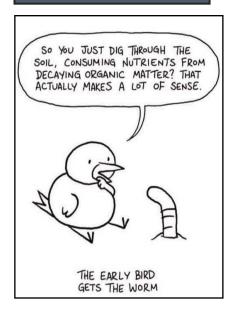
# Forage Facts

**Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association** 

February 2018. Volume 13, Issue 157.







#### The Basics Of 'Barn Itch'

Codie lee Yasieniuk

Ringworm is a skin lesion that mainly affects newly weaned calves and yearlings. Young cattle are more susceptible, especially during earlier winter, because their immune system and resistance is weaker than grown cattle. Ringworm also thrives in dark, moist conditions so the short days and long haired, shaggy cattle of winter make it the best time to spread!

Ringworm is transmitted through spores and can be contracted by all species of animals, and different ages of humans. Spores can spread through direct contact with a contaminated animal or through indirect exposure. Exposed spores can survive in low temperatures, and stick to surfaces as long as 18 months. However; if spores are attached to a dry scab that has been shed by a contaminated animal, they can live dormant for years! Reoccurrence of ringworm, in a herd, is likely because of the spores durability. And the difficulty with spotting ringworm is that an animal can have contracted the virus 3 weeks BEFORE symptoms appear, all the while spreading spores.

Ringworm spores cause skin lesions by invading the hair follicles and superficial layers of skin. The body fluids that then escape the skin are mixed with dead cells on the skin's surface—creating tough, crusty scabs. Though these scabs are the easiest symptom to see, there are other signs to take note of.

Clinical signs of Ringworm include:

- Hair Loss
- Skin Lesions
- Itchy Skin
- Poor Growth (in extreme cases)

The size and location of visual symptoms change on every animal, but are usually found on the head and neck.



Treating ringworm on an animal can be frustrating, but the lesion will eventually clear up with dry living conditions, sunlight and proper nutrition. Addition of Vitamin A to the diet can help the lesions heal faster. Some anti-fungal drugs can be effective. Topical treatments can also be effective, but only when applied properly. The area must be cleaned with soap, water and a stiff bristle brush, scabs removed, then washed with iodine or chlorine bleach.



### The Basics of 'Barn Itch' Continued

Cleaning tools and equipment after handling an infected animal is extremely important to contain the ringworm spores before they impact the entire herd. In the case that it does spread to an entire herd, every surface that the cattle touch must be thoroughly cleaned.

The ringworm spores are very resistant to normal cleaning practices so cleaning must be done with extreme care. To clean a spore covered solid surface entirely, you need to treat the area with an antifungal. Lysol, or vinegar, both work well. Spray the area with antifungal and wait for the antifungal to start working— 10 minutes for vinegar, 3 minutes for Lysol. Wipe the area clean with paper towel. Repeat at least three times.

# Remember to wear rubber gloves whenever you're dealing with ringworm!

Cleaning an entire barn yard with a spray bottle and paper towel is an enormous task, that is not realistic for most

people. That is why keeping contaminated animals contained in their own area, away from the herd, is so important!

Although ringworm may clear up in your herd under the right conditions, it can cause quite a headache if ignored.

A ringworm lesion creates a perfect environment for all types of bacteria. If a second type of bacteria finds their way into an open lesion, different health problems may follow.

Another big concern with livestock ringworm is the risk it presents to public health. Young people, especially children, are highly susceptible to ringworm. Their weaker immune systems can assist in the spread, and they are more likely to touch their faces, eyes, ears, scalp etc. after touching contaminated cattle. Ringworm can have far worse health consequences when contracted by humans. The ease at which spores can be transferred just adds to the importance of keeping them contained!

## Thank you to the PCBFA Board of Directors

Jordan Barnfield Preston Basnett John Prinse Nancy VanHerk Faron Steffen Garry Gurtler Thomas Claydon Joyleen Beamish Kirk Cowell Robbie Hale

## Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

We are always looking for ideas! Give us a call!

## PCBFA Member Perks

- Two Free Feed Tests/Year
- Ration Balancing Assistance
- Growing Forward
   2 Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag
   Reader available
   for member use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

#### Thank-You to our Municipal Partners

MD of Fairview
MD of Peace
Clear Hills County
Saddle Hills County
MD of Spirit River
Birch Hills County
MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande
Prairie
Northern Sunrise
County

### PCBFA is looking for 2-3...

## **Summer Research Technicians!**

We're looking for ambitious and hard-working Summer Research Technicians with genuine interest in the ag. industry, and even better- ag. research! Visit www.peacecountrybeef.ca for details, and application information!

**Application Deadline: February 28th, 2018** 



PEACE COUNTRY BEEF AND FORAGE ASSOCIATION



February 23rd 2018
Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview

DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING AT 4:30 PM BANQUET TO FOLLOW



<<RESULTS FROM THE 3 YEAR ACIDF PASTURE</p>
REJUVENATION STUDY . PEACE COUNTRY BULL SALE
CORNER . DOOR PRIZES>>

Keynote Speaker: Bruno Wiskel

\$65/PERSON, \$90/COUPLE PRICES INCLUDE 2018-2019 PCBFA MEMBERSHIP

Purchase Tickets Ahead Of Time To Skip The Line! pcbfaagm.eventbrite.ca



## Upcoming Events

**Peace Beef Cattle Day** 

February 8th

Dunvegan Inn Fairview

Winter Watering Systems Tour

February 10th

C.O.C.O. Hall Wanham

PCBFA 2018 Annual General Meeting

February 23rd

Dunvegan Inn Fairview

For more information or to register for any of these great events, please visit our website, call the Fairview office at 780-835-6799 or email info@pcbfa.ca

Thank you to all attendees and supporters of our past events!



## Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors









PCBFA receives funding from the Government of Alberta



#### **Proud Member of**



### **Contact Us**

Liisa Vihvelin Manager Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-523-0443 liisa@pcbfa.ca Akim Omokanye Research Coordinator Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-835-1112 akim@pcbfa.ca Lekshmi Sreekumar Research Technician Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-536-7373 lekshmi@pcbfa.ca Codie lee Yasieniuk Environmental and Communications Coordinator Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-772-0277 codielee@pcbfa.ca Monika Benoit Extension Program Coordinator High Prairie, AB 780-523-4033 monika@pcbfa.ca Marianne Krahn Admin Assistant High Prairie, AB 780-523-4033 marianne@pcbfa.ca