

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