



Farm Veterinary Solutions

# LEPTOSPIROSIS

## FACT SHEET

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease meaning it can spread from animals to humans.

Lepto is highly infections and leads to important economic losses in cattle.

- It causes a drop in milk production, infertility and abortions or premature/weak calves.
- The udder may become soft with colostrum like secretions or blood tinged milk in all quarters.
- Cows can go lethargic and stiff with a fever with a reduced appetite.
- Signs may be mild and go undetected.

## Transmission

Transmission of infection occurs through direct contact with infected or recovered animals or indirectly through contaminated material.

- Bacterium is spread through the urine, milk, semen, foetal fluids or abortive material.
- Water and other species such as sheep and rodents can also carry and spread infection.

## Prevention and Managment



Vaccination to increase resistance to infection and prevent urine shedding.



Effective rat control in place as well as separation from other carrier species.



Fencing cattle from potentially infected streams and water and neighbouring cattle.



Strengthened biosecurity to prevent introduction from external sources.



Only purchase4 replacements from Lepto free herds and keep in quarantine.

## Treatment and Diagnostics

Antibodies can be detected in non-vaccinated herds through bulk milk or blood testing. Bacterium can also be isolated from aborted fetuses.

In positive cases, antibiotic therapy can be given to reduce excretion of leptospirosis and zoonotic risk.

Although treatment for individual animals is possible, prevention is key and a vaccination protocol is the better approach.



To read more about Leptospirosis in cattle...



SCAN ME



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