

# Ask the VMD

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If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

**Cows aren't rosy when they've got pink eye**

**A reader asks:**

How contagious is pinkeye, and what precautions do I need to take before animals that have previously had the disease into my clean herd? How long do they carry the disease?

**Dr. Riegel comments:**

Pinkeye, also known as Infectious Bovine Kerato Conjunctivitis, Infectious Keratitis or Infectious Conjunctivitis is very contagious.

The disease is seen primarily during the warm weather months when the fly population is at its peak. Flies appear to be the major vector causing the spread of the organism that causes the disease. However, the disease can be seen during winter months as well, spread by direct contact.

At one time, bacterin, *Moraxella bovis* was thought to be the primary causative agent of the disease. Now other bacteria and a virus have been isolated from cases of pinkeye.

The signs of the disease are spasms of the eyelid, redness around the eye, excessive tearing, a whitish appearance around the outer, normally clear, part of the eye. These symptoms, if untreated, may proceed to the swelling of center of eye, then to ulcerating and in some cases rupturing and collapse of the eye. These signs may be seen in one or both eyes.

There is one theory that puts forth the idea that the organism which causes the disease is present in the eye at all times but is kept under control by normal ocular secretions. If the eye is irritated by either flies, dusty conditions, pollen etc., the disease will appear.

There are other diseases which can result in sore eyes such as Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, and Bovine

Virus Diarrhea, and shipping fever. Pinkeye must be differentiated from these. With these diseases, both eyes are usually affected to the same degree at the same time.

As far as bringing animals which have had pinkeye into a clean herd, I would say that when excessive tearing has stopped you would be relatively safe in introducing them in to a so-called clean herd. Sources of irritation to the eyes should be kept under control.

Almost every Spring we encounter a farm with a severe outbreak of pinkeye. I

can recall one in particular a few years back in which a group of about 15, 400-pound dairy heifers were turned out on rapidly maturing orchard grass pasture.

In a short time almost 100 percent of the heifers had damage in one or both eyes. On examining the situation it didn't take long to find the source of eye irritation. The seedy awns of the orchard grass were at eye level.

This eye irritation problem has been alleviated in subsequent year by clipping the pastures before introducing the stock or before pasture is over ripe.

## FmHA, CCC lower interest rates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Interest rates on housing and farm loans made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration and crop loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation have been reduced in response to the nation's rural credit needs, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said Thursday.

Changes in rates on CCC loans become effective immediately, changes in housing loans will be effective at the close of business June 13 and new rates for farm loans will be effective at the close of business June 16.

The interest rate on all 1980 crop commodity loans made by CCC is lowered from 13 to 11.5 percent. However, the interest rate on CCC farm storage facility and drying equipment loans will remain at the 13 percent rate.

Interest rates for Farmers Home Administration economic emergency loans to farmers were lowered to 11 percent for real estate and to 11.5 percent for production loans. Both had been 14 percent.

The new rates for emergency disaster loans will be 12.5 percent on real estate and 13.5 percent for

production loans. Both had been 14 percent.

Mortgage interest rates on low-to-moderate single-family homes were lowered to 11.5 percent and rural rental housing interest rates went to 10.75 percent. Both had been 13 percent.

Regular Farmers Home Administration farm real estate loans will carry a new interest rate of 11 percent while regular farm operating loans will be at 10.5 percent.

Interest rates for actual loss disaster emergency loans will remain at 5 percent as prescribed by law.

Interest rates for the Farmers Home Administration program for "limited resource" farmers will remain at 5 percent for real estate loans and 7 percent for operating loans.

Interest rates for loans guaranteed by Farmers Home Administration will continue to be negotiated between borrower and lender. These include loans for business and industrial development, for housing for persons with above-moderate incomes and for some farm loans.



## Conn. operator suspended

NORTH FRANKLIN, Ct. — Samuel Berkowitz, formerly doing business as North Franklin Commission Sales, North Franklin, Conn., has been suspended for 18 months and ordered to stop violating payment, trust account and recordkeeping requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Berkowitz, who did business in Connecticut, Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts, is not operating at present. The order, like a permanent

injunction, was issued to insure future compliance with the P&S Act.

The order was issued in default when Berkowitz failed to answer an administrative complaint filed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Berkowitz was ordered to cease and desist from:

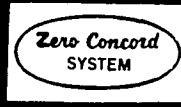

Issuing insufficient funds checks or drafts in payment for livestock purchases and in payment of net proceeds due consignors;

Failing to pay when due

for livestock purchases and to transmit when due payment of net proceeds to consignors; and

Endangering prompt payment to consignors by using funds due to consignors of livestock for his own purposes and otherwise failing to properly maintain his custodial account for shippers' proceeds.

The 18-month suspension begins June 9, and continues thereafter until the deficit in his custodial account has been eliminated.

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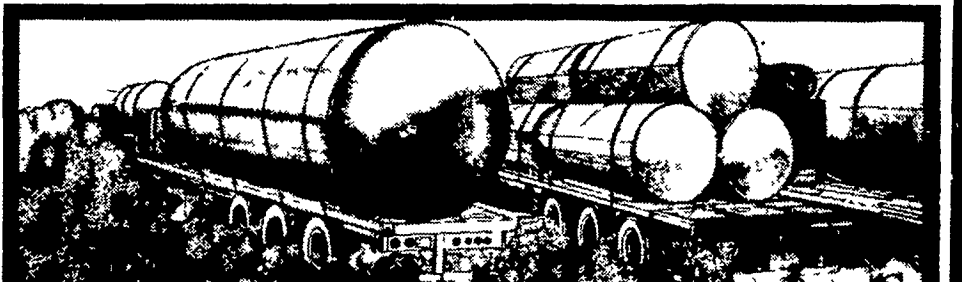
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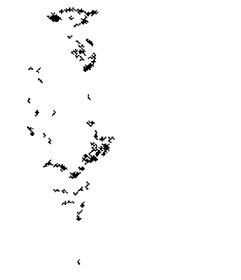


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1000	48"	10	<b>296</b>	15,000	120"	5/16"	<b>4278</b>
1000	48"	7	<b>357</b>	20,000	126"	5/16"	<b>5021</b>
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