



The WeCAHN Dairy Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting 24th May 2023 to discuss the animal health events occurring January to March 2023, with veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, and industry representatives in attendance.

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1. Interesting Cases

1. **Hemorrhagic Bowel Syndrome (HBS) on the rise in our B.C. practice Q1 (January—March 2023) relating to available feedstuffs.**
 - **History:** our dairy producers are seeing shortfalls in usual feedstuffs (e.g. grass silage) reflecting previous drought and flooding.
 - Result is producers are forced to feed more products with higher sugar and starch content, resulting in more hindgut fermentation which can be precursor for HBS.

QUESTION: do you recognize any pathogens potentially involved in disease, respecting that the underlying problem you're describing is a nutritional one?

ANSWER1- we often recover *Clostridium perfringens* type A. We see a lack of consensus on its role. Currently there is no commercial vaccine available in Canada (this bacterial species is not included in any commercially available 7– or 8-way clostridial vaccines) , and veterinarians report they are also unable to import a vaccine with an emergency drug release (EDR).

2. Laryngotracheitis and Interstitial pneumonia increases in practice area clinically seemingly IBR/BRSV (Vaccine failure(s)?).

- We have seen outbreaks of clinical IBR/BRSV in herds fully vaccinated. We recognize that the past few years have brought unusual levels of animal movements and some accompanying relaxation in biosecurity practices, which may contribute to greater disease burden in some herds.
- Clinical signs:
- IBR: drop in milk production, fever, and 1 herd laryngo-tracheitis, as well as red swollen udders.
- BRSV: bronchopneumonia in 5 herds well protected by vaccination, in the milking string
- Got detections from deep nasopharyngeal swabs
- Dx: confirmed by PCR test.

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COMMENT: our lab (Animal Health Center - Abbotsford) has also seen a surprising amount of BRSV this year.

QUESTION: how are you managing these herds?

ANSWER: We are vaccinating everything including milking string with intra-nasal (IN) vaccine in face of outbreak.

iii. Outbreak of mastitis in dairy heifers

- **History:** 700 cow herd which introduced animals from multiple sources
- Brought in 30 - 40 naïve (meaning they had not previously been exposed to the pathogens on-farm) heifers; about 30 licked off their teats due to udder sores with mastitis, which is associated with infection with bovine herpes virus II and IV.
- This case was frustrating since the problem was a reflection of biosecurity shortcomings, which are still ongoing in this herd.



4. Meeting Takeaways

- Multiple herd outbreaks were described, involving pathogens both easily vaccine preventable, less so (since vaccine is difficult to obtain), or for which there is no vaccine. Biosecurity was a factor in each outbreak, underlining how crucial good biosecurity protocols are to dairy cattle health.

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