



Mannheimia haemolytica pneumonia in western cows fall 2021

Overview:

In the fall of 2021, there were reports in Saskatchewan and Alberta of both beef and dairy herds experiencing pneumonia occurring in replacement heifers and cows.

Clinical signs:

Time course: variable, ranging from rapid onset acute pneumonia/septicemia (blood poisoning) with very rapid onset of illness, to chronic pneumonia.

Risk factors:

- Some herds had no apparent risk factors for Bovine Respiratory Disease.
- Some cases had underlying/ concurrent nutritional deficiencies such as copper deficiency.



Pathogens detected:

Mannheimia haemolytica, (Mh) with no other bacterial or viral pathogens identified. Some case herds have had samples submitted to PDS and all were negative on the viral respiratory PCR panel.

Genomically, several different genetic lineages of *Mannheimia haemolytica* identified, so these cases are not a result of one new strain coming to the prairies.

Current understanding

Unclear whether these cases reflect a true increase in incidence of *Mannheimia* pneumonia in breeding cattle.

Anecdotally producers have reported improvement in herd cases after intra-nasal vaccination. Not knowing whether cases might have been declining by the time vaccines were used, these observations are tough to interpret.

If you have had *Mannheimia haemolytica* diagnosed in your cow herd, we would be interested in hearing from you, since we are maintaining an anonymized list of cases to get a better understanding of how frequently this occurs.