

Media Release

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Pinkeye prevention in the North West

Preventing Pinkeye has become standard practise for John Abra, manager of "Wallenbeen", Hallsville via Tamworth.

Mr Abra runs 550 Black Angus breeders on the holding and grows out steers and heifers to 400 kg before selling them on to feedlots.

He says outbreaks of virulent Pinkeye disease frequently occur throughout the North West Slopes & Plains from October to March. Though technology has delivered a solution.

After a successful campaign against the disease last year, Mr Abra says he'll again be vaccinating all young stock this spring.

"We didn't have a case of Pinkeye at all last year. And we didn't have buyers rejecting any stock.

"I regard the vaccine as insurance. Prime steers are worth more than \$500, and for feedlotter to reject any can mean a lot to my bottom line, so for me it's about ensuring access to my main market."

He says to have a vaccine to help prevent Pinkeye outbreaks is a major help, from animal health and welfare, and farm management perspectives.

"Getting a Pinkeye outbreak is a major problem. The stock lose condition, treatment is a hassle and there's always the worry that yarding stock might spread it around even more.

"The vaccine stops this all in its tracks, and it pays-off for us.

"In bad years I've seen up to around 10% of the calves affected with the Pinkeye disease."

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.

For technical 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

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