

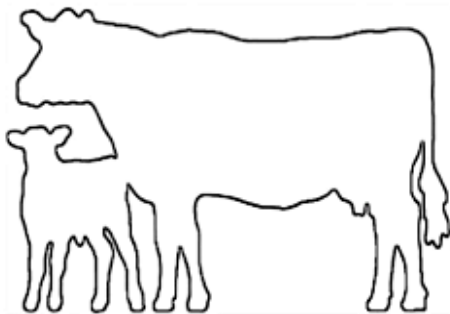
Novel Pneumonia Syndrome Causing Abortion and Calf Losses in ND Beef Herds

Over the last 4 years the NDSU-Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has investigated an increasing incidence of a novel syndrome of abortion, stillbirths, and neonatal death in beef calves submitted for diagnostic evaluation. The age of affected calves typically ranged from mid-gestation fetuses to 1-2 day old calves.

Respiratory distress was a consistent finding in 1-2 day old calves prior to death. Typical calves were thin and poorly muscled indicating *in utero* growth restriction. The most striking abnormality was pneumonia of varying severity combined with bronchus-associated lymphoid hyperplasia (BAL hyperplasia).

Routine diagnostic testing has not identified the cause of the syndrome, although, the gross and histologic findings indicate a chronic infectious insult. Cases have also been observed and reported from surrounding states, including South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Washington, Nebraska and Iowa.

Although diagnostic workups have not yet identified a causative agent, it appears that affected fetuses develop an immune response supporting an infectious cause.



ABORTION CASES – PLEASE SUBMIT FETUS AND PLACENTAS. Producers are responsible for the cost of routine abortion screen to determine the cause. However, in cases with chronic pneumonia and BAL hyperplasia, additional samples will be taken for more advanced testing aimed at identifying the cause. The additional workup will be provided at no cost to the client.

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