

Fenceline
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May is BEEF Month!

This year my major celebration will be at the BBQ 101 school we are hosting at the fairgrounds. I need to learn more about my smoker/grill. I especially like learning how the different woods can make the food taste different.

I was able to attend the Anaplasmosis workshop in Salina. It was a huge gathering of Extension people, veterinarians, researchers, Federal Drug Administration and producers. Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by a [rickettsial parasite](#) of [ruminant](#), which is spread by ticks, biting flies or fomites. Yep, that was a new word for me. Fomites are objects that when contaminated can spread disease. In this case, they are needles on syringes, implant guns or castration knives.

Anaplasmosis is nothing new for our area. As we have all the hosts, the male American Dog tick, stable flies and Horse and Deer flies. The male American Dog tick is a brown mottled colored tick. It hops from one animal to the next, seeking blood meals. The problem is the disease is now spreading into central and western Kansas. One guy in the crowd, lost 10 cows last year to the disease.

This Anaplasmosis parasite attacks the red blood cells, the disease cycle is so hideous that you usually don't know there's a problem until you see a dead cow or cows. Prevention is key here, controlling the vectors that spread it and cleaning up your act when it comes to working the cattle. Changing the needles, for each use is the suggestion. That's pretty cumbersome, but I suggest employing someone to stand chute side and their only job is to change up needles. If you get the bright idea to just use disinfectant on the needle between vaccinations, you may be destroying the vaccine in the syringe.

Of course, the main topic of discussion at this meeting was the use of CTC in mineral for prevention and control. CTC is one of the medically important drugs that will be scrutinized by the Veterinary Feed Directives. Those will be going into effect on January 1, 2017.

We will be hosting some meetings about VFD in the early fall. Until then, you can feed medicated mineral to help prevent and control Anaplasmosis. Next year, you will need an appropriate relationship with your veterinarian to give you a VFD so that you can buy the medicated mineral, or mix it yourself. There was much discussion on how a veterinarian goes about determining your herd's needs for Anaplasmosis prevention and control. The FDA folks said that they will leave that good judgement up to the Veterinarians. As long as they can defend their actions to a jury of their peers, then we're good to go. In the meantime, consider your fly and tick control measures. Destroy stagnant water sites and those ugly areas around hay feeders, these are the breeding sites for the flies in question.

A recording of the Anaplasmosis meeting is available at ksbeef.org.