



veterinarian

POISON

insecticide

antibiotic

lice

tick

## Disease Control

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Proper health management involves much more than treating occasional infections. In fact, preventative care is probably the most important thing you can do to ensure the health of your livestock. While only a licensed **veterinarian** can **diagnose** your animals, there are plenty of ways that you can **monitor** your livestock for **infectious** diseases and prevent their spread.

Some of the most common health problems among livestock are the results of **parasites**. Common parasitic organisms include worms, **lice**, and **ticks**. You can help prevent the spread of these parasites by regularly cleaning your facilities. You may also consider treating the coats of your livestock with **insecticides**. If you suspect a parasitic infection among your livestock, seek professional help immediately. Your veterinarian may be able to treat your animals with drugs, dietary remedies, and **deworming** techniques.

Another major concern is respiratory disease. Although there are numerous causes, the symptoms of respiratory infections are always the same. If you notice labored **respiration**, fever, and **lethargy** among your livestock, contact your veterinarian right away. Respiratory infections can be deadly if ignored, but they can usually be treated effectively with **antibiotics**. More importantly, many types of infections can be prevented with **vaccinations**.

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vaccination

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some common health problems livestock get?
- 2 How can farmers prevent the spread of disease in livestock?

### Reading

2 Read the magazine article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the article mainly about?
  - A choosing the right veterinarian for livestock
  - B identifying parasitic infections in livestock
  - C preventing infectious diseases in livestock
  - D diagnosing livestock illnesses at home
- 2 According to the article, what can prevent parasitic infections?
  - A having veterinarians check animals regularly
  - B cleaning areas frequented by livestock
  - C washing the coats of livestock
  - D feeding livestock a healthy diet
- 3 What is used to treat respiratory infections?
  - A antibiotics
  - B dietary supplements
  - C vaccinations
  - D isolation

### Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1 — lice       | 4 — deworming |
| 2 — tick       | 5 — lethargy  |
| 3 — infectious |               |

- A a parasitic arachnid
- B the act of killing or removing worms
- C a state of extreme exhaustion
- D a parasitic insect
- E easily spread



4 Read the sentence pair. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 veterinarian / parasite

A A \_\_\_\_\_ infected several cows.

B The \_\_\_\_\_ gave the horse a shot.

2 respiration / antibiotics

A Check for labored \_\_\_\_\_.

B Use \_\_\_\_\_ to kill the infection.

3 diagnose / monitor

A Handlers should \_\_\_\_\_ their herds for health problems.

B Only a medical professional can \_\_\_\_\_ diseases.

4 vaccination / insecticide

A Use a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to kill the lice.

B A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ can boost animals' immunity.

5 Listen and read the magazine article again. How can a veterinarian treat your animals if they have parasites?

## Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a farmer and a veterinarian. Check (✓) the items the veterinarian suggests doing to the sick cattle.

- 1 ☐ isolating the infected animals
- 2 ☐ taking them to the vet's office
- 3 ☐ giving the animals antibiotics
- 4 ☐ cleaning the facilities

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Farmer: 1 \_\_\_\_\_, doc?

Veterinarian: 2 \_\_\_\_\_. When did you first noticed these symptoms?

Farmer: Well, last week a few of them 4 \_\_\_\_\_ some trouble breathing.

Veterinarian: Was there anything else?

Farmer: Yes, they seemed, well, really tired. Basically, they 4 \_\_\_\_\_ to want to move.

Veterinarian: Those symptoms, lethargy and difficulty breathing, are 5 \_\_\_\_\_ a respiratory infection.

Farmer: So, what can we do? Can you treat them?

Veterinarian: Well, fortunately, I think they'll recover if we treat them with 6 \_\_\_\_\_. You need to keep this herd away from your other livestock. We don't want this spreading.

## Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*When did you notice these symptoms?*

*What can we do?*

*You need to ...*

**Student A:** You are a veterinarian. Interview Student B about:

- cattle's symptoms
- a diagnosis
- treatment

**Student B:** You are a farmer. Answer Student A's questions about your cattle.

## Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to write a treatment plan. Include: animal symptoms, the diagnosis, and how they will be treated.

### Treatment Plan

Symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Treatment: \_\_\_\_\_