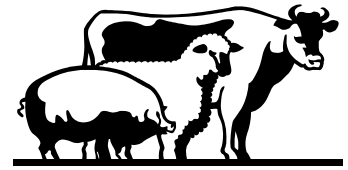


# LIVESTOCK LINES



**Stanislaus & San Joaquin Counties**

**June, 2008 ♦ Volume 14, No. 1**

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

In 2002, the US Congress passed a law requiring certain “covered commodities” to be verified and labeled as to their country of origin. The acronym used commonly for this law is COOL, denoting Country of Origin Labeling.

by  
**Theresa Becchetti**

**Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor**

## **A Word From Theresa**

It is June already, 2008 is half over. Where does the time go? In this edition of *Livestock Lines* you will find information on a variety of items. With summer here, pinkeye starts to become a concern. Here you’ll find Dr. Maas’s monthly article on prevention to give you some options to include in your management practices. In September, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is supposed to become mandatory. Jack Whittier from Colorado State University sums up the basics and what will probably be required from livestock producers. If going to the pump has you wondering if it is worthwhile to use your diesel to run errands in town, we have an automobile calculator for you to use to pencil out if it is cost effective. Enclosed in this newsletter there is a registration form for the Cattle Welfare Workshop which will discuss information on proper handling and care of downer cows, something we should all make sure is always being done properly.

Finally, with our lack of rain this spring most counties are looking at declaring a disaster for rangelands. Our forage production was below normal this year, and has been reported to the Ag Commissioners’ and FSA. If any program is made available, I will try to get the word out as soon as I hear anything. To that regard, I want to encourage any of you that have access to the internet to sign up to receive an electronic version of *Livestock Lines*. Not only will you receive it sooner, you will also get meeting announcements and various other announcements that we are not able to get into the mail. For example, how many of you got the e-mail about free parking for the Livestock Forum this past March? We received notice from the Oakdale Police Department too late to mail out the information, so we made use of the e-mails we have. You will also find the second part of Dr. Maas’s article and the automobile calculator on the website. So please take a minute and check it out. I promise I will try to keep it updated and useful if you promise to make use of it! Check it out today:

<http://ucanr.org/livestock>

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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## PINKEYE--PREVENTION & TREATMENT

By John Maas, DVM, MS

**Face Flies.** Decreasing face fly infestation is an important aspect of preventing pinkeye in cattle. Face flies are very efficient at transmitting pinkeye agents from one animal to the next. One such agent is *Moraxella bovis*; this organism has been proven to cause pinkeye in cattle. We suspect the recently characterized *Moraxella* species, *Moraxella bovoculi*, is also involved in causing cattle pinkeye. Also, if the calves in your herd are having more cases of pinkeye—it is most important to put the fly tags in the calves' ears versus the cows. It is important to put together a total “game plan” to control the flies on your operation.

**Clipping the pastures.** Another aid in the prevention of pinkeye is to clip the pastures if grass is too long and headed out. This will decrease much of the irritation to the cattles' eyes that can initiate the beginnings of a pinkeye outbreak. The irritation of dust, plant pollen, or weed seeds will promote tearing from the eyes and shedding of the bacteria (*M. bovis*, *M. bovoculi*) by a few “carrier cows” in the herd. These carriers then spread the organism by contact and via face flies to the rest of the herd and susceptible animals may become infected and develop clinical pinkeye.

**Foxtails or plant awns.** Eye irritation can be caused by tall grasses as mentioned above; however, another common plant product (foxtails) can cause significant irritation. These foxtails (or other weed seeds or awns that stick in the eye) lodge in the eyes of cattle and can cause significant damage, irritation, and watering (tearing) of the eye. This can lead to further spread of the bacteria that cause pinkeye. Face flies that are attracted to this tearing can easily spread the pinkeye organisms between animals. Cattle examined for pinkeye should also be examined for the possible presence of these foxtails or plant awns. If they are found, they must be removed. One clue to the presence of

foxtails is the location of the damage in the eye. With uncomplicated pinkeye the damage usually begins in the center of the eye and spreads outward. With a foxtail or other foreign body the damage will be “off-center”. The examination of the eye for foxtails and pinkeye creates another opportunity for spread of the disease and this spread must also be prevented.

**Use disposable latex gloves.** When examining the eyes always use disposable latex gloves. The pinkeye agents will bind to your hands and you can become a very effective transmitter of the disease. So you can become a “giant face fly” in terms of causing more problems in your herd. When you do treat a pinkeye animal be sure to use disposable needles and syringes—then dispose of them!

**Keep your clothing clean.** Just as with your hands, your clothing can easily become contaminated with the pinkeye agents. Therefore, it is best to treat any pinkeye or potential pinkeye cases after you have done all the routine animal handling procedures on healthy animals for the day. Alternatively, change clothes after handling pinkeye cattle and before handling normal cattle.

**Disinfectants.** The routine use of a disinfectant for any equipment used on animals with pinkeye is necessary. Nolvasan<sup>®</sup> (chlorhexidine; Fort Dodge) is an excellent choice because it is not irritating to tissues and works well as a disinfectant. Your veterinarian can also suggest other disinfectants that will accomplish your goals. Things to be disinfected include (1) forceps, hemostats, or tweezers used to remove foxtails, (2) nose tongs for restraint, or (3) rope or nylon halters. It may be a good idea to clean and disinfect the head catch or head restraint area of the chute as it may be an area of contamination and spread of the agents.

**Vaccines.** Vaccines can also be very effective in preventing pinkeye and there are a relatively large number of vaccines available—which usually means no one vaccine works perfectly. It is

usually recommended for producers to start with one of the commercial vaccines and it should be one recommended by your veterinarian. He or she will have knowledge about which vaccines are currently working well in your area and more importantly, which are not working well. Remember most vaccines for pinkeye require 2 doses to be effective and it usually takes a month or so for immunity or protection to develop. Thus, the most effective vaccination programs begin well before the start of pinkeye season.

The chart below has some general information on some currently available vaccines for pinkeye that may be of some help to you and your veterinarian.

### PINKEYE VACCINE INFORMATION

FEATURE	SolidBac® Pinkeye IR/PR®	MAXI/GUARD®	20/20® with SPUR®	20/20® Vision™ with SPUR®	SolidBac® Pinkeye IR/PR®
Marketer	SolidTech	Addison	Intervet	Intervet	SolidTech
Strains/Isolates	8 isolates	8 isolates	8 isolates	8 isolates + clostridial	8 isolates
Initial doses required on label	One application (two doses)	One dose	Two doses	Two doses	One application (two doses)
FEATURE	Ocu-Guard® MB	Ocu-Guard® MB-1	Alpha 7/MB™	Alpha 7/MB™-1	Pinkeye Shield™ XT4
Marketer	Boehringer-Ingelheim	Boehringer-Ingelheim	Boehringer-Ingelheim	Boehringer-Ingelheim	Novartis
Strains/Isolates	8 isolates	8 isolates	8 isolates + clostridial	8 isolates + clostridial	4 strains
Initial doses required on label	Two doses	One dose	Two doses of MB required	One dose	One dose

FEATURE	Piliguard® Pinkeye-1 Trivalent	PINKEYE-3	Piliguard® Pinkeye + 7	Piliguard® Pinkeye TriView®	I-Site™
Marketer	Schering-Plough/Durvet	Aspen	Schering-Plough	Schering-Plough	Agri-Labs
Strains/Isolates	3 strains (EPP63, FLA64, SAH38)	3 strains (EPP63, FLA64, SAH38)	3 strains (EPP63, FLA64, SAH38)	3 strains (33, 89, 109) Subunit	3 strains (EPP63, FLA64, SAH38)
Initial doses required on label	One dose	One dose	Two doses	One dose	Two doses
Addison Pinkeye Antigens					
Novartis Pinkeye Antigens					
Schering Pinkeye Antigens					

**Your veterinarian.** This may be the most important part of your prevention plan. Get your veterinarian's advice about prevention *before* the outbreak or if you had problems last year, seek their advice ahead of time. Topics to be covered should include (1) fly control, (2) vaccines, (3) disinfectants, (4) tools and supplies to have on hand for prevention and treatment, and (5) treatment protocols and any necessary prescriptions.

***If pinkeye cases do occur, what are the treatment options?*** To read this section of the article, please go to my website (<http://ucanr.org/livestock>) where you can read the latest treatment options, as well as sign up to receive an electronic version of Livestock Lines.

UCD VET VIEWS reprinted from CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S MAGAZINE, JUNE 2008

## WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF COW-CALF PRODUCERS UNDER THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING RULES THIS SEPTEMBER

By Jack C. Whittier, Colorado State University  
May, 2008

The title of this article asks a question that is not yet totally answered. However, the answer is beginning to be clearer and soon may be finalized. As you likely know, in 2002, the US Congress passed a law requiring certain “covered commodities” to be verified and labeled as to their country of origin. The acronym used commonly for this law is COOL, denoting Country of Origin Labeling. Final rules for COOL will be written following final passage of the 2007 Farm Bill which has passed the Senate and House Conference Committee and will likely be sent to the President’s desk soon. If the President signs the Farm Bill, final rules will then be written. As of now, the following definitions and requirements are likely to become rules. Let’s examine some of these as they apply to cow-calf producers in Colorado:

**Beef as a Covered Commodity:** Meat cuts and ground product from beef are defined as a “covered commodity”. More specifically, under the current rules, “a meat product from beef (including veal), pork, and lamb must bear a COOL label or is subject to labeling providing COOL information if: 1. It is sold at retail, AND, 2. It is a muscle cut, or 3. It is a ground product. The product is EXEMPT from COOL labeling requirements if: 1. The meat product is sold at foodservice (e.g., restaurants, institutions, etc.), OR, 2. The meat product is an ingredient in a processed product or, in effect, is processed.” (Source: <http://www.countryoforiginlabel.org>, link to DOES A MEAT PRODUCT NEED A LABEL?, accessed 13 May 2008).

**Jack’s Comment:** From this we can assume that home-raised and harvested beef that is not sold at retail will not be required to be COOL labeled. Beef served on a menu at a restaurant will be

exempt, as will beef served in a cafeteria or other food service institutions.

**Recordkeeping Requirements:** The current language states: “Any person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer, directly or indirectly, must maintain records to establish and identify the immediate previous source (if applicable) and immediate subsequent recipient of the product. The record must identify the product unique to that transaction by means of a lot number or other unique identifier, for a period of one (1) year from the date of the transaction.

“Establishments that slaughter livestock are considered initiating suppliers of a covered commodity. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has indicated that the initiating supplier (packer) either must have the records in its possession or have access to records of the livestock supplier that substantiate the country of origin of the meat product at issue.” (Source: <http://www.countryoforiginlabel.org>, link to Recordkeeping Requirements, accessed 13 May 2008).

**Jack’s Comment:** Since cow-calf producers indirectly supply beef to packers, I interpret this to mean that cow-calf producers will be responsible to have records to substantiate the country of origin of their calves, cull cows and bulls. While these records may not be required at the time of sale, it is likely that there will be an increasing demand for such record verification at the time of sale.

**Seed Stock / Cow Calf Responsibility:** “Provide enough information for an auditor to verify the origin and ownership of the animals identified and to verify the stated designation. Properly identify and record all animals according to the designation.” (Source: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3103374>, accessed 13 May 2008.).

**Jack's Comment:** I interpret this to mean that a rancher must have sufficient documentation so that in the event of an audit from USDA, they can verify the country of origin of the cattle they sold into the marketplace.

**Examples of records and activities that may be useful.** The following record examples are listed in the 2002 version of COOL. "Birth records, receiving records, purchase records, cow/calf tag ID system, sales receipts, feed bills, feeding records, animal inventory, acreage inventory, site maps, APHIS VS forms, production estimates, health records, ownership records, segregation plan, state brand requirements, replacement activities, beef quality program (BQA), breeding stock information." (Source: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3103374>, accessed 13 May 2008.).

**Jack's Comment:** In reality, it will likely be a combination of information that will be used to substantiate the origin of cattle. Records such as brand inspections, bangs vaccination records, sales receipts, etc. will be used to verify that the cattle did in fact originate at the ranch, or were purchased from a qualifying location.

**"In the Normal Conduct of Business" clause:** The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) website explains recent revisions language in the current Farm Bill legislation as follows: "Language in both the Senate and House bills helps alleviate the paperwork burden on producers requiring only documents used 'in the normal conduct of business' to verify origin.... While the current law is far from perfect, the compromise language in the Farm Bill is an improvement for cattle producers. Mandatory country-of-origin labeling is scheduled to take effect on September 30, 2008." (Source: <http://www.beefusa.org/goveFarmBill.aspx>, accessed 13 May 2008.).

**Jack's Comment:** In my opinion the implementation of COOL should not be viewed

in a panic mode for cow-calf producers. Most, if not all, of the documentation needed to meet the COOL requirements is likely already part of your normal cow-calf production system. However, I suggest that we all do a better job as record-keepers and make certain that the history of our cattle can be substantiated. I also foresee that such records will enhance the value of cattle when they leave the farm of origin. One of the great principles of our market-driven system is the reward for value and the discount for absence of value. As we look back in 10 years, my prediction is that COOL will add value at the ranch level for those who document and market country of origin information.

### THE TOWN TRUCK

Ron Torell, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Livestock Specialist  
Willie Riggs, Oregon State University Extension  
Duane Griffith, Montana State University

How much does it cost per mile to operate your one-ton diesel ranch/town truck given record-high new vehicle purchase prices, fuel costs at \$4.00 per gallon and the limited maintenance and repairs that can be performed at the ranch on newer model vehicles? In this month's *Back to Basic* article let's discuss that question.

The authors modified a Texas A&M Excel software program to generate an automobile spread sheet calculator which determines cost per mile of operation. We used actual costs of operating our personal one-ton diesel truck vehicles (Table 1). Assuming your costs of operation are similar to those incurred on our vehicles, the cost per mile will approach \$0.70 per mile.

Table 2 shows that as miles driven per year increase, cost of operation per mile declines dramatically. This is easily explained by economy of size. Fixed cost such as insurance, license, taxes, interest, and depreciation are spread over more miles.

Tables 3 and 4 show the impact fuel economy has on cost of operation per mile driven. Interestingly, the cost of fuel did impact the bottom line, however, not as significantly as the number of miles driven per year. Again this has to do with spreading those fixed costs over more miles.

Vehicles in this example were purchased used. The authors decided to run a scenario using our dream \$40,000 purchase price new vehicle. We left all other input variables the same recognizing that many of the input costs, fixed and variable, would change. Cost of operation per mile driven rose from \$0.67 per mile to an amazing \$0.91/mile.

The authors then explored leaving the one-ton diesel sit idle until needed for big jobs such as pulling trailers and heavy loads. We reduced miles driven from 20,000 per year to 5,000 on the big vehicle and purchased a small used economy pickup for day to day use. We drove the smaller vehicle 15,000 miles per year.

Cost per mile driven on the one-ton rose to an amazing \$1.36 per mile. Cost per mile driven on the smaller used vehicle was \$0.34 per mile. Total cost of maintaining both vehicles amounted to \$11,888 per year. As stated earlier total cost of maintaining the one-ton vehicle only and running it 20,000 miles amounted to \$13,352 per year. This favors maintaining two vehicles as described above by a mere \$1,464 per year, a smaller amount than one would expect. As the price of fuel increases past the current \$4.00 per gallon (as of this writing) the option of operating the second vehicle becomes more attractive. One certainly has to factor in the inconvenience of not having tools, carry capacity and pull power readily available at all times should you chose to operate the second vehicle.

**To get a copy of the automobile calculator to plug in your own numbers go to my website:**  
<http://ucanr.org/livestock>

Table 1: Costs associated with operating a one ton used diesel truck.

<b>1 ton diesel</b>		
INPUT DATA	Vehicle/Pickup	
	Units	Values
Current Value	\$	\$20,000
Total Miles Used (useful life)	Mile	250,000.00
Current Mileage	Mile	135,000
Salvage Value (trade or junk)	\$	\$2,500
Annual Miles of Use	Mile	20,000
Fuel Use (miles per gallon)	Gal.	15.0
Cost of Fuel	\$/Gal.	\$4.00
Interest Rate on Capital	%	7.00
Monthly Loan Payments	\$	\$0
Annual License & Tax	\$	\$100
Annual Insurance	\$	\$615
Tire Cost (per set)	\$	\$700
Tire Life in Miles	Mile	30,000
Annual Repair & Maint. Cost	\$	\$2,500
		<b>Vehicle</b>
COST COMPONENTS	Units	Values
<b>Operating or Variable Cost</b>		
Fuel	\$/Mi.	\$0.267
Tires	\$/Mi.	\$0.023
Repair & Maintenance	\$/Mi.	\$0.125
Total Oper. or Variable Cost (\$/Mile)	\$/Mi.	\$0.42
Total Annual Oper. or Variable Cost	\$	\$8,300
<b>Fixed Costs</b>		
License / Tax	\$/Mi.	\$0.005
Insurance	\$/Mi.	\$0.031
Interest (non-cash)	\$/Mi.	\$0.065
Depreciation	\$/Mi.	\$0.152
Total Fixed Cost (\$/Mile)	\$/Mi.	\$0.25
Total Annual Fixed Cost	\$	\$5,052
Total Cost per Mile (Operating + Fixed)	\$/Mi.	\$0.67
Total Annual Cost (Operating + Fixed)	\$	\$13,352
Total Cash Costs per Mile *	\$/Mi.*	\$0.45
Total Cash Costs *	\$	\$9,015

\*Includes loan payment if being made.

Table 2. Influence of Miles Driven/Year on Total Cost Per Mile.

Total Cost/Mile (Operating & Fixed)	10,000 miles	15,000 miles	20,000 miles	25,000 miles
	\$0.90	\$0.74	\$0.67	\$0.62

Table 3. Influence of Miles Per Gallon on Total Cost Per Mile @\$4.00/gallon Fuel.

Total Cost/Mile (Operating & Fixed)	10 MPG	15 MPG	20 MPG
	\$0.80	\$0.67	\$0.60

Table 4. Influence of Price Per Gallon on Total Cost Per Mile @ 15 Miles Per Gallon.

Total Cost/Mile (Operating & Fixed)	\$3.50/gal.	\$4.00/gal.	\$4.50/gal.
	\$0.63	\$0.67	\$0.70

## UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Dairy Cattle Welfare Workshop

**Featured Topics:**

- ⌘ Euthanasia: Indications & Methods  
Captive Bolt Euthanasia Technique
- ⌘ Handling and Care of Downer Cattle  
A New Practical System

Workshop includes lecture, demonstrations, and hands-on experience.  
Provides the knowledge and tools to properly manage downer cattle.

When: Wednesday, **July 9, 2008**  
Time: 9:30 Registration, **10:00-2:30 Seminar**  
Where: Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center  
18830 Road 112, Tulare, CA 559-688-1731  
Information: Carolyn Stull at 530-752-0855  
Delaina Matz at 530-752-6630

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others handling  
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this seminar!

**Free Seminar! Lunch provided. Limited registration, so please pre-register.**

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Davis, CA 95616  
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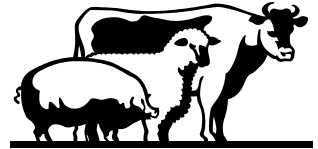
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**June 2008 ♦ Volume 14 No. 1**

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