

October 4, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Anaplasmosis in Cattle

Anaplasmosis, what is that? I wondered the same thing until just a little over 6 years ago. If you have cattle, you may want to know more about Anaplasmosis. I received a call earlier this week concerning the loss of some mature cows that the veterinarian diagnosed as Anaplasmosis in Brown County. This disease has been a regular topic of discussion over the past few falls in the area, with cases in Adams, Brown, Highland and surrounding counties on both sides of the Ohio River.

Anaplasmosis is a blood disease that can be passed from one cow to another by needles that producers use, horse flies, mosquitoes, and other insects that seek a blood meal from the cattle. This could happen when using the same needle on multiple cows, or an insect that has not completed the blood meal and the fly gets swatted by the cow's tail and moves to another cow to complete the meal. This disease results in cows that appear to be healthy in the heat of the summer like August and September. It can carry on into October, too. The cows appear to be healthy and within a day or two they are showing a weight loss, but their eyes and ears do not appear to be that of a sick animal. These are the clinical signs of Anaplasmosis: fever, increased heart/respiration rate, muscle weakness (wobbly), thin watery blood, constipation, nervousness, anemia, inappetence, depression, a drop in milk yield, dehydration, and reproduction disorders including abortion. The cows in a majority of the cases may become aggressive just prior to death when excited. The red blood cells are destroyed to the point that these animals do not have enough oxygen in the blood and when excited they die.

The symptoms are not easy to deal with. Unfortunately the symptoms consist of a near dead or dead cow when found. Producers are often guilty of discounting a cow's death to hardware, heart attack or something. The problem with an unexplained death is that it may take a second or third death before we decide to find out what the problem is. An unexplained death of an animal in your herd is a dangerous thing to deal with. A lesson learned may be to not have an unexplained death. Find out what happened. So the begs the question, how do I find out?

Animals can be taken to a lab and be posted for a reasonable fee. It takes time to load the cow in the truck and to take her to the nearest lab, but you know what you are dealing with. In most cases you may be able to take steps to prevent further problems.

This has not historically been a problem in Ohio. However, it is now being found more often for several reasons. Often cows are moved around more as they are bought and sold from more areas throughout the United States. It is believed that many herds may have carriers within the herd.

Texas A&M has an outstanding factsheet available that explains this disease in detail. If you suspect you have had a case show up in your herd, good advice would be to contact your local veterinarian as soon as possible. Prevention and treatment can include injections and medicated mineral or feed with chlortetracycline in feed is useful. Again your veterinarian can help with all aspects of this problem, including prevention.



This is a situation where knowing what caused a death is very valuable. Being able to identify the problem early will aid in prompt treatment and prevention. The cost of having an animal examined to identify cause of death is really pretty reasonable on the surface, but it looks really cheap if it helps you prevent additional losses. Animals that are found dead without any known cause would need to be transported to the nearest lab promptly during this time of the year. Your veterinarian can help you locate a lab and give you additional instructions including blood samples that can be stored that might be helpful, too.

The next challenge for those herds with known cases of Anaplasmosis in the past will be the upcoming Veterinarian Feed Directive that will go into effect on January 1, 2017. This will change the availability of most treatments for this disease. Contact your local veterinarian soon to get a plan in place.

Tire Amnesty Days in Adams and Brown

With the issues we have had in recent years with Mosquitoes in the United States you may want to take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of old tires that may be lying around. In Adams and Brown Counties there will be a number of opportunities in October to do just that. Here is a list of days that tires can be taken to a recycling event free of charge. For more information contact Dan Wickerham at 937-378-3431, or send email to dwickherham@abcap.net

Saturday Oct. 8 in Adams County at the recycling center at 95 Trefz Road east of West Union just about a mile off of SR 125 and Compton Hill Road, turn next to the Stone Chappel. The hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The Brown County locations and times are:

Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Ripley Community Park

Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9:00 am – 2:00pm at Aberdeen Fire Department

Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Perry Township Hall in Fayetteville

Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Adams Brown Recycling in Georgetown

Large tires have some restrictions, so you may want to call first. Also the Recycling Center reserves the right to refuse any large or extremely dirty tires.