



Case Presentations

CS-CASH – Agricultural Medicine Core Course

July 2023

Kelley J Donham MS, DVM, DACVPM

Detasseling and health risks

- First --- why, what, and when is detasseling done?
- Who does detasseling?
- What are the health risks?



Corn detasseling and health risks: Young people and immigrant farm workers –

- Heat Stress
- Corneal erosions
- Phytophoto Toxic dermatitis
- Contact allergic dermatitis
- Pterygium



Story of the Bottle – fed lamb

- ❖ 9 – year – old got a baby lamb from grandpa to raise
- ❖ Did not notice lesion on lips of the lamb
- ❖ Lesion of girl's hand seen 2 weeks later
- ❖ She dreams of showing that lamb for a blue ribbon
- ❖ What is it?



First degree burn from the muffler on a 4020 tractor. How to treat it?

- ❑ First aid
- ❑ Wife wanted farmer to go to the doctor
- ❑ Doctor treats topical, but also, she wants to give a tetanus immunization.
 - ❑ What factors should be considered to warrant a tetanus shot?



Exposure to spoiled grain

- I A few months I was cleaning out a bin that had corn in it for 5 years, full of mold, weevils and dust. My dust mask became filthy quickly, so I took it off. A few days later I was in the hospital with severe pneumonia. Symptoms (shortness of breath, fatigue) continued. They did a lung scan and found an amorphous dark spot. I was scheduled for surgery. However, a new pulmonologist said that he was convinced it was not cancer and that it could be from the grain bin exposure. I did not have surgery. The mass has receded but not gone completely away. He is now having joint and leg symptoms, swelling and pain. He indicates that his multitude of docs are communicating with each other and believes that they all know about the grain bin exposure. He is now incredibly sensitive to mold and thinks that his days on the farm are numbered.



S.P. is a new worker at a cattle holding facility

- He works testing and treating cattle
- He also works in the office managing records
- 10 days after starting his work, he developed symptoms of a “cold”, which included chest tightness and shortness of breath.
- He had to take periodic sick leave because of his illness. He would always get better a few days away from work, but symptoms returned when back to work.
- The cattle work is somewhat dusty
- There is mold evident in the office area
- His physicians suspected Farmers' lung. A CT scan ruled it out. Bronchitis was then diagnosed
- What are the possible symptoms, and exposures that caused this condition?

