



OAHN FINAL REPORT

Project #: 01

Project Title: Calf Surveillance

Project Lead: **Ann Godkin (OMAFRA)**

Collaborators: Andrew Brooks (AHL), Todd Duffield (OVC), Dave Kelton (OVC), Jessica Gordon (OVC), Crystal Throop (OABP & Temiskaming VS), Sherry Christie (OABP & Mildmay VS), Dave Douglas (OABP & Navan VS), Dave Renaud (OVC).

Start date: Jan 2016.

End date: Dec 31, 2017.

Executive Summary

Part 1 objective was to test bulk tank milk for antibodies to Salmonella Dublin.

Part 2 objective was to provide funding to encourage veterinarians to conduct more post-mortem exams on calf mortalities among their producer client's herds (dairy, cow-calf and veal), with an additional benefit to the province of improving surveillance for Salmonella Dublin.

Results show that 46 vets from 34 practices participated, and conducted or solicited post-mortems on 108 calves. Post-mortems were done on-farm (36) or referred to AH labs in Guelph or Kemptville (72). Two calves from two different operations were found to have S Dublin.

Of 154 bulk tank milk samples (one per herd), one was found positive. Subsequently 2 positive cows were identified as positive on cow serology.

Objectives

See above

Materials and methods

Practitioner participation was solicited via OABP meetings and listserv. Submission and questionnaires per commodity were made available online and via the website. Pathology submissions and interpretation were overseen by Dr. Andrew Brooks of Kemptville AHL. Ann Godkin (OMAFRA) coordinated practitioner involvement. Helen Oliver of AHL greatly facilitated financial management of the project.

For the bulk tank testing, practitioners contacted producer clients for signed permission forms to allow testing of one bulk tank milk sample routinely submitted for quality and component testing. Testing was done at the CanWest DHI laboratory in Guelph.

Results

Calf project – summary of submissions:

Number of calves	108 (13 producer with 2 calves each)	
Number of veterinarians	46	
Number of practices	34	
Number of calves per vet	1 to 10	
Calves by commodity	Dairy	52 calves
	Cow-calf	25 calves
	Veal	14 calves
	Impossible to figure out	10 calves
Number submissions with S Dublin	2 calves /submissions	1 dairy, 1 veal High fever. Septicemia. Culture of lung (1), lung & spleen (1)

Applications

Utility of calf post-mortems

- Based on vet comments they:
 - Redirected investigations
 - Resulted in changed therapies (or less therapy)
 - Lead to more targeted investigations on farm
 - Lead to more laboratory testing at AHL
 - Revealed zoonotic infections and human risk (S Dublin, VETEC, Crypto)
- Most importantly – lead to better preventive practices recommended to producers.

Discussion / Suggestions for next steps

Practitioner interest in this pm project was obvious. Although it takes a while to roll projects like these out, they need to run for at least 3 to 5 years to fully capture practitioner involvement. There were several good anecdotal responses indicating practitioners found the outcomes very useful for making recommendations that lead to targeted management changes on client's farms.

Communications

- two presentations at Vet Update meetings (2016 and 2017)
- Many ongoing consultations with participating practitioners
- One lay article in Ont Dairy Farmer November 2017.

Banner/poster is not completed at this time. Hopefully in January.