

Northwest Veterinary Associates

March 2010 Newsletter

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We have the privilege of having a new antibiotic drug available to us to treat respiratory disease in dairy replacement animals. It is called Resflor Gold, and is a combination of Nuflor and Banamine. The following is a partial listing of labeled instructions for use and some information to consider when treating pneumonia cases.

DESCRIPTION

RESFLOR GOLD® is an injectable solution of the synthetic antibiotic florfenicol (Nuflor) and the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) flunixin (Banamine). Each milliliter of sterile RESFLOR GOLD® contains 300 mg florfenicol and 16.5 mg flunixin meglumine.

INDICATION

RESFLOR GOLD® is indicated for treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) associated with *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, and *Histophilus somni*, and control of BRD-associated pyrexia in beef and non-lactating dairy cattle, age 20 months and younger.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

RESFLOR GOLD® should be administered once by **subcutaneous injection** at a dose rate of 6 mL/100 lb. Do not administer more than 10 mL at each site. The injection should be given only in the neck. Injection sites other than the neck have not been evaluated. For the 500mL vial, do not puncture the stopper more than 10 times.

RESIDUE WARNINGS

Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 38 days of treatment. Do not use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older. Use of florfenicol (Nuflor component) in this class of cattle may cause milk residues. A withdrawal period has not been established in pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

Treating Pneumonia in Cattle

Pneumonia in cattle is a common and sometimes frustrating problem. Use of antibiotics to treat these cattle is just as common and sometimes can be just as frustrating. Calves and older cattle exhibit an increased respiratory rate (rapid breathing rate or panting), fever (rectal temperature > 102.5°F, often > 104°F), coughing, loss of appetite, and nasal discharge (mucous).

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the tissues of the lungs that results from the response of the animal to an infectious agent, either a virus or bacteria, or in most cases, both. Often the virus infection will cause damage to the lung tissue and then bacteria will invade the compromised tissues. Treatment, therefore, should focus on either killing the bacteria involved or protecting against bacterial invasion until the viral component has run its course.

Which antibiotic to choose depends on several factors. These include past experience, your veterinarian's recommendations, and specific signs of the disease. The route of administration (subcutaneous [sub-Q], intramuscular [IM], intravenously [IV], or orally), can be an important consideration. Additionally, the number of times that treatment is required is also important. Whether or not the drug is given in an extra-label manner and thus would require a veterinarian's prescription can be important. Any potential adverse side effects must be considered. All antibiotics have both advantages and disadvantages to carefully consider.

Another drug that is very helpful in treating cattle with pneumonia is

Banamine® (flunixin meglumine). This drug is in the class we refer to as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS). This drug helps the animal recover by controlling the inflammatory process (including fever) that occurs with these infections. This is similar to the way aspirin or Tylenol works when you have a respiratory infection. This product is very well tolerated and a real adjunct for therapy. Banamine® is labeled for use in cattle with respiratory disease or mastitis. The drug is labeled for intravenous (IV) injection and must be given slowly to avoid adverse reactions. The withdrawal time for meat (slaughter) is 4 days after the last treatment. To use Banamine® IM without a prescription is a violation of extra-label drug use law.

We have some powerful and effective drugs to combat this condition in cattle and we all need to use them wisely. That includes discussing their prudent use with your veterinarian, obtaining any necessary prescriptions, and observing all withdrawal times and precautions. Ask your herd health vet if Resflor Gold is the right choice for treating some of your calf and heifer pneumonia cases.