New Forest Eye (also known as pink eye) is an eye infection of cattle. It is caused by the bacteria *Moraxella bovis*. Cattle of any age can become infected, but is most commonly seen in youngstock in the summer months. The disease is highly contagious, with flies being able to transmit the infection between individuals.

**Signs**
- Cloudy surface of the eye
- Eye ulceration
- Squinting and closing of the eye
- Increased tear production/discharge from the eye
- Eye reddening.

In severe advanced disease animals can become blind if both eyes are affected or the eye may rupture.

This disease is often confused with Silage Eye (particularly if diagnosis is delayed), caused by a bacteria called *Listeria monocytogenes*. This infection occurs via a different route and thus requires alternate treatment.

**Treatment**
It is essential to treat individuals early to prevent irreversible damage to the eye occurring. Topical treatment with antibiotic eye ointment is usually effective if administered early.

**Prevention**
Good fly control (ear tags and pour-on insecticides) and pasture management is essential in reducing exposure of cattle to flies which can transmit the disease. Keeping cattle off high risk pastures in the summer months (low lying, wet pastures with a high fly population) can play a big part in reducing this risk, but is never absolute.