

# Spring Management Considerations

## 1. Grass Tetany

- a. Due to very wet conditions in our pastures, the grass is extremely high in potassium. This interferes with magnesium and may cause a down cow. It is of utmost importance to offer high magnesium mineral free choice.
- b. If you do have a downer cow, there is an available oral paste containing magnesium. Contact your veterinarian for further assistance.

## 2. Ringworm

- a. Ringworm is identified as hair loss in random circular spots, especially around the eyes with scales and skin thickening. An excellent treatment option is Kopertox (which is used for thrush in horses). Another option is Captan; which should be mixed at 1 cup per 2 gallons of water for a generalized spray. Do not scrape the area prior to treating.

## 3. Lice

- a. Lice causes hair loss and itching. There are two types: biting and sucking. Most any pour-on dewormer will be effective for lice, just be sure it is labeled for both biting and sucking lice.

## 4. Deworming

- a. Parasite burdens in pastures peak during the spring, so it is of extreme importance to deworm cattle, both cows and calves over three months.
- b. The two main types of classes of dewormers are benzimidazoles and avermectins/milbemycins. Please note that these are the active ingredients and not brand names. The avermectin/milbemycin group also offers external parasite control and works well in calves. When choosing a dewormer, keep in mind its spectrum of control, withdrawal time, cost effectiveness, product efficacy, and method of application. It's important to follow the product dosing guide.

## 5. Flies and Pinkeye

- a. Whatever insecticide you choose to use should control multiple types of flies for the comfort of the animal, as well as to prevent pinkeye. Relative to pinkeye, you must consider both *Moraxella bovis* and *Moraxella bovoculi*. *Bovis* is susceptible to LA-200; however, *bovoculi* requires Draxxin or Baytril. Consider covering the infected eye during treatment as well. Contact your veterinarian for further assistance.