

April 28, 2016

Hi Everyone:

We would like to invite bovine practitioners to participate in the Bovine Surveillance Project on calf health, and in particular, *Salmonella* Dublin. The goal is to help you and your clients learn more about causes of mortality in calves less than six months, while at the same time, all of us can learn more about the likely prevalence and impact of *S. Dublin* in the Ontario bovine population. We would like to remind you that *S. dublin* is a zoonotic pathogen. People working with calves (owners, staff, vets, practice technicians) should be reminded to use good hygienic practices when working with sick or high risk calves to reduce the risk of exposure.

The project has two parts: Part 1 – Testing of bulk milk samples for antibody to *S. Dublin*, and Part 2 – Enhanced calf mortality diagnosis via post-mortem and testing and *S. Dublin* risk factor identification.

Part 1 - Bulk milk sample testing: Up to 500 Ontario dairy farms will be able to have a bulk tank milk sample tested for *S. Dublin* antibody. To participate, the herd vet needs to return a signed producer permission form to the project co-ordinator for enrollment. Milk samples will be accessed in Guelph and tested once sufficient permission forms are received. We would like to do this as soon as possible.

Part 2 - Calf Post-mortems: *For dairy, veal and cow-calf farms.* Veterinarians will be reimbursed \$250 per post-mortem, for up to two calf post-mortems per farm, on calves less than 6 months old. Calf post-mortems can be done in the **field** with a post-mortem report and samples submitted to AHL, or the entire calf can be submitted to the **AHL** for lab post-mortem and sampling. A questionnaire (appropriate for the commodity - dairy, veal or cow-calf) needs to be completed as well. AHL will bill the veterinarian as per usual for testing (field pms) or for AHL pms and testing. Once results are received the project will reimburse veterinarians directly. To be eligible for funding vets are asked to email or text the project co-ordinator as they encounter calves they would like to pm. There is a limit to the number of farms that can be enrolled per commodity to ensure all three commodity groups are represented. Prior notice ensures funding is still available and helps us to track results. The ***project submission form*** needs to be used to identify test and/or post-mortem requests to enable project reimbursement.

Part 2 – Questionnaires – to gather as much information as possible about *S. Dublin* risk factors we would like to have information gathered on calf raising farms with calf disease problems. Questionnaires need to be done on calf post-mortem farms but can also be done on additional farms not participating in the post-mortem section. For every questionnaire fully completed and returned to the project co-ordinator, veterinarians will be reimbursed \$50. It is hoped that many questionnaires can be completed as an “add-on” to daily farm calls. The goal is to survey approximately 300 cattle operations (180 dairy, 60 beef cow-calf and 60 veal operations) across the province. Prior enrollment is not required. Returning questionnaires to the project co-ordinator as they are completed ensures inclusion in the project funding. As we reach limits for funding we will let you know by email and by posting on the OABP website.

Key project logistics to remember:

Bulk tank testing

- Send a fully completed permission form signed by the producer to the project co-ordinator to enroll
- Results will be returned to the veterinarian for reporting to the producer.
- Testing will occur later in 2016.

Calf Post-mortems

- ***PM in the field*** – use the ***project submission form*** to report outcomes and request tests
- ***PM at AHL*** – use the ***project submission form*** when submitting the calf.
- It is the same form for both options.
- Project funds cover 2 bacteriology tests for *S. Dublin* on two of lung, liver or spleen, and histology on an unlimited number of samples. Please indicate on the form what you are submitting fresh (bacteriology) and preserved (histo).
- For All PMS (field or AHL) – additional tests beyond the two bacteriology cultures and histo can be requested but they will be billed to the veterinarian and not covered by project funds.

Questionnaires

- Use the commodity specific questionnaire
- Return questionnaires as they are completed to ensure funding.
- Our targets are 180 from dairy, 60 from veal and 60 from cow-calf operations.

Questions or concerns?

Please contact Ann Godkin

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