Neospora infection in cattle

Neospora is the major diagnosed cause of infectious abortion in cattle

The problem:

• This parasite is transmitted to cattle by infected dogs that shed parasite eggs in faeces
• Once cows are infected they transmit the parasite to their calves during pregnancy
• Infected cows are much more likely to abort than uninfected cows

Diagnosis and treatment

• There is no vaccine or treatment to prevent infection or abortion
• There are commercial blood tests available for live cattle to help determine if they are infected or not
• Abortions should always be investigated to get an accurate diagnosis
• Foetal and placental tissues may be examined for the presence of Neospora parasites

General control tips:

• Keep dogs away from calving areas and cattle feed
• Dispose of placenta and aborted foetus in a safe manner
• Don’t buy Neospora infected cattle in and consider testing new stock
• Consider culling out infected cattle over time

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