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Read and Follow the Label

As cases of New World Screwworm (NWS) continue to be reported in Texas, this pest continues to garner attention from lots of sources. I've been participating in the Tuesday Zoom sessions hosted by the K-State Department of Agriculture Economics discussing NWS. These have been timely and informative, and interested parties can reference them at: https://agmanager.info/news/recent-videos

Sessions have focused on the appropriate, timely and judicious response to any potential NWS infestations in Kansas. There will inevitably be "home remedies" and off-label approaches to prevention and/or any control measures. It can't be overstated that with the limited tools available, appropriate use of Conditionally Approved or Emergency Use products will be a MUST! Prophylactic, mass treatments, before there is a problem with NWS, may make a bad situation worse should infestation occur.

Dr. Brian Lubbers, KSU College of Veterinary Medicine, reviewed the three types of USDA approvals for animal health products and reminded participants that in NO CASE is going off-label acceptable. Producers are highly encouraged to work with your herd health veterinarian to develop a plan. Here is a quick reminder of the types of approvals for label use.

Approved Use. This one is the most straightforward and common label seen, termed "Label Use". This means that products can be utilized strictly in the manner evaluated and authorized by USDA as found on the label. There are NO approved use products for NWS, but there has been some Conditional Approval and Emergency Use authorization.

The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act (commonly called the "MUMS Act") helps FDA ensure that innovative treatments are available for small populations of animals and species that have few drugs approved for them. This law added provisions to increase the availability of drugs for minor species and for minor uses in a major species. This has opened the door to Conditional Use.

Conditional Use. Conditional use approval allows a needed animal drug to be legally available in a faster timeframe than full approval, after the drug is shown to be safe and has a reasonable expectation of effectiveness when used according to the label. This greater access to critical animal drugs gives more options for treatment with uncommon conditions, serious or life-threatening diseases, or diseases without adequate therapies.

Emergency Use. Under the FDA Emergency Use Authorization authority, the government can permit the use of unapproved animal drugs—or unapproved uses of approved drugs—during significant public health or national security emergencies affecting livestock. This allows products to be used for a specific health reason and under specific guidelines.

Recently both injectable and topical products have received either Conditional or Emergency use authorization in the fight against NWS. I can't over emphasize enough the fact that producers need to work within the guidelines of these uses, under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian and only when deemed necessary to do so. While panic is not necessary, this is a situation to monitor with the most up-to-date information found at: screwworm.gov