Western Canadian Animal Health Network

WECAHN DAIRY NETWORK REPORT

JANUARY—MARCH 2021

Dairy Network Meeting

Clinical Impressions Survey

Respiratory system clinical disease was diagnosed commonly to very frequently during the period January – March 2021 by the network practitioners, with bronchopneumonia the most diagnosed syndrome. This was observed in pre-weaning calves, as well as closeup and lactating cows, and categorized as 'stable' relative to the previous time period (Oct. – December 2020). Practitioners discussed some seasonal variation in pneumonia occurrence associated with these syndromes.

Digestive system disease was similarly diagnosed commonly to very frequently by the 4 practitioners, with diarrhea the most commonly diagnosed syndrome. Diarrhea associated with rotavirus, coronavirus, and cryptosporidia were commonly diagnosed by all 4 practitioners. Practitioners discussed how widespread farm-level cryptosporidial infection seems, with clinical disease especially ~ 5-12 days of age, and fortunately rare human infections associated.

Reproductive system disease was diagnosed commonly or very frequently with disease of the uterus and ovaries reported commonly to very frequently.

Musculo-skeletal system disease was also commonly or very frequently, but none of the individual conditions listed described were diagnosed commonly by more than one 1 practitioner.

Disease of the teats and udder were diagnosed commonly to very frequently. Acute and chronic mastitis were both reported commonly to very frequently. The most frequently reported bacterial species associated with acute mastitis were *E. coli*, followed by *Staph. aureus*, *Strep. dysgalactiae*, and *Strep. uberis*. The most frequent bacterial species associated with chronic mastitis was *Staph. Aureus*.

***Salmonella* Dublin**: a new project to control S. Dublin in BC was presented. One practitioner described first S. Dublin dairy diagnosis in that practice, in closed herd in which the source of infection is unclear.

Q fever: One aborted Holstein calf was associated with *Coxiella burnetii* detection It is important (the pathogen causing Q fever in people). It is important for practitioners and producers to be aware of the potential of this pathogen to infect people, whenever it is detected on-farm.

Meeting takeaways

1. Discussions around a variety of pathogens capable of infecting people, encountered in young beef calves, shows the importance of stressing use of personal protective equipment, especially gloves, when handling sick calves.

2. Reminder that some *Salmonella* infections in calves may present as a pneumonia.