We have a report from Dave Maples of the KCA that a high percent of KY cattle farms are experiencing eye problems this summer. These cases rarely end up at the LDDC although we can assist with the diagnosis of cattle eye problems.

Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis (Pinkeye) is a common disease of cattle, sheep and goats. The disease causes the animals to blink, eyes to water, become reddened and even turn white when the cornea becomes involved. The most common organism causing this is Moraxella bovis. It can be spread by flies which leads to increased cases in the summer months. Dry dusty conditions and plant pollens can also predispose or worsen the disease. Mycoplasma and Chlamydophila organisms can also be involved, especially in sheep and goats. Eye problems can also be seen with Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) which will also cause respiratory problems in the animals.

In any case, good fly control is a must. Long-acting tetracyclines are the treatment of choice for all of these causes. If cases persist, the LDDC can culture an eye swab to ascertain the etiology and determine the best antibiotic for treatment. Be sure to swab animals that have not already been started on antibiotics/antibacterials.

For more information, click the link below:


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