

# Cattle Producers Should Watch For Lice

BY L.J. HUTCHINSON  
Penn State University  
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre)  
— There are normally five different species of lice that can attack cattle in North America. The four blood-sucking lice are the little blue louse, the longnosed louse, the shortnosed louse, and the cattle tailed louse. These lice are considered to be the most economically damaging to cattle because of the health problems they can cause. The cattle biting louse is a chewing or biting louse and is not considered to be as great a problem because it does not suck blood.

Lice are host specific, spending their entire life on their specific specie of animal. Lice are generally spread from animal to animal by direct contact, the most common means of transmission being from cow to calf. Fall or early spring calves are unthrifty cattle usually having the heaviest lice infestations. These cattle are usually in poor condition with rough, patchy haircoats that have a dirty appearance. Heavy lice infestation can cause severe blood loss of the host animals which can cause reduced weight gains, lowered vitality, disease resistance and milk production. Cows may abort due to louse-induced anemia.

Cattle are most susceptible to lice during the winter months. During the cold weather, the time it takes for the eggs to hatch and grow into adults is three to four weeks. This cycle is slowed down with warmer temperatures. The maximum life for lice is approximately 45 days.

The preferred sites for lice are the base of the tail, shoulders, and the back. When infestations are heavy, lice populations can cover the whole body. Lice live on the surface of the skin and can be seen with the naked eye. To determine the intensity of infestation, look in

several different areas by pulling back the hair with both hands. Look for movement on the skin or the eggs which attach to hairs close to the skin. These are seen as small white dots. More evidence of lice is a crusty scale which biting lice produce.

Generally, animals in good condition will not carry a heavy infestation of lice. Organophosphate compounds and ivermectin are available and can be used to control lice as well as other parasites. Check labels when using on lactating and nonlactating cattle.

Dust bags with back rubbers can be used for preventative measures rather than control. For heavy infestations, dusts and sprays can be used over the whole body. Since the eggs are not killed by these compounds, treatment should be repeated in two weeks.

## Limousin Group Publishes Sire Summary, Dam Trait Leader List

DENVER, CO. — The North American Limousin Foundation has recently completed the fifteenth edition of the Limousin Sire Summary and the second edition of the Limousin Dam Trait Leader List. Both listings evaluate cattle in each of the four traits evaluated by NALF with Expected

Progeny Differences. The traits listed are birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, and milking ability.

Both lists have specifications which must be met in order to make the listing. There are approximately 200 cows listed in each of the four traits in the Dam

Trait Leader List and approximately 75 in each trait for the Sire Summary, with about 1100 bulls listed in the general listing.

Both the Sire Summary and the Dam Trait Leader List are available upon request from the NALF office. With the increased use of EPD's both of these tools prove to

be in great demand. EPD's are available on all cattle registered by NALF including those animals with lower accuracies. Contact the NALF office at P.O. Box 16767, Denver, CO 80216 or call 303/296-8835 for your copies of the Sire Summary and Dam Trait Leader List.

## Feeder Cattle Meeting

### Set For Lancaster County

BLUEBALL (Lancaster) — The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program will conduct a meeting to discuss the buying and selling of beef cattle. This meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Blue Ball Elementary School. Putting cattle in the feedlot is a little like playing the lottery -- there is a lot of gamble to it, so it should be interesting to hear what the expert predicts for the future.

Reggie Reynolds, executive secretary of the Virginia Cattle-men's Association, will be sharing good information on the selection,

buying, and selling of cattle as well as discussing the Tel-o-Auctions and the Satellite/Video Auctions. He will provide some insight into the effort his association makes to assure uniform quality as cattle are grouped for sale and he'll look into his crystal ball to see what is ahead for cattle prices in the next few months and long term.

All interested persons are invited. The Blue Ball School is located ½ mile east of Blue Ball on Ewell Road, between Route 23 and 322. For further information call the Adult Farmer office at 354-4525.

## Wool Growers Auxiliary President Chairs Ag Women's Network

DENVER, CO. — Fern Krehbiel, president of the National Wool Growers Auxiliary, was elected first chair of the newly formed Agricultural Womens Leadership Network during a summit meeting in Winrock, Ariz.

"This dynamic group of agricultural women established this organization to promote communication between our groups and to promote women leaders in agriculture," Krehbiel said. "We can positively impact our communities, our nation and our world."

Current issues in agriculture, legislation, communication, politics and networking were all among the topics discussed by

participants.

Eleven agricultural groups, including the National Wool Growers Association, participated in a Farm Womens Leadership Summit at Winrock, Ariz. Mrs. Krehbiel and Cindy Siddoway of St. Anthony, ID, attended the sessions representing the sheep industry. Other groups participating were National Rural Electric Association, American Agri-Women, National Cattle Women, Homemakers Council, Farmers Union, American Farm Bureau Federation, Association of Milk Producers, Women Involved In Farm Economics, Pork Council, and the American Feed Industry Association.

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