



# Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Summer 2019

## New to the team.....

Dr. Sarah Baldwin, currently residing in Albemarle County, will be working with us on a part-time basis and helping to cover emergency night and weekend calls. You might have met her over the past years as she did her externships with us.



I'm a 2017 graduate from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Go Hokies!

I spent my first 2 years out of school working in a small animal practice in WV. Now I'm excited about the transition into large animal medicine in my home state of Virginia. I worked with Dr. Melinda and Dr. Lesley several times over my summers in vet school and fell in love with the central Virginia scenery and people who live here. I'm looking forward to working with producers and pet owners alike.

Plan ahead...It's time for 4-H Fairs – do you need a Health Certificate?? You'll need to call at least 2 weeks ahead of the travel date to ensure getting the legal papers needed for your fair due to the volume of requests we receive.

Health certificates\*\* require permanent identification on an animal, such as:



Electronic ID Ear Tags



Tattoo



Scrapies Tag

NOT:



Personal Farm ID Tags



Name of Animal



Color of collar/halter

We also need the breed, the age and the sex of each animal.

One certificate per species, but there can be multiple animals of same species on one certificate.

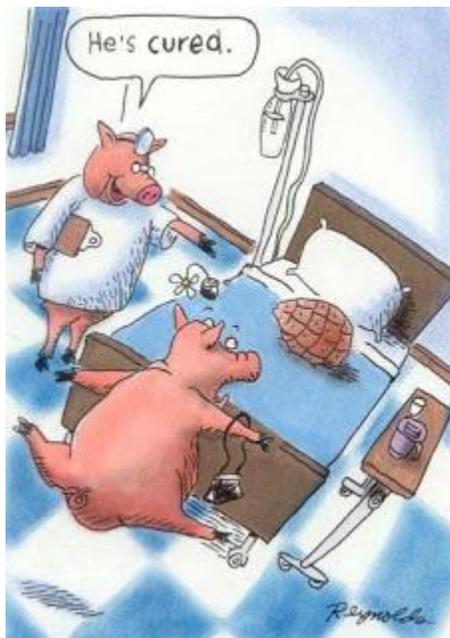
\*\*The certificates are only good for 30 days for that specific show/fair.

### Upcoming Fair Dates

Orange County Fair June 19-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Albemarle County Fair July 25-27<sup>th</sup>  
Louisa County Ag Fair July 26-27<sup>th</sup>  
Fredricksburg Ag Fair July 26-August 4<sup>th</sup>

Fluvanna County Fair August 15-17<sup>th</sup>  
Field Day of the Past September 20-22<sup>nd</sup>  
State Fair of Virginia September 27 – October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Stafford County Fair October 17-20<sup>th</sup>

In an effort to make payments on account easier, please know we always accept payment over the phone. The era of handwritten checks and using stamps is becoming obsolete. We will always welcome checks and cash – just wanted to be sure our clients know we are trying to help facilitate the management of your farm. At this time, we are still unable to accept Care Credit.



## Instructions

1. Place your ham in the plastic container that you'll be using to cure it. On a stove, heat up the water with the salt, sugar, molasses, and ground clove, just until the salt and sugars have dissolved. Stir in the pink salt then pour over the ham, adding more water as need to cover the ham by 1 inch. If any parts of the ham bob above the surface of the brine, place a ceramic plate on top to weigh it down.
2. Place the container in the fridge, and keep it there for 3 days, or roughly 1 day for every 2 pounds. Halfway through the brining process, turn the ham over so all parts of it will be submerged.
3. After the brining is done, rinse the ham and let it soak refrigerated in clean water for 24 hours.
4. To cook the ham, bake it in a foil-lined roasting pan at 325° F for 30 minutes per pound or until the internal temperature is 150° F. (I recommend not doing it on a rack as I did because it leaves strange impressions on the meat.)
5. When done, slice and serve.

## How to cure a ham

**Servings** 12

**Author** Adapted by Lisa Fain from Michael Ruhlman's Charcuterie

### Ingredients

- 1 (5-pound) ham, uncured and uncooked
- 2 litres of water
- 3/4 cup kosher salt
- 1 cup turbinado sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 tablespoon Insta Cure No. 1 pink salt
- A plastic container large enough to contain the ham but small enough to still fit into your refrigerator

### Recipe Notes

Your butcher may have Insta Cure No. 1 and may sell you some. You can also order it online.

How to cure a ham | [www.homesicktexan.com](http://www.homesicktexan.com)

# Lordy, the flies!

A three-part tutorial



## Fly Control Options

- ❖ It's that time of year again. Flies. They seem to get worse every year. Let's talk fly control. I want to preface this paragraph with it's impossible to eliminate fly problems from a herd but we can implement multi-modal strategies to control them and decrease the negative impact they have on your herd.
- ❖ There are many modalities or forms of fly control – ear tags, dust, pour-ons and sprays. Always think in terms of active ingredient when it comes to fly control. Pyrethroids, organophosphates, macrocyclic lactones and insect growth regulators are the frequently implemented classes of active ingredients. As a rule of thumb, active ingredients that end in -rin, such as permethrin, are of the pyrethroid class. Medications that end in -ectin, such as moxidectin, are macrocyclic lactones. Organophosphate medications, such as chlorpyrifos, do not have a common suffix. Insect growth regulators also do not have the same suffix. Be mindful of your active ingredient or class of fly control.
- ❖ Ear tags are one of the most common methods of fly control. A commonly recommended strategy is to switch the active ingredient or class of fly tag every year. Not just switch the brand! Remove spent or ineffective fly tags to decrease exposure to subtherapeutic concentrations of the active ingredient. Be sure to follow the directions on number of tags per adult or calf.
- ❖ Another caveat of prevention is the concentrate of the active ingredient. The newer generation fly tags have a higher concentration of active ingredient making them more helpful in controlling fly populations. Be sure to look at the concentration often displayed as a percent that follows the active ingredient in these fly control products. A permethrin 4% product will be cheaper than a permethrin 7% product but not as effective.
- ❖ Pour ons are essential for their deworming properties and horn fly efficacy. These are particularly useful prior to spring turn out but need to be followed up later in the season with fly/lice only products.
- ❖ Dust bags are great if you have the correct set up that will encourage much of the herd to pass under the bag or back rubber. This is often impractical for beef producers with herds grazing large areas.
- ❖ Let's not forget about the premise sprays, fly traps and manure management for those face flies that shelter in trees and spend less time on the cattle. Less time on the cattle means less contact time with the insecticides making them harder to control.



**What's more annoying than flies??....**

**...their kids!**

## **Fighting Flystrike**

Step 1: Clean the affected area

- This may include removing hair, wool or fiber
- This will make the area easier to treat and keep debris from building up

Step 2: Have the animal in an area where it is easy to monitor/treat daily.

- This problem can't be solved with one treatment
- Time and patience are required for success

Step 3: Daily care of wound/affected area

- Clean the area with warm soapy water (gentle soap ie., Dawn dish soap)
- If holes are present in the skin – flushing may be required
- Dry gently or allow the area to air dry
- Apply a fly repellent to the area. (Several products are available over-the-counter or ask LVS about "Buzz-Off"\*)

All cases will vary in terms of severity and healing time. If the case is complicated or widespread, other steps may need to be taken in terms of antibiotics and/or pain relief.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your veterinarian for further advice.

\*\*"Buzz Off" is a spray on Permethrin product that contains 7.4% of the active ingredient. It is sprayed onto the hair coat once every 2 weeks. Check the active ingredient concentration of the permethrin product you may be using; the strength may be weaker. We sell it in 16oz. and 8oz. spray bottles.

## Flies and Pinkeye: What's the connection

- Animals have a small amount of *Moraxella* (one of the bacteria that causes pinkeye) in the normal flora of their eye. So...if anything scratches or irritates their eyes this type of bacteria can then overgrow causing the eye to appear infected.
- What are things that can irritate an animal's eye? Face flies, seed heads on tall grasses, low hanging branches of trees (especially cedars), foreign objects, and many, many other things. This is why when you read ways to reduce pinkeye they basically mean ways to reduce eye irritation. Having a solid fly control program for your animals, bush hogging tall grasses, trimming trees, and keeping your pastures free of debris are all ways that are helpful in preventing any eye infections.
- Flies, in particular, can carry the bacteria that cause pinkeye on their feet and travel many miles before landing on another animal and depositing the bacteria in another animal's tears.



- What are some conditions that look like pinkeye, but are **not**...

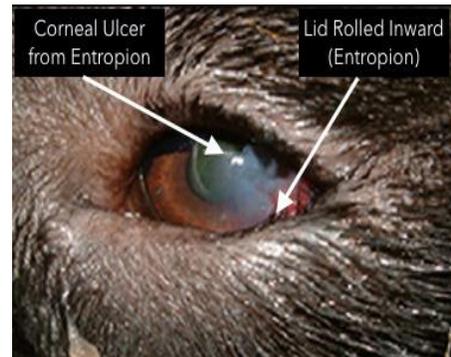
1. "Cancer eye"- the eye needs to be checked carefully by a veterinarian to determine if there is a cancerous growth forming on the eye or the third eyelid.



2. Eye injury- either a puncture, scratch, or ulceration to the surface of the eye, although these are treated much the same as pinkeye it is important to know the difference. Steroids should NEVER be used if the animal's cornea is ulcerated, as this can make the condition worsen!



3. Entropion- this is a genetic condition (usually seen in lambs and kids) in which the baby is born with either it's upper or lower or both eyelids rolled inward. This condition causes the eyelashes to abrade the surface of the eye causing the eye to become cloudy and teary. This can be easily corrected by a veterinarian.



4. "Soremouth"- this is a viral condition in small ruminants that usually causes blister-like lesions around the mouth, but sometimes spread to the surface of the eye. These eyes get very cloudy, reddened, and teary. The animals require treatment to help their eyes heal. You may see this 7-10 day after the introduction of a new animal to your group. And beware ...humans can get soremouth (contagious ecthyma) from your animals.



- I encourage you to work with us to help you figure out the cause of your animal's eye issue. We are able to take bacterial cultures of bad eyes to determine the causative agent of the problem and to continue to develop our pinkeye vaccine. A cloudy eye is not always pinkeye! Eyes are resilient if they are treated properly and kindly. I have seen animals that were nearly blind recover with only very tiny scars in their eyes.
- We hope that after reading our newsletter on problems with flies you will take some time to develop a strategy for controlling flies on your farm so that your animals can stay healthy and have a better quality of life. Please let us know if we can help you.