shown to significantly reduce. A 3-day pulse of CTC at 10 g/head will cost \$0.84 to \$1.20 per head for the three days.

In summary, with the cost of feed, cattle, and injectable antibiotics, CTC in the feed can be a safe and effective way to treat diseases and improve production in many different feeding programs and operations. It can improve performance, reduce medical costs, and reduce labor costs. For specific protocols customized for your operation, please give us a call.

## Feeding Cows in Confinement or Semi-Confinement



*By Jeremy Martin, Ph.D., Ruminant Nutritionist*

Many of us face the reality of feeding cows during the entire or at least part of the upcoming summer. While it is not a pleasant topic, it does deserve considerable forethought, and it is much better to plan now than scramble later. Praying for rain is a good idea, but it does not constitute a plan – so keep praying for the best but prepare for the worst. On the bright side, historically low cow numbers provide some hope for producers who can maintain the core of their operation. Handling pairs in this manner will add cost to most operations, but given the high price of pasture in much of our area, it is worth investigating the economics now rather than being forced to sell cows.

First and foremost, feed availability is a factor. If you do not have enough feed on hand to feed cows beyond your traditional turnout date, now is the time to discuss feeding options with your nutritionist and local feeders that have feed available. Without going into specifics of the rations, which will vary greatly depending on your feedstuffs available, the following are some management tips to keep in mind if you are forced to feed cows this summer.

If you have a choice between confined and semi-confined, the latter may be a better option as far as calf health and performance. In particular, if there is any way you can maintain cows in a pen environment, but allow calves to “escape” the dust and heat, it will be beneficial, especially if the calves can have access to limited pasture. If that is not possible, creep feed calves with a feed specifically formulated for younger calves, doing so will relieve some suckling pressure on the cows as the calves get bigger which will help decrease the cows’ feed needs while maintaining calf growth. Provide calves access to free-choice, high quality roughage to stimulate rumen development.

Prepare for early-weaning calves as feeding a pair is roughly the same cost as feeding a cow and a calf separately, and the calf will be more efficient if fed separately. Consult your veterinarian to see what changes to your vaccination protocol will be necessary. Make sure your facilities, or your custom feeder’s facilities, are prepared to handle small calves. This means lowering neck rails, making sure tanks are easily accessible to small calves, and providing a nutrient-dense, highly-fortified ration to develop the calves properly and keep them from getting too fleshy at a young age. Refer to Dr. Fanning’s article in this newsletter pertaining to the timely and correct use of chlortetracycline in weaning calves. Pen maintenance is extremely important; pens should be kept clean with approaches to bunks and waterers well-graded so calves can approach easily.

The incentive to early wean calves is to feed the cow cheaper, while maintaining body condition, and get more performance out of a calf that is appreciating in value. After weaning, it becomes more feasible to limit-feed both the cow and the calf, which can reduce the amount of roughage required to support the pair. It is important to note that early-weaned calves and cows should be fed different rations to achieve optimum performance from each. However, all the cattle must have ample bunk space to facilitate limit-feeding, meaning 2 feet or more for cows and at least 15 inches for the calves. All the cattle in the pen must be able to get to the bunk at the same time when limit-fed.

Reproductive performance of confined cows can be reduced if conditions are extremely hot due to the reflective heat from the surface of the pen. Consider shades if cows are tightly confined during the breeding season, and if semi-confined, allow cattle access to natural shade if at all possible. Because cows are being more intensely managed, it makes sense to consider this opportunity to reduce your calving window. Consider synchronizing confined cows for artificial insemination, or for natural service. Not only is there the opportunity to get more cows pregnant in this manner, but the benefit should carry forward to future years.

In the end, none of us want to be forced into feeding cows that should be out grazing green grass. But if drylotting cows becomes a reality, focus on doing things right and making progress rather than just getting by.

## Unused Feed

“I just watched my dog chase his tail for five minutes and I thought, ‘Dogs are easily entertained’ –and then realized I had just watched my dog chase his tail for five minutes.”