Vector Transmission-Dairy





Routes of Transmission

- Apply to all infectious agents
- Apply to an infectious agent
 Animal must be exposed to

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- develop disease
- Understand different routes of transmission = Gain control
- Risk areas must be identified

 Design protocols to minimize exposure

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S **Disease Transmission** 1 i · Animals may not exhibit obvious clinical signs d of disease e Awareness of all routes of transmission is essential 8 - Develop strategy to minimize disease risk for livestock operation

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Vector transmission occurs when an insect acquires a pathogen from one animal and transmits it to another. Midges, ticks, and mosquitoes are common biological vectors of disease, meaning they take the disease agent into their body and have to inject into the next animal. Flies are a common mechanical vector as they carry the disease agent on their body rather than taking it into their body. The top photo shows a calf with numerous flies (courtesy of DB Weddle, ISU), while the bottom photo shows an adult deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis* (photo courtesy of USDA).

There are many diseases transmitted by the vector route, both diseases that are foreign animal diseases (FADs) and those that are present in the US (endemic). Some examples of foreign animal diseases include akabane, bluetongue, heartwater, lumpy skin disease, and Rift Valley fever. Some diseases that are already present in the US include anaplasmosis, anthrax, contagious mastitis, pink eye (*Moraxella bovis*) and vesicular stomatitis. The main point to drive home is that they are all transmitted by the same route and prevention practices aimed at one will protect against others. For a complete listing of all diseases transmitted by the vector route, please refer to the Bovine Routes of Transmission Handout- Vector.

Every disease has to enter into an animal by some route, so looking at disease prevention through the routes of transmission makes sense. One advantage to this approach is that it will also help protect against new or unexpected infectious diseases. This classification system is effective and easy to understand without requiring knowledge about a wide range of diseases, like all those listed at the beginning of this presentation. While disease agents and the infections they produce vary, they all have one thing in common: the animal must be exposed to them to develop disease. Once it is understood that different diseases can be acquired by various routes of transmission (i.e. aerosol, oral, fomite, direct contact, vector), it is easier to gain control over them. From a management standpoint, it may be easier to identify risk areas, such as fomites, and then design protocols to minimize exposure.

It is important to remember that disease transmission can occur without animals exhibiting obvious clinical signs of disease. That is why awareness of the various routes of transmission becomes so essential when assessing and developing a strategy to minimize the risk of disease for a facility or operation. The photo shows a calf lying in a wooden calf hutch (photo courtesy of: DB Weddle, ISU).



manner so predators, wild birds, etc do not spread disease. By having a

veterinarian necropsy animals that die of undetermined causes, a diagnosis may be obtained by sending samples into a diagnostic laboratory. Unusual diseases may not present in a manner you are used to, so involving a veterinarian may help identify a potentially infectious disease before it becomes widespread on your facility. Photo depicts an Ayrshire calf being necropsied and samples being collected for diagnostic testing (photo courtesy of: UC Davis VMTRC).

General Prevention Steps

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- i Isolate ill animals immediately
 d No shared ventilation, direct contact with other animals
 e Quarantine newly introduced animals New purchases, returning animals
 1 Time determined with veterinarian
 4 Test for key diseases before placing
 - with rest of herd

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General Prevention Steps

- Store non-refrigerated vaccines and antibiotics out of sunlight as it can deactivate them
 - Monitor refrigeration temperature monthly

 Ideal temp 36-46°F



Restrict access to medication to only properly trained personnel



Cows that are identified as ill should be removed from the rest of the herd immediately and placed in an isolation area where ventilation, feed/water, and other equipment are not shared and direct contact with other animals does not occur in order to minimize the risk of disease spread. Newly introduced animals, including show cattle/calves that have been away from the farm, may be carrying diseases that your home herd is not immune to, so quarantine them for a period of time. Time spent in isolation and quarantine varies depending on the risk so this should be determined together with your herd veterinarian. Before taking animals out of isolation or quarantine, it is a good risk management plan to test them for key diseases (determined together with your herd veterinarian) and make sure they are not carrying diseases that could be introduced into the home herd.

Sunlight can deactivate vaccines resulting in inadequate protection; it can also reduce effective treatment by rendering antibiotics ineffective. When using these in your animals, make sure you read the label and store them properly. Vaccines and medicines that need to be refrigerated are susceptible to changes in temperature and may not be effective if they get too warm (greater than 46 degrees Fahrenheit) or too cold/frozen (less than 36 degrees Fahrenheit); monitoring your refrigerator at least monthly can help ensure the products are adequately stored. Work with your veterinarian to teach proper handling procedures to all people who routinely deal with vaccines and medicine and restrict access to only trained personnel. The photo depicts a refrigerator on a dairy farm with a thermometer- purchased for less than \$3 at a large retail store (photo courtesy of: DB Weddle, ISU).

Adequate ingestion of colostrum is the most important consideration for calf's resistance to disease and all calves should receive colostrum within 6 hours of birth. A calf's immune system depends on the antibodies in colostrum. After 6 hours of life, the calf's ability to absorb antibodies from colostrum diminishes. Once a calf is born, subsequent milk production in the cow will dilute colostrum and therefore require the calf to consume more for maximum antibody absorption and immune function. Another good practice is to prevent contact of the neonate with older animals and also contaminated environments. This will decrease the pathogen load to the newborn and give the colostrum the ability to provide protection. The photo depicts colostrum in a freezer that is stored in palpation sleeves (with the fingers tied off), labeled with the cow ID number and dated. This allows for easy thawing and making sure the calf gets colostrum from one cow (photo courtesy of DB Weddle).

Vector Transmission-Dairy

| S 1 d e 1 7 | Vector Control | Now that we have discussed some general prevention steps, let us look specifically at vector transmission and control measures you can apply on your dairy farm to minimize disease spread. |
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| S 1 d e 1 8 | Vector Control • Source reduction • Flies, midges, mosquitoes • Control adults • Flies, mosquitoes • Minimize animal interaction • Ticks, midges • Treatment protocols | Vector control begins with an understanding of the insect's life cycle. Insect life stages vary and so do the specific, effective control measures. For instance, the egg laying grounds for flies are different than that of mosquitoes and midges and one approach does not work for all. We will discuss options in future slides. Controlling adult insects, be it flies or mosquitoes, often involves the use of insecticides. This is often less effective, so more effort should be focused on controlling breeding areas. Finally, minimize the opportunities for insects to even interact with animals, such as ticks or midges. Treatment protocols for each of the areas will be discussed in the next slides. |
| S l d e 1 9 | <section-header><section-header><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></section-header></section-header> | Flies have a four stage life cycle. The adult female fly lays her eggs in organic matter, be it manure, feed or wet bedding. These eggs then develop into larva, which change to pupa and finally emerge as adult flies. This process can be as short as 10 days in warm weather. One way to decrease the prevalence of flies is to minimize areas where they can lay their eggs by disturbing the piles of organic matter weekly. Keep pastures rotated, drag dry lots to break up the fecal pats, clean alleys/pens daily, clean up spilled feed, and clean around feed bunks. The photo depicts an excellent area for flies to lay their eggs- old feed (courtesy of DB Weddle, ISU). |
| S 1 i d e 2 0 | Source Reduction . Fly larvicides . Feed additives . All animals on farm, 3 weeks prior to season . Predatory mites, beetles feed on larva . Adulticides . Knockdowns for high concentrations . Baits, fly traps in conjunction with other methods . Correct Background | Feed additives (larvicides) have some effectiveness but the key is to get it in the feed at least 3 weeks before fly season, feed it to ALL animals on farm and maintain it in the feed until the end of fly season. This should be in addition to some of the other hygiene procedures of cleaning yards, barns and feeding areas. Parasitic wasps, predatory mites and beetles feed on pupae/larvae living in manure, bedding, vegetation. Certain insects can only be used in certain areas because they may feed on other beneficial insects, so check with your local extension specialist for recommendations. Adulticides such as knockdowns that kill a fly on contact should be applied in areas of high fly concentrations because they do not last long in the environment (1-2 hours). Residual sprays can be applied to shaded surfaces (barn walls, ceilings) where flies rest to kill them through contact. To avoid insecticide resistance, it is a good idea to alternate between area and residual sprays. Baits and fly traps work against house flies but should be part of an integrated pest management system for best efficacy. |





Since there are over 200 species of mosquitoes, they are not all capable of spreading disease, only certain types can spread certain diseases. Some of the diseases they can spread include West Nile virus, Rift Valley fever, lumpy skin disease (as pictured here) and vesicular stomatitis. Photo courtesy of USDA APHIS.

Source reduction consists of eliminating larval habitats or making them unsuitable for larval development. Tree holes can be good breeding grounds for some mosquitoes, so those should be filled. Containers that hold water, like stock tanks or water troughs, should be emptied weekly or agitated weekly them to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs there. By minimizing standing water through circulating lagoons or water tanks, a lot can be done to minimize their breeding areas. Another problem on farms is containers that hold water or old tires used for silage piles, as pictured on the bottom (courtesy of DB Weddle). Not only do mosquitoes transmit disease to animals, but to humans too and a farm walk through to identify and eliminate trash containers is good prevention.

Larvicides are used when immature mosquito populations become larger than source reduction can manage or biological control can handle. They are often more effective and target-specific than adulticides, making them less controversial. They can be applied to smaller geographic areas than adulticides because larvae are often concentrated in specific locations, such as standing water.

Insecticides are often the least efficient control program and often require multiple applications. Effective adult mosquito control with adulticides requires small droplets that drift through mosquito areas and come in contact with adults to kill them as pictured here. Insecticides are applied in a concentrated form at very low volumes such as 1 oz (29.6 mL) per acre. Excessive wind and updrafts reduce control, but light wind is necessary for drifting spray droplets.

While source reduction will help decrease numbers of insects in the area, often times it is necessary to minimize the interaction with animals. This could involve environmental management such as mowing pastures, as the top picture depicts, to reduce tick habitats to chemical treatments with acaracides (tick killing chemicals) every 2-4 weeks during tick season. Other ways to minimize interaction is to confine the animals to an insect proof structure. In the case of vesicular stomatitis outbreaks or bluetongue, it is necessary to confine the animals in a stall as the bottom photo illustrates, until the insect season has passed. This can be difficult to do depending on the farm or types of animals raised. But if it is the only way to prevent disease, temporary structures could be put up. Both

