

# Peroxide Treated Water...New Idea

Report and comments by James I. Sprague, Livestock Nutritionist

## Metered into well water

A new product and simple application for adding hydrogen peroxide to livestock drinking water has been developed by D. Kennedy Inc. of Story City, Iowa. Hydrogen peroxide is commonly called "peroxide". It is often used as a disinfectant and also a treatment of wounds of livestock, but the treatment of water for livestock is an interesting application. Peroxide at low concentrations will control iron bacteria and many other water contaminants. The name of the proprietary product for livestock water treatment is "Oxy Blast".

Oxy Blast breaks down to water and oxygen. It is the oxidizing action of organic material that produces the disinfectant-like effect.

## Peroxide water applications

A dealer of the product suggests, "One of the reasons for treating water is to prevent the spread of diseases from animal to animal from the drinking water. Another use is the control of algae in the non-continuous flow water tanks." The application is a level of 75-100 parts per million of Oxy Blast. The level may be increased for treatment to 125 to 150. One of the interesting applications is the treatment of high iron water to prevent the staining of building walls and porcelain fixtures.

## A simple set-up is a feature

The system provides a metering pump and a wiring harness that makes the set-up simple to install. The Oxy Blast is added either at the well or at the pressure tank. The cost of the treatment is \$3.60-4.80 per 1000 gallons of water or less, depending on the PPM and the volume purchased. A water well drilling and service company in Iowa has been using the set-up successfully for livestock operations for several years. Feedlots and stock farms need to check with their local water well service providers regarding the rules for application in their area. The low level of applications plus the ease of the set-up makes the idea practical and an economically feasible for consideration by most feedlots.

## Supplied in heavy plastic barrels

Oxy Blast, explains Randy Navratil, national sales manager of D. Kennedy Inc., contains a specially manufactured formula. The concentrated Oxy Blast is shipped to the feedlots in heavy plastic barrels. The concentration of either 34 percent or 50 percent Oxy Blast is much higher than the 3 percent peroxide amount in the household product.

Safety concerns of the handling of any Oxy Blast products are stressed by Navratil. The pump is fed by a simple plastic tube directly from the bung of the barrels to the pump, making for safety and simplicity of the changing of barrels.

## Feedlot experience

Ottawa County Feeders at Minneapolis, Kansas has installed a system. Their reason for the installation, according to Perry Owen, feedlot manager, was the water's high iron content and potential animal health benefits for their livestock. Owen explained, "The iron staining of the water has been solved, plus the scum of the livestock water tanks has been eliminated. Wash basins and lavatories in the office are no longer stained."

## Sprague's comments

Oxy Blast use in feedlots is an interesting attempt to control the transfer of diseases from animal to animal at the water tank. This includes both bacterial and viral diseases. A feedlot may wish to start by treating only the water provided for receiving pens and hospital pens.

The use of Oxy Blast-treated water, like many products in our industry, is not proven by controlled research. However, this simple idea is already in use by feedlots, dairy producers, hog farms and poultry operations and needs to be evaluated by each cattle producer.