



Farm Veterinary Solutions

NEW FOREST EYE

FACT SHEET

New Forest Eye is a bacterial disease (*Moraxella bovis*)

It is most commonly seen in the summer months, mainly affecting youngstock.

- Eyes become cloudy and if not treated in its early stages, can develop into ulcers.
- You may notice tear staining of the face.
- It can lead to blindness and permanent damage.
- It is extremely painful and you will usually notice affected animals keeping infected eyes closed, mainly in sunlight.

Transmission

New Forest Eye is highly infectious and can spread rapidly.

- Head and nuisance flies act as mechanical vectors for the bacteria.
- Dust is also a risk factor.

Treatment



Early detection and treatment is essential.



Topical antibiotic cream in the eye surface is most commonly used.



Antibiotic injections may be administered into the conjunctiva by competent persons.



Anti-inflammatories may be given for animals presenting discomfort.



Intramuscular antibiotics can be given if treatment directly to the eye cannot be achieved.

Prevention and Management

All new purchased stock should be managed separately where possible away from the main herd. Minimise contact of affected animals.

The development of immunity following infection is variable.

Ensure effective measures for fly control are taken to help reduce spread of infection.

- Pour-on insecticides
- Ear tags
- Biological fly control (predatory wasps)



To read more about New Forest Eye and other eye conditions in cattle...



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