



## Spring Pinkeye Prevention: A Multi-Modal Approach

As we start to enter spring, it's time to make your plan for pinkeye prevention this year. Dr. Gentry recommends taking a multi-modal approach to your pinkeye prevention and fly control.

### FLY TAGS

We expect fly tags to last for around three months, sometimes up to four. Apply these as late as possible so they last through peak fly season. Dr. Gentry recommends a late May application and removal in September. Leaving them in through the winter will only perpetuate resistance and leave you in a worse spot the following year.

#### Fly Tag Rotation Examples:

- Year 1: Cylence Ultra or Python 2 (MOA: Pyrethroids)
- Year 2: Patriot, Corathon, or Max40 (MOA: Organophosphates)
- Year 3: XP 820 (MOA: Macrocylic Lactone)
- Year 4: Tri-Zap (MOA: Macrocylic Lactone and Pyrethroid)

### TOPICAL OPTIONS

Be sure to follow the label directions for proper application of the various products to get proper control. Not following the label will result in inadequate fly control.

Most topical control is pyrethroid-based. Examples include Cylence, Permethrin II, Ultraboss, and Ultrasaber. Clean-Up II with IGR can be a great rotational alternative.

Use these products instead of topical dewormers for regular fly control through the summer and early fall. Many cattle do not need to be dewormed more than once or twice a year. Over-utilizing dewormers as a fly control method will promote intestinal parasite resistance, and dewormers may no longer work well in your cattle.



## **VACCINES**

Many over-the-counter pinkeye vaccines are available that cover one general bacteria. Dr. Gentry recommends using an autogenous pinkeye vaccine that covers many of the bacteria that cause pinkeye in southeast Tennessee.

This vaccine was created by Dr. Gentry to better protect her clients' cattle and can be purchased at the Athens AgCentral location with a prescription from Dr. Gentry.

Getting two doses of the vaccine in prior to the start of fly season is essential to ensuring your cattle form an adequate response and have increased protection from pinkeye.

## **FEED-THROUGHS**

Feed-through products like Clarify reduce fly populations by preventing flies from maturing into adults. Dr. Gentry recommends incorporating a product like Clarify into your mineral starting in March to ensure it is in place prior to the start of fly season.

## **PASTURE MANAGEMENT**

Minimize available fly breeding grounds by spreading manure and cleaning up any decaying organic material (i.e., old hay bales, feed bunk piles, etc.). Minimize damage to cattle's eyes by keeping seed heads cut down and reducing dust and debris in confined areas.

***Have more questions about pinkeye prevention or fly control?*** Stop by your local AgCentral and talk with our team—we're here to help you build a healthier herd this season.