



### **Tetanus:**

I've seen tetanus on many farms, and so have all the other vets. The animals always die, no matter what drugs and heroic efforts we try. I've only seen two animals in 40 years that got infected on their own. In every other case, the disease was caused by a human putting a rubber band on the animal to either castrate or dock a tail.

If a rubber band is used, and it probably shouldn't, the animal needs a tetanus vaccination with tetanus toxoid at least two weeks in advance. You can probably get by with tetanus antitoxin at the time of banding in calves, we did in sheep, but it is a much more expensive product and the larger the animal the more you need.

The best prevention is to use an open castration method on your calves, do it as young as possible, and that solves the issue.

Another argument is that banding is not humane and this is an issue that is gaining importance as well.

### **Screwworm Eradication:**

We all like to bash the government and their spending programs, but the Department of Agriculture has done a tremendous job minimizing disease in the United States, and we tend to take it for granted or we are unaware of what they do. The screw worm was eliminated from the United States in the early 70's by releasing millions of sterile male (radiation was used to sterilize) adults. Every year since the border with Mexico is monitored and more sterile males are released. But last year it was discovered in deer in Florida. The worms, if left untreated will kill cattle and can infect and kill people. Although the screwworm never existed in Wisconsin, with warmer winters it's potential range is moving north.

As an added note, wound sprays that killed maggots when I first practiced were called "Screwworm Spray" and I still think of them as such.

### **Don't use Baytril unless all else fails!!**

At a recent veterinary educational meeting in Madison, Salmonella was the topic. The disease is not going away. Salmonella Dublin, which is highly adapted to cattle, and likes cattle in confinement, continues to be a bigger and bigger problem. The biggest threat to your farm is that the organism rapidly becomes resistant to antibiotics, and in fact most antibiotics don't work on it at all.

Always use Baytril as a last resort and talk to your herd vet before you do. There will not be any new antibiotics approved for food animals, period. So you need to save the good ones for real potential emergencies. Sort of an insurance against something we all hope you never have to face.

When you use Baytril for infections other than Salmonella, some of the animals' gut bacteria become resistant. These bacteria don't make the animal sick, the animal's immune system keep them in check, but these bacteria have the ability to transfer their resistance genes to Salmonella. This process is like a cat transferring resistance genes to a dog, but in the world of gram negative bacteria it happens and it is a big component of antibiotic failure.

So don't use Baytril unless you have to.



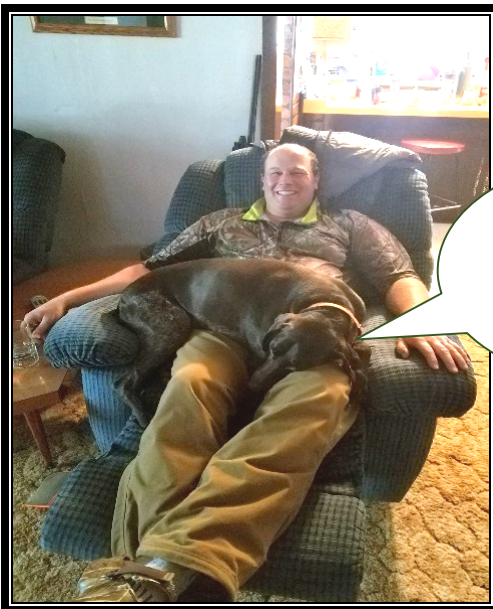
### **Bayer Animal Health Producer rewards:**

Go to [rebate.bahrewards.com](http://rebate.bahrewards.com) to sign up and you will receive a 6% rebate on Bayer products, like Baytril, through the end of December. You will have to open an online account, with account number and password. If you use our drop ship programs, once you register, the drop ship suppliers will inform Bayer of your purchases. If you purchase through the clinic you will have to take a picture of the invoice or email a copy of the invoice.

## Foot Wraps and Tetracycline:

1. Tetracyclines come in three forms: Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline and Clortetracycline.
2. Regular milk plant tests do not pick up tetracycline in the milk, a special test has to be run. This is why many of you have infused and flushed cows with tetracycline and not had a residue (get ready).
3. The government has just mandated testing of milk with the special test. Again, NEW TEST.
4. There is a tolerance in milk of 300ppb.
5. The current test is set off at 10ppb, so the test is 30 times more sensitive than it needs to be. That's a problem. If you set off the test, but you are below the legal level, the milk is still illegal because it set off the only available test. That's the catch 22.
6. We know that when any of the tetracyclines are used on feet, some is absorbed. The amount of drug used increases the amount absorbed, and so does putting on a bandage, because the drug is held next to the tissue longer.
7. 10cc of LA 200 or similar has 2 grams of tetracycline, the level that is considered the top use level per cow. If you wrap two feet with 25cc of LA 200 on each foot, you have used 5 times the amount that can cause a violative residue, and probably 150 times the amount that can set off the test.
8. Uptake through a wound is variable, and since a lot of the tetracycline drips off or seeps away the first time your cow steps in a urine puddle, many times the test will not be set off when you use too much drug. Want to risk it? We don't want you to.
9. So going forward, our recommendation is to use no more than a total of 2 grams of any tetracycline on a cow. This should allow a 24 hour milk discard. If you do not wrap the foot and only spray with tetracycline, the milk withhold is 24 hours. If you wrap the foot with tetracycline in the wrap, the milk withhold is 24 hours past the day you took the wrap off. So leaving the wrap on for 3 days gives her a 4 day milk withhold.
10. If you like playing the lottery, use plenty of tetracycline, and bandage it on, and probably 95 cows out of 100 will not have a milk residue. But the other 5 will cost you tens of thousands of dollars and this is why we have to recommend milk discard and low levels.
11. Minimize bandages. If they are not removed in 24 hours they cause more damage than help.
12. You can talk to your vet about diluting out the tetracycline. This is a controversial issue, because it becomes "compounding" but it will help reduce the risk.

Recent research showed calm beef cattle had better growth rates and better carcass quality. This is probably related to time spent feeding, and the hormones that are released when an animal is nervous or excited.



"I worked hard  
so my owner could  
have a better life."

