

# Peri-Natal and Pre-Weaning Calf Losses In Western Canadian Beef Calves

## Background

A previous study by Waldner et al. (2010) studied herds in BC, AB, and SK in the 2002 calving season identified the relative importance of non-infectious causes of abortion, peri-natal, and pre-weaning calf losses in western Canadian beef herds.

Calf-loss Associated Diagnoses	Frequency WeCAHN, Spring 2020	Frequency reported Waldner et al., 2010	
		Younger Calves <sup>1</sup>	Older Calves <sup>2</sup>
Stomach problems (abomasitis, abomasal ulcer, torsion, perforation)	N/R	4/388	65/558
Enteritis	N/R	8/388	62/558
Nutritional problems/Starvation <sup>3</sup>	71/191	Aggregated <sup>4</sup>	91/558
Pneumonia	N/R	38/388	35/558
Mannheimia hemolytica	2/191	N/R	N/R
Septicemia	20/191	29/388	18/558
IBR	2/191	0/388	0/558
BVD	2/191	8/388	9/558
Skeletal, myocardial, or thyroid lesions	N/R	86/399	46/588
Idiopathic	90/191	46/388	34/588
Neospora spp.	N/R	1/388	0/588

<sup>1</sup> Younger calves were aged <= 3 days)

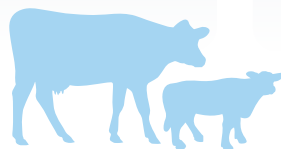
<sup>2</sup> Older calves were aged > 3days, to weaning

<sup>3</sup> Including calorie deficiency, protein deficiency, protein-calorie deficiency, nutritional etiology

<sup>4</sup> Included with 'other classifications (27/388 total)

## Knowledge Gaps

As with abortion submissions, a large proportion of perinatal calf losses submitted did not yield a definitive diagnosis.



## Conclusions

Differences in methods and populations studied could influence differences in findings between WeCAHN 2020 and Waldner et al. (2010).

A large proportion of abortions and perinatal deaths remain un-diagnosed. The majority of diagnosed cases are non-infectious in etiology.