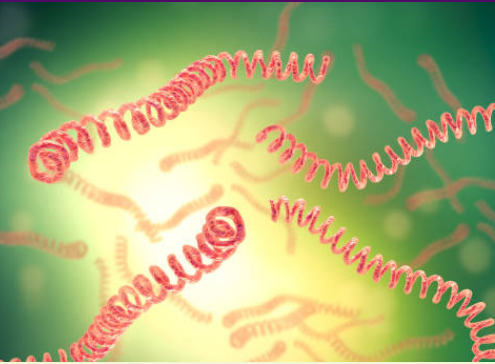


LEPTOSPIROSIS AND VIBRIOSIS



CAUSES

Leptospirosis is caused by a type of bacteria called *Leptospira*. Disease occurs most commonly in warm, wet climates. This bacteria can cause disease in humans.

Vibriosis is a reproductive disease caused by the bacteria *Campylobacter fetus subspecies venerealis*. Bacteria are spread most commonly by infected bulls to susceptible females.

LEPTOSPIROSIS AND VIBRIOSIS OCCUR SPORADICALLY AT LOW RATES IN WESTERN CANADIAN BEEF HERDS.

CLINICAL SIGNS

Leptospirosis

- Calves < 1 month of age: fever, off feed, depression, red urine, jaundice (i.e. yellow gums and white of eyes), pale mucous membranes; high death rate.
- Adult cattle: abortions, reduced milk production, red or yellow-orange discolored milk with blood clots, udder may be limp and soft or normal, red urine, occasionally severe lameness, infertility with fever and off feed.
- Occasional nervous signs: incoordination, excessive salivation, conjunctivitis, muscle rigidity.

Vibriosis

- Infertility, with poor conception and/or pregnancy rates.
- Long calving interval.
- Uterine infections.
- Abortions late in gestation.



Jaundice calves with high mortalities



Abortions associated with Vibriosis
(Source: Canadian Cattlemen)

LEPTOSPIROSIS AND VIBRIOSIS ARE CONSIDERED RISK-BASED VACCINES. DISCUSS WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT WHETHER YOUR HERD SHOULD BE VACCINATED AGAINST THESE DISEASES.

TREATMENT

Leptospirosis can be treated with antimicrobials, as per your veterinarian's treatment protocol. Vibriosis can be managed with vaccination against *C. fetus*. Consider culling chronically infected carrier animals.

PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT

Use rodent and wildlife control where practical and feasible. Remove and dispose immediately of aborted fetuses and placentas (or freeze for diagnostics). Segregate new animals from existing herd for a few weeks and ensure proper vaccination before mixing. In an abortion or infertility outbreak, contact your veterinarian on how to control and reduce disease losses.

VACCINATION

Cattle that have been vaccinated in the past year should be revaccinated annually prior to the breeding season, as per label directions.

Cattle that have not been vaccinated in the past year or that have unknown vaccination history should be vaccinated at least twice prior to the breeding season, as per label directions. (**See Leptospirosis/Vibriosis Vaccination Guidelines**)

Bulls that are candidates for export or entry to breeding or AI centres are subject to testing and will be excluded if vaccinated against various diseases. Check with your veterinarian prior to vaccinating bulls.