



## *Salmonella* spp. in pre-weaning calves

### Overview:

*Salmonella* spp. are a family of bacteria which can infect many animal species, including cattle and humans.

Often they cause diarrhea or blood poisoning.

### Clinical signs in calves:

*Salmonella* spp. can infect any age group but are seen most often in cattle infecting pre-weaning calves.

Infected calves may have diarrhea, often with blood, or just blood poisoning, meaning bacteria are in the calf's bloodstream.

One species (*S. Dublin*) has been reported more frequently in dairy calves, but has also been reported in western beef calves. Because *S. Dublin* often causes blood poisoning, and the bacteria are then carried in the bloodstream to the lungs, these calves may initially seem to be very sick with pneumonia.

Often *S. Dublin* isolates identified in western Canada are multi-drug resistant so these calves may not respond to standard antimicrobials.

### Risk factors:

May be seen in farms which have multiple species of livestock, since one species of *Salmonella* (*Typhimurium*) is able to infect a range of livestock including cattle, pigs, and chickens.

Often cases are noted first after introducing stock from another herd. Unfortunately, once the problem is on your farm, it can be tough to eliminate!

### Control:

If you have calves that seem to have unusually severe illness, or are unresponsive to your usual treatments for scours or pneumonia, contact your veterinarian. They can make the diagnosis for you and advise regarding appropriate treatment and control measures.

In general, a good biosecurity program including limiting introductions, and quarantining animals on arrival, is always a good precaution for your herd.

