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What Can You Do with \$3?

Scott Clawson, Area Ag Economics Specialist

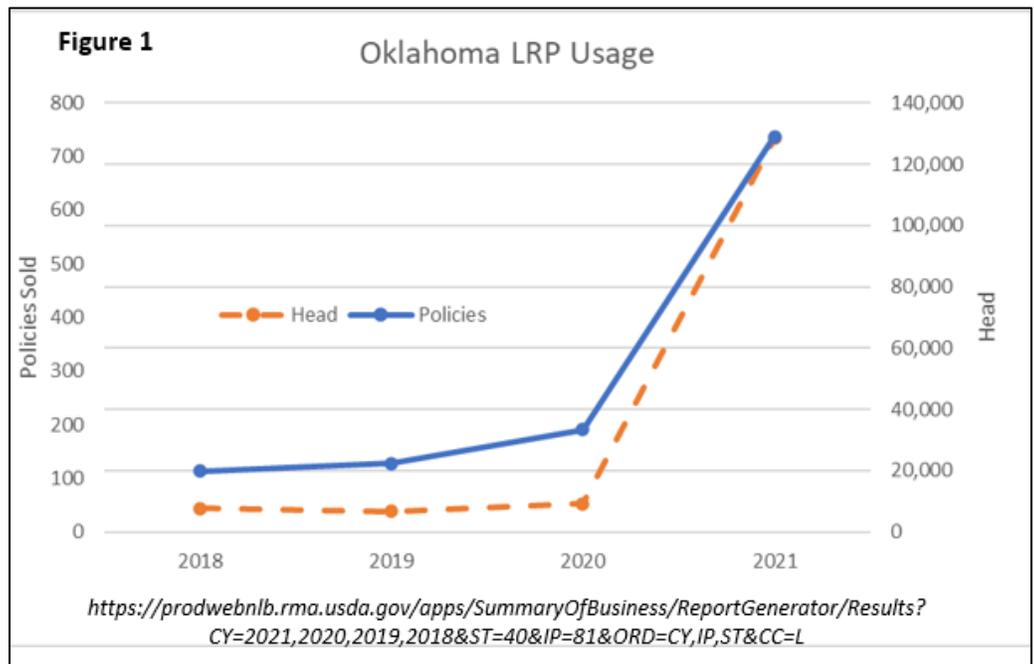
As of close of business on 7/28/21, \$3 will put a \$1.62/pound price floor on 5 weight steers through 10/27/21. Similarly, \$2.70 will put a \$1.48/lb. price floor on 5 weight heifers. Another way of looking at this is that it would cost a smidge over half a cent per pound to establish revenue protection for a cow calf operator. Unfortunately, “black swan” events have occurred more often lately, and the established price protection measures have not been a great fit for cow calf operators. The Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) product has been around quite a while, but the recent changes insist that we either take another look or check it out for the first time.

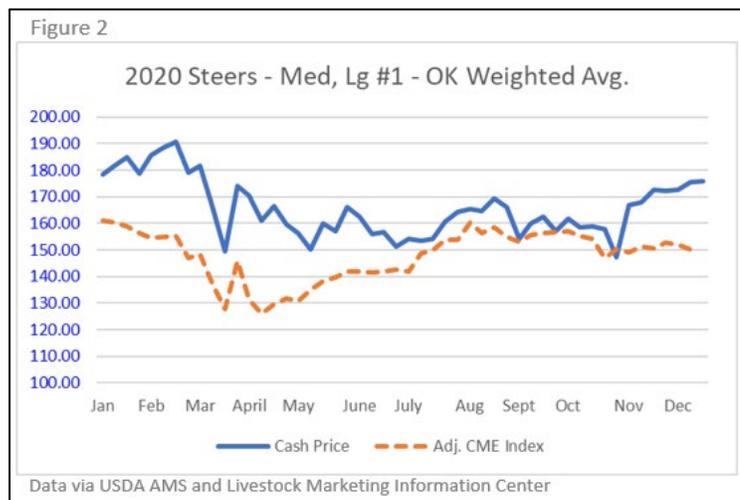
What Is LRP?

LRP is an insurance policy. It insures against falling market prices. It is the livestock producer’s version of crop insurance in that it is a federally supported product sold by independent insurance agents. You pick the level of coverage (70%-100%) and timeframe (13-52 weeks). Also, you select the sex of the cattle, breed makeup in some cases, and estimated weight at the end of your insured timeframe. It is a per head product, so no minimum number of head is required. The flexibility of LRP helps it fit cow-calf producers. The cattle can be marketed at your preferred location and if calves are selling for \$3/pound that day, you still get to take advantage of that price run and are only out your premium.

What Has Changed?

Several changes to the program have made it more appealing. First, the subsidy amounts have increased. This means the producers out of pocket expense is lower. Also, the new marketing window is 60 days. For example, my coverage is through November 1st but I sell cattle on September 20th because I am out of grass. Since it is within 60 days of the end date my policy is still valid. These are the two changes that might impact producers most. Additionally, the number of head that can be covered increased and the opportunity for cow-calf producers to cover unborn calves also changed. Figure 1 illustrates the ramp up in Oklahoma policies sold.





How Is Calf Price Determined?

The Actual Ending Value (price) on LRP policies is settled using the CME Feeder Cattle Index. This is a seven-day weighted average of 700-900 pound steers, with a muscle score of 1 or 1-2, and a Medium or Large frame score sold in a 12 state area, including Oklahoma. The weights that go into the index are likely not what we are selling as weaned calves. So, for steers (not dairy or Brahman influenced) under 600 pounds, the index is adjusted 110%. There is no adjustment for heifers under 600 pounds. This stands to reason as we know heifers sell at a discount to steers and lighter weight cattle have a higher price per pound than heavier cattle. These two things offset each other to put it plainly. Looking at the past several years and

comparing the Oklahoma weighted average price for 450-500 pound steers (same muscle and frame scores) to the 110% adjusted CME Feeder Cattle Index it shows that this adjustment is working fairly well, especially in the fall. Figure 2 shows this relationship. The other important point is that a cash price above the adjusted index is beneficial for the insured party.

This product is a usable way to establish a price floor or secure a level of revenue for cow calf operations in Oklahoma. It can be adapted to any size operation, lines up well with Oklahoma cash prices, and is affordable. If you are interested in learning more about this product, visit <https://www.rma.usda.gov/> or contact your local OSU Extension Office for more assistance.

Rotating Deworming Products

Earl H. Ward, Area Livestock Specialist

Many things that we do in agriculture fall under the rule of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” For this rule to exist it must be true, or at least true most of the time. We all find those products that work, and we tend to use them over and over. This is a great practice for buying the right leather gloves, Wrangler jeans, or an Ol Timer pocketknife. However, when it comes to controlling internal parasites in cattle, we need to find a couple of products that work effectively and throw those parasites a curve ball every now and then.

In the fall of 2020, OSU Extension assisted the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine with trying to find parasite resistance to current deworming products. Two herds from northeast OK were selected to help provide data back to the study, one herd in Okmulgee County and another in Adair County. Each location provided 20 to 30 calves where fecal samples were collected from each animal prior to deworming and two weeks post deworming. Both herds have historically been dewormed with name brand doramectin pour-on dewormer and that is what was also used in this study.

A fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) was performed on the fecal samples with hopes of a major reduction in the infestation of internal parasites. A FECRT of 90-95% means the parasite treatment was effective while anything less than 90% indicates resistance.

The herd in Okmulgee county had an average pretreatment egg count of 423 eggs per gram (epg) and an average post-treatment count of 276 epg. These results show a percent reduction of 34.6%, which is far from the effective level of 90%. The Adair county herd displayed even more resistance with an increase in egg count from an average of 185 epg pretreatment and a post-treatment of count of 199 epg. This indicates a significant resistance to the doramectin pour-on within these two herds.

This does not mean that this product is no longer effective, it just means that the parasites are growing “immune” to the treatment. So now is the time to rotate to another effective treatment. Rotating those chemicals every year or so will help to ensure that the internal parasites never can evolve into “super parasites.” This study was looking at cattle, but the same principle applies to equine, small ruminants, and all classes of livestock. Consult with your veterinarian about a deworming strategy that best fits your animals.

Pinkeye

Barry Whitworth, DVM Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

Pinkeye is properly called infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK) in cattle, which translates to an infection that causes inflammation of the surface of the eye and the tissues surrounding the eye. Pinkeye can affect cattle at any age, but it is much more of a problem in young cattle because they have not yet had the opportunity to develop immunity to it. Although cases can occur any time of year, it is more prevalent in the summer because that is the time of greatest irritation and the time for the presence of vectors. Although pinkeye is not fatal, it results in very significant economic losses due to costs of treatment, poor performance, and in the case of blindness, the value of the animal is decreased.

The infection is primarily due to the bacteria *Moraxella bovis*, but other bacteria such as *Moraxella bovoculi* and *Mycoplasma* spp. have been implicated. Respiratory virus infections, particularly Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), can be part of the picture by either causing an inflammatory eye condition that predisposes the animal to the more severe bacterial infection, or by acting as secondary invaders that make bacterial damage even worse. Although an organism acts as the causative agent, several conditions contribute to the syndrome. Animals with compromised immune systems due to either poor nutrition or chronic debilitating disease are more susceptible. Physical irritation contributes to an environment in the eye for the organism to thrive. Sources of irritation include UV light, dust, plant or hay materials, and flies. Flies are a two-edged sword because they not only contribute to the irritation of the eye, but also serve as vectors to carry bacteria from one animal to another. Flies may carry the organism for up to 3 days. Animals that overcome the syndrome without treatment can remain as carriers for up to one year, thereby carrying the problem forward from one year to the next spreading the organism to susceptible animals.

The course of the disease is fairly rapid. Within 2 or 3 days from onset, an opaque area can be seen on the surface of the eye and the tissues around the eye may become reddened and swollen. The eye weeps or tears excessively, and the animal usually stands with the eye closed due to pain. This discomfort seriously reduces grazing time and weight loss may follow. In time the surface of the eye will become entirely opaque, causing blindness, and on close examination deep ulcers can be seen on the cornea. If untreated, the condition can last for 4 to 8 weeks. Eventually resolution comes in one of three forms. Most animals eventually heal with no permanent damage but experience severe economic loss. Some animals heal but develop varying degrees of white scarring on the cornea. In some cases, the cornea ruptures resulting in a cone shaped bulging of the eye structure and permanent blindness.

Early diagnosis is the key to successful treatment. Treatment should begin by removing the animal from the herd and placing in isolation. Although long acting oxytetracycline is labeled for treatment of pinkeye, a producer may wish to

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consult with their veterinarian on antibiotic selection since some antibiotics may work better in certain situations. Also, a veterinarian may prescribe non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for pain relief. If it is treated early, there is less tissue damage and faster healing. However, if allowed to progress until ulcers are formed, pain and damaged tissues persists much longer. Healing is facilitated by using a patch over the eye to keep out irritants such as flies, light, and dust. Another option is to suture the eyelids together for a few weeks which not only keeps irritants out of the eye but also provides structural support that may help prevent the eye from rupturing. A veterinarian can provide assistance with this procedure. In all cases, producers should control flies for the comfort of the sick animal and for prevention of the spread of the disease.

With pinkeye, as with many other syndromes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Fly control is perhaps the most important preventative measure. Shade should be provided so that animals can find relief from UV light during the brightest part of the day. When shade is limited, it can cause the animals to group tightly which allows for increased spread of the organisms from animal to animal by flies or by direct contact of eye secretions. It is helpful to reduce eye irritations by clipping seed heads off tall grass. Do not feed hay overhead where grass and seed heads can fall into the eyes. Vaccinating for virus respiratory diseases may help reduce the incidence and the intensity of pinkeye outbreaks. Although several pinkeye vaccines are available, they may or may not be helpful since there are many different strains of *M. bovis* and the many other factors involved in the disease process. Being selective with replacement heifers is also a good practice since choosing animals with pigment around the eyes reduces the risk. When possible, select heifers that come from cows that have no history of pinkeye infections. Heredity for this trait is low but over time immunity should improve in the herd.

There is no silver bullet for pinkeye. No single management practice will eliminate the disease. Control depends on understanding factors involved, such as bacteria, vectors, irritants, and immunity. By incorporating consideration of these factors into the overall management of cattle, one can minimize the impact of pinkeye on animals and on profitability. An excellent fact sheet VTMD-9128 on pinkeye is available from Oklahoma State University County Extension Office or online at <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/pinkeye.html>. For additional information, producers should consult with their veterinarian or Oklahoma State University County Extension Ag Educator.

Reference

Angelos JA. Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (pinkeye). *Vet Clin North Am Food Anim Pract.* 2015 Mar;31(1):61-79, v-vi. doi: 10.1016/j.cvfa.2014.11.006. Epub 2015 Jan 6. PMID: 25576389.

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Value of Gain Calculation					
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OK Weekly Auction Summary 8/6/21					
Weight	\$/lb	Value/hd	Added lb.	Added \$	\$/lb Added
376	\$ 1.9863	\$ 746.85			
425	\$ 1.9708	\$ 837.59	49	\$ 90.74	\$ 1.85
473	\$ 1.8203	\$ 861.00	48	\$ 23.41	\$ 0.49
522	\$ 1.7616	\$ 919.56	49	\$ 58.55	\$ 1.19
574	\$ 1.7038	\$ 977.98	52	\$ 58.43	\$ 1.12
625	\$ 1.6298	\$ 1,018.63	51	\$ 40.64	\$ 0.80
673	\$ 1.6242	\$ 1,093.09	48	\$ 74.46	\$ 1.55
723	\$ 1.5928	\$ 1,151.59	50	\$ 58.51	\$ 1.17
777	\$ 1.5488	\$ 1,203.42	54	\$ 51.82	\$ 0.96
824	\$ 1.5339	\$ 1,263.93	47	\$ 60.52	\$ 1.29
873	\$ 1.4971	\$ 1,306.97	49	\$ 43.03	\$ 0.88
923	\$ 1.4602	\$ 1,347.76	50	\$ 40.80	\$ 0.82
Long Stocker Run		Short Stocker Run		Heavy Stocker Run	
<i>Starting</i>		<i>Starting</i>		<i>Starting</i>	
376	\$ 746.85	376	\$ 746.85	673	\$1,093.09
<i>Ending</i>		<i>Ending</i>		<i>Ending</i>	
923	\$1,347.76	574	\$ 977.98	923	\$1,347.76
<i>Total Gain</i>	<i>Δ Value</i>	<i>Total Gain</i>	<i>Δ Value</i>	<i>Total Gain</i>	<i>Δ Value</i>
547	\$ 600.92	198	\$ 231.13	250	\$ 254.68
VOG		VOG		VOG	
\$ 1.10		\$ 1.17		\$ 1.02	



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