

Nebraska Grazing
Conference
Kearney Holiday Inn
Convention Center
August 13 & 14, 2013

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Leafy Spurge – Best Treatment Options

Leafy spurge is in full bloom now and treatment is recommended to keep it from producing seed. If you are tired of treating every spring with poor results we suggest you switch your treatment program to include a fall application. Treat with herbicides at least two weeks prior to a killing frost for best results. This is the time when the plant is taking down nutrients to help get it through the winter and will carry the herbicide deeper into the root zone. This is far more effective than just burning off the top growth when treating in the spring. For proper herbicide rates use the UNL Extension 2013 Guide for Weed Management and follow the label directions. The

guide can be found at your Extension Office or visit <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/e-public/live/ec130/build/ec130.pdf>.

Considered one of the most serious perennial weed species, leafy spurge is threatening millions of acres of pasture and rangeland in the western United States. It is one of the most persistent and difficult to control perennial weeds yet encountered.

Leafy spurge plants are one to two feet high and the stems contain a milky white latex sap. This colorful plant has greenish yellow bracts that support the actual flowers. The seed pods break open at maturity, shooting seeds 15 feet or more from the parent plant. The root systems have numerous pink buds that produce new shoots, and pieces of root as short as one-half inch will give rise to new leafy spurge plants.

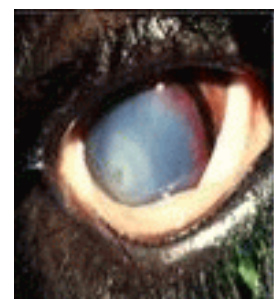


Achieving control on a large area of leafy spurge is costly and difficult. It is advisable to control the small patches before they spread and become a more costly problem. Leafy spurge is an aggressive plant; therefore a programmed approach achieves best results. Plan a complete three to four year re-treatment program. Mark the location with some type of permanent marker such as a T-post so you can find it again next year as the stand begins to weaken. Whenever an infestation has been controlled, inspect the area every spring and fall for several years to prevent re-infestation by seedlings.

Pinkeye In Cattle

Pinkeye is a highly contagious infectious disease affecting the eyes of cattle. This common disease can vary in its severity from year to year.

Although pinkeye rarely causes the death of affected cattle it can cause substantial losses to the cattle industry through decreased weight gain, lowered milk production, and treatment costs. Pinkeye is known to occur at all seasons of the year and in all breeds of cattle but is most common during the summer months. Pinkeye can occur in one or both eyes. Excessive weeping of the affected eye and closure due to pain are the two signs most commonly observed. As the disease progresses, the cornea becomes cloudy or white. An ulcer frequently develops near the center of the cornea. The course of the infection may run for 4 to 8 weeks, or even longer.



Pinkeye is primarily caused by *Moraxella bovis* (*M. bovis*) however multiple organisms such as *Mycoplasma bovoculi* and IBR virus have been found in eye infections resembling pinkeye. Other factors instrumental in causing eye irritation, thereby allowing for invasion of *M. bovis* and subsequent disease, are excessive ultraviolet light (sunlight), the face fly, plant material, and dust. Pinkeye is caused by a combination of factors. Dry, dusty environmental conditions or wet, warm environmental conditions play a role. Taller grass and seedheads can damage the eyes. The wet, warm conditions also lead to heavier fly populations that irritate the eyes and spread the organisms.

The face fly has been associated with an increased incidence of pinkeye in recent years. Research at the University of Nebraska's West Central Research and Extension Center has demonstrated that face fly feeding produces mechanical injury to the conjunctiva and spreads IBR virus and *Moraxella bovis* from animal to animal as the fly feeds on eye and nose secretions of cattle. Flies not only serve as irritants as they feed on secretions from the eye they also serve as a means of transmitting *M. bovis* from infected to non-infected animals. The infection can also be spread by direct contact when the eye secretions of an infected animal are rubbed into the eye of an uninfected animal.

Vitamin A deficiency and inadequate protein intake may be other factors that possibly contribute to lessened resistance to eye infections. Vitamin A deficiency results in excessive watering of the eye, night blindness, and may cause cloudiness of the cornea in severe cases, giving the eyeball a dry, lusterless appearance.

A good control program should incorporate procedures to reduce initial eye irritation. An intensive fly control program is essential to limit the spread of pinkeye in a herd of cattle. Cattle often have grass or weed seeds in their eyes, and these materials no doubt irritate the eye and contribute to the development of pinkeye. Cattle with pinkeye can be helped by prompt treatment. There are other infections that look like pinkeye so it is recommended that you consult with your veterinarian to assist you in the diagnosis and treatment of pinkeye.

Source: Beef.unl.edu

Biosecurity During Horse Events

With the Outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) myeloencephalopathy in May, biosecurity and showing horses have been front page news. Summer months are prime time for large, organized trail rides, horse shows, sales, parades, and other events where horses congregate.

These precautions do involve more work, more time, and more awareness. However, it will help reduce the risk of horses being exposed to multiple viral and bacterial diseases while on the road.

- ✓ Minimize nose-to-nose contact between horses. Do not allow another horse to sniff your horse's nose "to get acquainted."
- ✓ Do not share equipment for use with other people's horses. If any equipment is loaned, keep it away from your horses until it is cleaned with a detergent, rinsed, and properly disinfected.
- ✓ Do not use common water troughs. Bring your own water and feed buckets.
- ✓ Avoid common-use areas such as tack stalls used to groom and tack multiple horses. If these common areas must be used, use cross ties instead on tying horses to a post, wall, or other nose-to-nose contact area.
- ✓ Halters, lead shanks, and face grooming towels should be used on one animal only and not shared between animals.
- ✓ Wash your hands or use a 62% ethyl alcohol hand gel before and after handling or riding other people's horses.
- ✓ Early detection of disease is paramount, especially contagious infectious diseases. Take horse's temperatures twice daily (morning and night) during the event and for two weeks after return to the stable.
- ✓ Quarantine horses when they return to the barn after an event.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect horse trailers before they're used by other horses.

