**Foot Rot in Grazing Cattle**

Standing water and muddy conditions will increase the chances of “foot-rot” in grazing cattle. “Foot-rot” is caused by infectious agents, most commonly *fusobacterium necrophorum*, which enters the hoof or feet by puncture wounds or the softening and thinning of the skin between the bovines toes. Feet infected with *fusobacterium necrophorum* can serve as a source of infection to other cattle by contaminating the environment. “Foot-rot” affects all ages of cattle. Signs of this ailment are sudden on-set of lameness (one-limb), elevated temperature, and inter digital swelling. Treatment, in most cases, will require the use of systemic antimicrobial therapy.

Prevention of “foot-rot” will begin with trying to prevent mechanical injury to cattle’s feet and by reducing time cattle spend standing in wet areas.

Other means of prevention are:

- Providing 350 mg/head/day of chlortetracycline (CTC) in a mineral or supplement
- Providing supplemental zinc may reduce foot-rot. Zinc methionone provided to grazing steers in a mineral mixture at a rate of 5.4 g/day reduced foot rot incidence in a Kansas study.
- Supplemental iodine has been shown to reduce “foot-rot”. It is typically provided in mineral mixes or mixed rations. Iodine sources used are EDDI, sodium iodine, and calcium iodate.
- A commercial “foot-rot” vaccine for cattle is available although it has not been tested in controlled studies.

For more information on “Foot-rot” go to:
Foot Rot in Cattle
ANSI-3355
Dr. D.L> Step et al.

This factsheet can be found at [http://osufacts.okstate.edu](http://osufacts.okstate.edu)