

## **Media Release    Dairy farming ... without Pinkeye    5<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Allendale East dairy farmer, Ian Fox, has reduced the annual Pinkeye scourge from his herd, and expects do so again this summer.

He says the hassle has gone, the calves don't have a setback, and his options for selling surplus stock are not limited. "I know that if we tried to sell some heifers into the live-export trade which had been affected with Pinkeye, they'd be rejected, and we'd miss out on the bigger dollars.

"It's important to keep all your marketing options open. Even when selling cows at the saleyards, the buyers would drop their prices when they see a cow that has had Pinkeye."

Mr Fox regards vaccination as insurance. "Even with milk prices having come down, I have no hesitation in using the vaccine again this year – in fact, it actually pays to use it.

"Pinkeye is a menace. There's nothing worse than having blind, sick calves hanging around the yards and one-eyed cows in the herd.

"The cost of having a Pinkeye affected calf, heifer or cow is more than \$20/head, given all the time and labour in yarding and treating them with ointments and eye patches, and lost production," he says.

"We rear up to 280 heifer calves every year, and we used to get between 10 and 15 cases of Pinkeye every summer."

Mr Fox made the decision to use Coopers Piliguard in 2007, and again in 2008. "We're really happy; last year we didn't have any Pinkeye cases at all. We'll vaccinate all the calves and the replacement heifers this spring before the flies start to arrive."

With an average rainfall of 28 inches and centre pivot irrigation, the Fox's milk 700 Friesian cows south of Mt Gambier on 1,000 acres. "As essential as irrigation is, it seems as if it increases the Pinkeye risk – the water seems to attract flies and keep them around the herd," he says.

Coopers Piliguard Pinkeye Vaccine is a unique vaccine that aids in the prevention of pinkeye in cattle caused by the bacteria, *Moraxella bovis*. Susceptible cattle should be vaccinated with a 2mL dose, 3-6 weeks before the onset of the pinkeye season.

For technical information on Coopers Piliguard Pinkeye Vaccine<sup>®</sup>, please contact Coopers Customer Service Advisory Line on Toll Free 1800 226 511 or visit the website [www.pinkeye.com.au](http://www.pinkeye.com.au)

Inquiries: Ineke Kuiper, 02 8204 3730 or David Dawson, 02 8204 3857

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