

Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel

Donald Yorlets

Edgar Sheaffer

A reader asks:
Is ringworm related to a dietary deficiency in cattle? What would be lacking in the diet to cause ringworm?

Dr. Yorlets Comments:
It is unlikely that nutrition has a significant effect on the occurrence of ringworm. While a high plane of nutrition is essential for good health and optimal performance, only grossly inadequate diets would render an animal more susceptible to ringworm infections.

It is well known that Vitamin A is essential for healthy skin; however, it has been shown that feeding increased amounts of Vitamin A does not prevent nor control ringworm infections.

Ringworm is a disease of the skin caused by a fungal infection. Ringworm affects all ages and breeds of cattle; however, it is more common in calves during the winter months. The infection is characterized by heavy gray-white crusts about one inch in diameter.

The lesions occur primarily on the head and neck. The cause of the disease is exposure to other infected animals or contaminated environment. Lesions appear in approximately four weeks and expand and grow over the next four to eight weeks, then slowly regress during the next eight to sixteen weeks.

Ringworm is transmitted by

spores produced by the fungus which comes from direct contact with infected animals or by exposure to an environment contaminated with spores from infected animals. The spores live for years and may cause annual outbreaks.

The diagnosis of ringworm is usually made by the characteristic lesions; however, special tests are available to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatments for ringworm are numerous and varied. It should, however, be pointed out that most cases of ringworm, if left untreated, will resolve themselves spontaneously. This may account for the apparent success of some treatments, particularly if the disease is treated in the later stages.

It should be stressed, however, that extremely severe cases, if left untreated, can result in death. Ringworm should be treated promptly to prevent the progression of the disease on individual animals, as well as to halt the spread to unaffected animals and contamination of the environment.

Most treatments for ringworm are applied directly to the lesions. Before this is done, the lesions should be thoroughly cleaned and scrubbed with a wire brush to remove crusty scales so that adequate penetration of the medication can be achieved.

Various treatments follow:
✓ Ten percent tincture of iodine is probably the oldest and most frequently used treatment

✓ Four percent Bluestone solution

✓ Iodine-glycerol mix

✓ Five percent lime sulfur

✓ 2.5 percent formalin

✓ Captan mixed as a spray - 1/2 lb. per 20 gal. water and applied with high pressure (400 psi) at the rate of 1.5 gal. per animal each week for 2-3 treatments is effective in preventing the spread of ringworm.

✓ One percent or five percent thiabendazole ointment applied topically every three days for three treatments is effective.

✓ Intravenous sodium iodine has been used with some success - 50-100 ml. of a twenty percent solution.

✓ Griseofulvin is highly effective, but is expensive and usually used only on valuable animals.

Prevention of ringworm should be attempted when practical. This includes isolation of infected animals to limit the spread of spores and environmental contamination. Ringworm is a common disease of only minor economic importance.

One last word of caution: Humans can develop ringworm from infected animals. See your family physician if you have been

Record Angus entries at North American

St. Joseph, Mo. — A record 438 breeding cattle have been entered in the open and junior Angus shows at the 1982 North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, reports Richard Spader, executive vice president of the American Angus Association.

"Although not designated a national show this year, the North American Angus show is still considered a major event by Angus breeders," Spader explained. "That's because the annual meeting of the American Angus Association and other related activities will be held in conjunction with the show Nov. 14-16."

The open show which will be judged Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 15 and 16, has 355 entries. Show judge is Mark Richardson, Afton, Oklahoma. The junior show with 83 head entered also is one of the largest junior entries of any breed for the North American. It will be judged beginning at 9 o'clock Sunday morning by Dee Woody, Carbondale, Illinois.

Some 2,000 people usually take part in the Angus activities at the North American each year. This year the annual meeting of the Association is set for Monday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. in the East Hall of the Exposition Center. The annual banquet will be that evening at the Executive West. Guest speaker for this event at the Executive West. Guest speaker for this event will be Baxter Black, DVM, cowboy poet, author and noted public speaker.

On Sunday, the open committee exposed to an infected animal and suspect that you have been infected.

meeting of the American Angus Association will be held. It's theme will be "Advertising—How to get more bang from your bucks." Guest speakers will be Ted Price, Omaha, Nebraska, and Charles Wellborn, University of Florida, Gainesville. A reception for all Angus breeders is set for 6 p.m. Sunday evening in the Executive West. The open bull show beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning, Nov. 16 will conclude the Angus activities.

Del. schedules Hort meetings

NEWARK, Del. — This year's Peninsula Horticulture Society meetings will be held Nov. 16 and Dec. 9 at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury, Maryland.

A nursery and greenhouse program on Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., will cover the following topics: fertilization techniques for greenhouse crops; energy conservation in greenhouses; trouble-shooting plant problems in greenhouse and nursery; compost for nursery, bedding and potted plants.

The fruit and vegetable program on Thursday, December 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will cover: peach and strawberry production; sweet corn for fresh market; common sense use of drip irrigation; techniques for transplant production; sweet potatoes; white potatoes; managing a multicrop system; and brambles and blueberries.

For further information contact county Extension offices in Delaware or Maryland.

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