

Calf Health Study – Post-mortems

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Vet Updates
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Calf Health Study

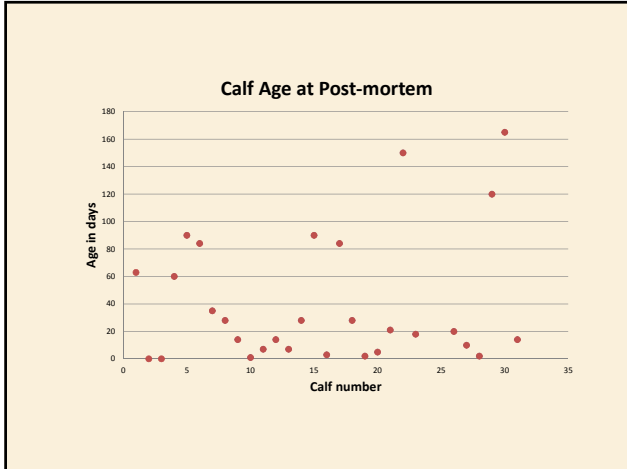
- OAHN Bovine Network project
- One area the bovine network representatives wanted to look at was calf health
- Interest also in Salmonella Dublin
- Project is designed to mesh both these objectives
- Up to 2 PMs of calves less than 6 months per farm
- Can be on-farm PM with tissues (culture and histo) submitted as per project stipulations OR entire calf can be sent to AHL for PM and sampling.
- All information and documentation at www.oabp.ca and under “surveillance project”

Calf PM's:

- # calves submitted = 32 complete (FINAL)
 - And 4 in progress (Interim)
- 5 producers with 2 calves, 28 with 1 calf
- 22 vets, 16 clinics
- Of the 32 FINALS – 25 were on-farm pms, 7 calves submitted to AHL

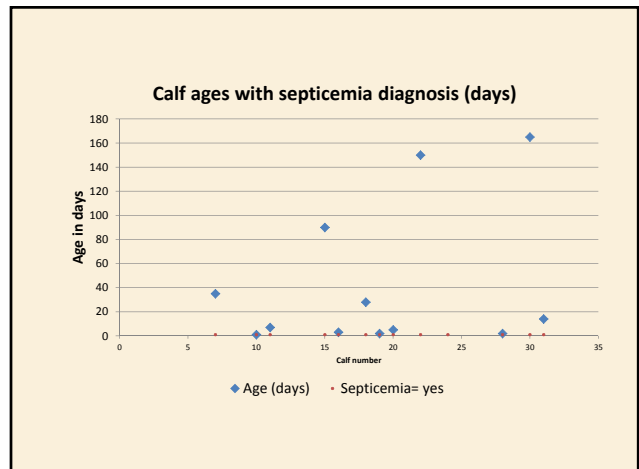
Calf PM's:

- Calves
 - Operation type: ? = 7
 - Cow-calf = 4
 - Dairy = 17
 - Veal = 8
 - History includes:
 - Diarrhea = 13
 - Pneumonia = 8
 - Poor doer = 4
 - Found dead/sudden death = 10
 - No history = 2



- ### Calf PM's
- Outcomes:
 - Septicemia = 13
 - Pneumonia = 12
 - Diarrhea/GI problem (ulcer) = 14
 - *Salmonella Dublin* = 1 (35 days of age)
 - *Salmonella Copenhagen* = 1 (14 days)
 - *Salmonella other, untypeable* = 1 (5 days)

- ### Calf PM's
- History matches AHL diagnosis:
 - » Yes = 11 cases
 - » No = 16 cases
 - » Yes and No = 2
 - What were the interesting mismatches?
 - 10 were called “septicemia” or “sepsis” by AHL
 - 8 of the septicemias were sudden deaths/found dead/ok one day, dead the next in the histories



- What is “septicemia”?
 - Meningitis in young calves
 - Pneumonia in older calves
 - ?Diarrhea.

Calf PM's

- Opportunity:
 - Would these sudden death calves register with producers as being septicemias?
 - What would you investigate if you had pm's on all calves?
 - What direction does “septicemia” lead you?

Calf PM's to date....

- Conclusions
 - There are some surprises in the outcomes
 - Do we know about the frequency of “sudden deaths” in calves?
 - Project needs more calves –
 - Can handle at least 60 more.
 - Project runs until Dec 2017 but the last calves will be accepted in September 2017