



## Media Release

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### Dairy farming ... without Pinkeye

Allendale East dairy farmer, Ian Fox, is looking forward to ridding the annual Pinkeye scourge from his herd.

After a successful vaccination program last year to help prevent pinkeye, Mr Fox will be making the investment again. "Pinkeye is a real headache. There's nothing worse than having blind, sick calves around the yards.

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

"It consumes a lot of valuable time having to get affected calves in to treat them with ointments and to put eye patches on. Pinkeye becomes incredibly frustrating when it keeps coming back every year," he said.

"We used Piliguard and are quite impressed with it, so we'll be vaccinating all the calves and the replacement heifers this year.

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

Mr Fox says he'll commence the program in late September/early October, before the flies start to come around. The Fox's milk 700 Friesian cows south of Mt Gambier on a 1,000 acre property, 450 acres of which are under centre pivot irrigation.

In consort with the 25 – 28 inch rainfall in an 'average' year, he believes the irrigation might exacerbate the Pinkeye problem. "As absolutely essential as the irrigation is, it seems as if it compounds the problem – the water seems to attract flies and keep them around the herd.

"However, with the vaccine, we cut the infection back to just 2 calves last summer, rather than the usual 10 to 15," he says.

He adds that the paybacks from preventing Pinkeye are not having to treat a mob of sick calves daily and enabling all the calves and heifers to grow out without a setback.

For further information on Coopers Piliguard Pinkeye Vaccine, 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)

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