

What is it?

PINKEYE is also known as keratitis contagiosa, infectious keratitis, contagious ophthalmia, New Forest eye, blight and most commonly as **infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK)**

It is a herd disease that spreads rapidly and severely affect animal productivity and welfare

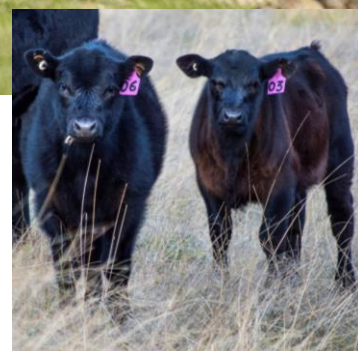
Clinical signs are restricted to the eye and include conjunctivitis and/or keratitis, with a significant number of infected animals developing corneal ulceration

Economic impact

Pinkeye is the most economically important ocular disease of cattle, estimated to cost Aussie producers 10 million AUD per year or 0.78 AUD per head / annum

The estimated average annual prevalence of pinkeye in *B. taurus* cattle in Australia is 10% in calves and 3% in cows.

Natural outbreaks usually peak in the third or fourth week after the first case



Possible causes



Bacteria *Moraxella*

Moraxella bovis, *Moraxella bovoculi*



Non-*Moraxella* organisms

Mycoplasma bovis, *Mycoplasma bovoculi*, and bovine herpesvirus type 1



Environmental factors

Flies, eye injury from supplementary feeding or tall pasture, season (summer, low rainfall), dust and wind



Host factors

Breed, age, concurrent illness, nutrition, body condition score, stressors and genetic factors



The **heritability** of susceptibility to pinkeye infection is estimated to be around 0.1

The severity of the disease can be classified using **scores** varying from **1** - excessive tearing and photophobia with a small ulcer; to **4** - ulcer extends completely through the cornea and the iris protrudes through the ulcer

Ahmed S. Dairy and Vet Sci J. 2019; 9(5): 555774