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## Surveillance Summary

The following data highlights submissions to the provincial veterinary laboratory in Q1 - February to April 2019.

<b>Calves &lt; 2 months of age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 40 submissions to work up a <b>diarrhea</b> or <b>gastrointestinal</b> problem – double the amount typically seen in a 3 month period.</li> <li>• There were 4 cases of <b>Verotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> (VTEC)</b> diagnosed as part of diarrhea work-ups – VTEC can cause illness in people, and prevention requires good hygiene principles and handwashing.</li> </ul>
<b>Calves &gt; 2 months to 2 years of age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main cause of death identified from postmortem was <b>pneumonia</b></li> <li>• There were 2 cases of <b>polioencephalomalacia</b></li> </ul>
<b>Adult Cattle (&gt;2 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main reason for submitting adult cattle was <b>musculoskeletal injury</b>.</li> <li>• Diagnoses made among cattle submitted with a musculoskeletal injury included <b>traumatic lesions, abomasal ulcers, and vegetative endocarditis</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Abortions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 45 submissions for abortion work-up which is consistent with the previous quarter</li> <li>• The main of cause of abortion identified was <b>bacterial infections</b> which included 3 abortions due to <b>Listeria associated with silage</b>. This quarter identified 7 cases of <b>Ureaplasma</b> abortions.</li> </ul>



## 2019 Bovine OAHN Project Parasitism in Ontario Grazing Cattle

The OAHN bovine network wants to better understand levels of gastrointestinal parasites in Ontario cattle and if resistance to common dewormers exists.

To do this we are inviting producers with any grazing cattle (cow-calf, stockers, yearlings, or dairy animals) **to submit samples for fecal egg count (FEC) for FREE!**



### Why should I do a fecal egg count (FEC) test?

- A FEC determines the number of parasite eggs in feces, indicating the amount of infective parasites on the pasture and potential parasite numbers in the cattle.
- This information can be used to determine the parasite prevention strategies needed on your farm such as pasture rotation or the need to deworm cattle.

### How do I get involved?

- Samples can be submitted via your herd veterinarian. Contact your vet clinic to let them know you want to participate.

### Results

- Results of your test will be sent back to your herd veterinarian
- A small portion of farms with high results will be contacted to ask to take some extra samples for research purposes



## Calf Diarrhea Treatment Myths

This unusually wet spring has been associated with increased cases of calf diarrhea. Diarrhea is the number one cause of death among calves before weaning so it's important to have protocols in place on farm to quickly deal with affected calves. Nearly all calves with diarrhea will benefit from oral electrolytes to replace fluid lost in the feces. Other treatments needed may depend on the cause of the diarrhea. However there are some calf treatment myths worth noting.

**Myth 1:** "All calves with diarrhea need antibiotics"

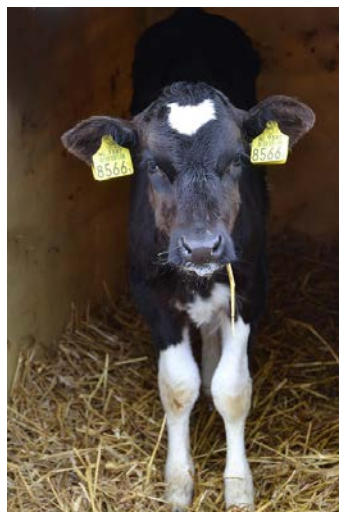
**THE REAL TRUTH:** Antibiotics will not be of benefit if the cause of the diarrhea is a virus or parasite infection. Your herd veterinarian can help identify which pathogens are involved, and when antibiotics may be useful or useless.

**Myth 2:** "Calves with diarrhea shouldn't be given milk"

**THE REAL TRUTH:** Many research studies in cattle have proven that calves who continue to be offered milk have a shorter duration of diarrhea and improved weight gain. Electrolytes don't have enough nutritional value alone to replace milk feeding, although they should be offered to help replace fluid being lost.

### When to Contact a Veterinarian:

- If diarrhea is affecting multiple calves
- If calves are not recovering after supportive treatments like oral electrolytes
- If calves are becoming severely ill



### Your Bovine OAHN Network Team

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