



## NEOSPORA CANINUM FACT SHEET

*Neospora caninum*-induced abortion and stillbirths occur in both beef and dairy cattle. The infection—*neosporosis*—primarily affects the brain and nervous system of fetuses and newborn calves.

*Neospora*-induced abortions usually occur in months five to six of pregnancy. A California study reported that more *Neospora*-induced abortions occurred in winter.

Infected cows transplacentally pass *Neospora caninum* to their fetuses. This **vertical transmission** may result in aborted fetuses, *Neospora*-infected calves or healthy calves.

If dogs ingest infected tissues from aborted fetuses, they shed *Neospora caninum* oocysts in their feces. If infected dogs contaminate feed or grass ingested by cattle, *Neospora* can infect clean cattle through so-called **horizontal transmission**.

*Neospora caninum* is geographically widespread, reported on virtually every continent.

**Predicted economic loss to the Texas cow-calf segment may be as much as \$24 million annually. The potential for feedlot losses in Texas is another \$13-14 million each year.**

**Among 1,000-beef calves evaluated in 1998 in the Texas Ranch To Rail program, 13 percent tested positive to carrying the *Neospora caninum* infection.**

**A 1,000 head beef herd with a 13 percent prevalence rate of *Neospora* infection could have a predicted economic loss of \$2,302 (\$17.71 per head) because of an estimated 2.4 percent lower calving rate and an overall estimated 2.3 percent lower weaned calf crop.**

**Losses in the Australian beef industry are estimated at \$25 million.**

Economic losses in Australia's dairy industry are estimated at \$85 million annually.

It is estimated *Neospora caninum* accounts for 40,000 abortions each year in California dairy cattle—or 42 percent of the abortions. Those *Neospora*-induced abortions result in approximately \$35 million in economic losses annually.

A 1999 field trial of the *Neospora* vaccine in a Minnesota dairy herd—107 Holsteins—showed total number of abortions reduced from 27 to four. Of those four, none was confirmed *Neospora*-related.

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