

NEWSLETTER

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Seasonal Reminders:

- Cows should calve in a clean environment, so preparation of this area should start soon. Also make sure calf sheds are clean before the first batch arrives.
- Check dry cows each week for mastitis. Walk around them and look for swollen quarters. Any quarters that have mastitis should be treated as you would treat an infected quarter during lactation. Do **not** touch the other quarters unless they look suspicious.



- Spray paint the leg that is lame if we are coming out to treat lame cows. Sometimes it is not obvious in a crush or when the cow is stirred up.

Uterine Torsion

The condition is associated with having a large calf, vigorous movement of the foetus inside the uterus and vigorous moment of cow/heifer (running or getting up and down). Most uterine torsions occur around the time of calving (however approximately 10 % occur in the last 1 - 2 months of pregnancy). The condition results in twisting of the broad ligaments (ligaments around the uterus), twisting the cervix and vagina and narrowing the birth canal. The degree of uterine torsion can vary from 90 - 270 (even > 360) degrees.

Clinical signs vary due to the degree of torsion. With a 90-degree torsion, on vaginal exam, the calf may be presented laying on its side in the pelvis. With a 180 - 270-degree torsions there is signs of abdominal discomfort (tail swishing, treading feet, abdominal watching, frequently getting up and down) around the time of calving with failure of labour to progress. In severe cases where there is 360+ degree torsion, the uterine tissues dies due to having the blood supply cut off which can lead to uterine rupture, peritonitis and death or uterine artery rupture and bleeding internally.

Diagnosis can be made on vaginal examination, with detection of a twist in the vaginal wall and narrowed or closed cervix. On rectal exam, the broad ligaments of the uterus can be felt twisting in the direction of the torsion. Approximately 60 % of uterine torsions are rotated anticlockwise when viewed from behind the cow.

Management of the uterine torsions will vary depending on the degree of torsion. Lower degree uterine torsions where the calf can be felt, manual correction (using chains or a detorsion rod) may be possible. Higher degree torsions, where the cervix is closed,

can sometimes be managed by rolling the cow/heifer or caesarean section. Often the calf is not viable as the blood supply to the calf may be affected.

Interpreting Your BVDV Bulk Milk Antibody Test

This test screens for the herds exposure to the BVDV virus. If the cows have been exposed to the virus, they will develop immunity by producing antibodies which can be detected in their milk.

The test is expressed as a Sample/Positive: Control ratio (SP ratio). Below are the interpretations provided by SWANS Veterinary Service Laboratory.

SP ratio less than 0.25 = NO EXPOSURE (BVDV-Free)

This herd shows little sign of previous exposure to BVDV and has been essentially free of BVDV for some time. All or most of the cows are susceptible to BVDV. Serological screening of all replacement stock and/or the implementation of a vaccination program is strongly advised.

SP ratio 0.25 to 0.5 = LOW EXPOSURE

Historical exposure of up to a third of the cows in the herd to BVDV is likely. Typically, older cows or specific mobs, such as bought-in cows, may be immune. Serological screening of all replacement stock and/or the implementation of a vaccination program should be strongly considered.

SP ratio 0.5 to 0.75 = MODERATE EXPOSURE

Up to approximately half of the herd has had contact with BVDV. The exposure may be historical or the herd may have occasional contact with the virus. The heifers may have had contact with PIs at grazing.

Screening replacement heifers before allowing them to enter the milking herd is strongly recommended.

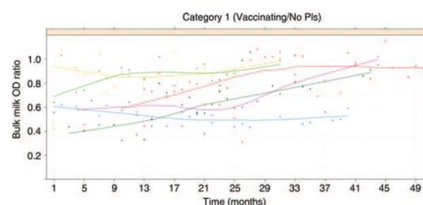
SP ratio greater than 1.0 = VERY HIGH EXPOSURE

The herd is likely to have active BVDV infection, though antibody levels remain high for some time after PI removal. About 40% of herds with this antibody level have a milking PI cow and will be POSITIVE on the bulk milk BVDV PCR. Many high antibody herds may have non-milking PIs present such as bulls, calves, or dry stock. PI's are very likely to exist within young stock.

Essentially, there is no Bulk Milk antibody level above which presence of a PI animal is guaranteed. It is also difficult to define a lower limit below which a PI is not present. Ideally, a series of BVDV Bulk Milk Antibody test (not just one) are required in combination with young stock blood antibody tests and potentially bulk milk PCR (PI screening) testing prior to making decisions regarding the course of action for BVDV control on your farm.

•What Effect Does Vaccinating Against BVDV Have on Your BVDV Bulk Milk Antibody Test Result?

A study looked at the effect of BVDV exposure in dairy herds using monthly Bulk Milk Antibody test when the herds vaccinated against BVDV and had no PI animal present in the herd.



It was found that vaccinating against BVDV did cause a transient increase in the Bulk Milk Antibody S/P ratio (Table below). The frequency, magnitude and duration of these

responses were not always consistent, hence, difficult to quantify but may depend to some degree upon which animals contribute to each sample in the natural cycle of dry cows, culls and replacement stock within a herd.

Front Foot Lameness

It is the time of year where we are treating a number of lame cows.

Please be mindful that vets often require assistance with front feet, either to assist with lifting the foot or holding ropes etc. Please have someone available to assist with these.



Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Update

Australia - Avian influenza strain H7 Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- No transmission has been detected in dairy cattle.
- 8 Victorian poultry farms, 2 in New South Wales and one in the ACT have been affected.
- All poultry on the affected farms have been culled.
- More than 1,000,000 birds have been culled.
- Australia has had one reported case of bird flu (H5N1) in a human in 2024. The case contracted the virus overseas and was treated in Australia.

US - Avian influenza strain H5N1 HPAI

- Total 138 dairy herds are affected (over 12 states).
- Total 97,263,546 poultry affected.
- Human cases: 4 following exposure to dairy cows.
- No person-to-person spread has occurred.