

60 YEARS OF ZAMBIA

Zambia celebrates 60 years of independence this year—a journey built on courage, unity, and the dream of a brighter tomorrow. As we honour the past, let us be inspired by the strength and resilience of our people, who have shaped this nation with hope and determination. Here's to 60 years of triumphs, challenges, and the unstoppable Zambian spirit that lights our path forward. Together, we rise!

To mark this milestone, we at Livestock Services dressed in vibrant chitenge attire in Zambian colors, joining in the spirit of national pride and solidarity.



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FEATHER PECKING IN LAYERS pt.2

BY DR. YENESHA NAMENDA

CAUSES

Feather pecking is multi-factorial. Some common causes include (but are not limited to):

- High stress factors, such as moulting, start of lay or peak performance. This happens when the total amount of stress surpasses a certain level, birds will start to feather peck.
- Deficiency of fibre, minerals, vitamins or amino acids in the feed
- Poor house climate i.e. high light intensity, parasite infestation by mites or fleas, litter quality



SIGNS

- Moulting and feather pecking are easily confused.
- **Moulting**: shows irregularities in feathering, crooked feathers and shafts
- **Feather pecking**: down feathers stick out, feathers show damage.
- It starts at the tail bases, or at the neck. In severe cases, there are bald spots and injuries.

PREVENTION

- Ensure a smooth transition from the rearing house to the laying house. You should not suddenly give chickens accustomed to a dark house a lot of light.
- Keep to the **same times** for switching the light on and off, feeding routines etc.
- Combat mites.
- If in deep litter, **provide distraction** in the form of dry and loose litter.
- Feed mash instead of a pellet and enough **highfibre raw** materials.
- Add **mineral supplements** to the feed like diatomaceous earth.
- Try to ensure that there is an **even distribution of light** throughout the house.

Please ensure to consult your veterinarian if feather pecking becomes a regularly occurrence in your poultry.



COCCIDIOSIS IN POULTRY

BY DR. CHRISTABEL CHANDA

WHAT IS COCCIDIOSIS?

- Coccidiosis is a common protozoal disease in domesticated birds that affects the **intestinal tract**. It causes diarrhoea, dehydration and anaemia.
- It is one of the most important diseases of poultry causing severe losses in meat and egg production due to reduced growth, increased mortality and costs of treatment.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

- Birds become infected with coccidiosis by ingesting oocytes that are **shed in the faeces** of infected birds.
- The oocytes become infective once they mature and sporulate in the environment. **Wet litter** and **the heat in the poultry** favour of the sporulation and therefore, the outbreak of coccidiosis.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Reduced feed and water intake
- Weight loss
- High morbidity & mortality
- Severe **bloody diarrhoea**
- Decreased egg production
- **Anaemia** (pale feet, combs and muscles)
- If the birds survive, they have **stunted growth** and production



CONTROL

- Biosecurity: enforcement of **strict biosecurity** is a must to prevent disease introduction.
- Litter management: litter must be **kept dry** to reduce sporulation (wet or contaminated litter must be removed regularly). Water leaks must be contained and prevented in the poultry house.
- Coccidiostats: some products are available for prevention and/or **treatment** of coccidiosis (given in feed or water) as prescribed by the veterinarian (please consult your veterinarian before you administer any medications).

UPCOMING SEMINARS (S) AND WEBINARS (W)

- GOAT AND SHEEP PRODUCTION (S): **16TH** NOVEMBER, 2024
- VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN THE RAIN SEASON (S): **23RD** NOVEMBER, 2024
- ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS WEEK (W): **18TH - 24TH** NOVEMBER, 2024



BOVINE EPHEMERAL FEVER (3-DAY SICKNESS, 3DS)

BY DR. EDNA MALAWO

WHAT IS 3-DAY SICKNESS?

3-day sickness, or bovine ephemeral fever (BEF), is an insect-transmitted, noncontagious viral disease of cattle. It is called three day sickness because the clinical signs of the disease **usually last for three days**.

IMPORTANCE

In most cases, the main impact is on productivity. While illness is usually brief, it can result in **decreased milk yield**, loss of condition and **reproductive losses**, and recovery can be prolonged in some animals. Bulls, animals in good condition and high producing cows are more severely affected.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

3DS is transmitted through biting insects particularly **mosquitoes** and biting midges. 3DS usually occurs between January and April when insect populations are high. **Outbreaks often follow periods of heavy rainfall.**



COMMON CLINICAL SIGNS

Fever with many phases. Reduced milk production. Depression. Mucoid nasal discharge. Profuse salivation, muscle twitching, waves of shivering and lacrimation maybe seen. Stiffness, joint pain, **shifting lameness or reluctance to move**. Loss of swallowing reflex. Recumbency.



TREATMENT

- Anti-inflammatory drugs with addition of calcium borogluconate.
- Recumbent animals should be **rolled periodically** to prevent loss of circulation and muscle damage.

PREVENTION

- **Vaccinate regularly**, particularly lactating cows and bulls before vector season.
- Control insect populations by using insecticides or repellants.

TICK-BORNE DISEASES IN THE RAINY SEASON: PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

BY DR. NAMOONGA SIAKWALE

As the rainy season approaches, tick-borne diseases will become more prevalent. These diseases, transmitted by ticks, commonly affect domestic animals in Zambia. This article will focus on diseases in **Cattle, Sheep, and Goats**.

Ticks transmit different types of parasites, including **bacteria, protozoa** and **viruses**.

The main tick-borne diseases include:

- **Theileriosis** (East Coast Fever or "denkede" in cattle), which affects cattle, sheep, goats, and horses.
- **Babesiosis** ("Red water"), which affects cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, dogs, and cats.
- **Anaplasmosis**, ("Gall Sickness") which impacts cattle, sheep, and goats.
- **Ehrlichiosis** (also known as "Heartwater"), which affects cattle, goats, sheep, dogs, and cats.



Why are Tick-Borne Diseases Common in the Rainy Season?

- The rainy season brings high humidity and moderate temperatures, ideal for **tick survival and faster development**, increasing tick populations.
- Many small-scale farmers use **acaricides that can easily be washed off by rain**, reducing the effectiveness of tick control.
- The rainy season often coincides with a rise in animal movement as livestock and wildlife forage for fresh grass and water sources. **Increased host activity** and movement expose animals to more ticks, amplifying the cycle of tick feeding and disease transmission.

How do you prevent these diseases?

The best way to prevent tick-borne diseases is through **tick control** by use of **acaricides**.

- During the rainy season, **oil-based acaricides** such as pour-on treatments or tick grease are recommended since they are less likely to wash away.
- Regular or **frequent application** is crucial to prevent ticks from infesting animals. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid incorrect dosing, which can lead to acaricide resistance.

How do you treat tick-borne diseases?

- Treatment for tick-borne diseases varies **depending on the disease** and its stage.
- Consult a veterinarian for accurate diagnosis and treatment. Since different types of ticks transmit different diseases, identifying the **type of tick** on your animals can help your veterinarian determine the specific disease affecting them. Simply describing the ticks you see can be helpful for diagnosis.

In our next issue, we will discuss **East Coast Fever**. We will cover the cause, clinical signs, diagnosis, prevention and treatment!



WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) AWARENESS WEEK (18 - 24 NOVEMBER 2024)

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ACT NOW

- The **World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW)** is an annual global campaign to raise awareness and understanding of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** and encourage global action among all stakeholders. These include healthcare workers, environmentalists, animal health professionals, **agriculturists, farmers**, policymakers, young people, civil society, media and the public.
- AMR is a phenomenon where microorganisms, like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, **change over time and become resistant** to antimicrobials.
- Antimicrobials are **drugs used to treat infections**, such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics.
- AMR can occur naturally over time, but it's accelerated by the **inappropriate use of antimicrobials**.
- AMR is a pressing global health and socioeconomic crisis. It has significant impacts on human and animal health, and **food security** (because of antimicrobial residues) and it is linked to environmental issues such as pollution.
- As a farmer, you have a **key role in preserving the efficacy of antimicrobials** worldwide.
- Here is what you can do:
 - Implement good husbandry and biosecurity practices
 - Ensure diseases are properly diagnosed before administering any type of antimicrobial drug.
 - Use of disease resistant crop varieties, including resistant rootstocks in both fruit and vegetable systems;
 - Grow crops in rotation and other cultural practices to prevent pathogen build-up
 - Use effective integrated disease and pest management strategies.

These are only some of the ways we can prevent AMR.

Please feel free to speak to our Technical Consultants if you need further information



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