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## **Pinkeye vaccine just in time**

The NSW Farmers' Association says it supports the introduction into Australia of a vaccine which can reduce pinkeye in cattle.

NSW Farmers' Association Cattle Committee Chair Richard Chamen says pinkeye is one of the most contagious infectious diseases of livestock, which can severely affect the productivity of animals and infect up to 80% of a herd.

"It is estimated that pinkeye costs the Australian cattle industry up to \$23 million per year in lost production and treatment costs, so it's very positive that farmers can now take preventative action against it," Mr Chamen said.

"The news that Coopers Animal Health has brought a pinkeye vaccine to Australia is also timely because pinkeye outbreaks are most frequently seen in summer and autumn when flies are more prevalent," Mr Chamen said.

"According to Coopers Animal Health the vaccine has a nil milk and meat withholding period and a nil export slaughter interval. The vaccine has been proven by nearly 20 years of international use in countries such as the USA, South Africa and New Zealand," he said.

"The vaccine is available through most rural supply shops, veterinarians or it can be ordered directly through Coopers," Mr Chamen concluded.

The vaccine is a yearly treatment and it has a recommended retail price of \$3.50 per dose plus GST and there is no booster involved. Further information on the vaccine can be obtained from Coopers Animal Health at [www.pinkeye.com.au](http://www.pinkeye.com.au) or phone 1800 226 511.

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***Fast fact: Australia has 74,352 beef properties with 27.78 million cattle and calves activities***