

Anaplasmosis



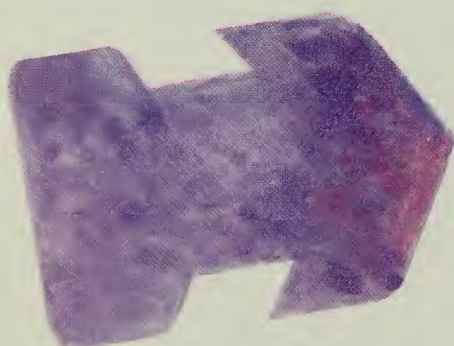
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ANAPLASMOSIS

Anaplasmosis is a highly infectious blood disease of cattle, sheep and deer. It destroys the animals' red blood cells and causes anemia and sometimes death.

Effects of anaplasmosis can be severe in older cattle; some die 24 hours after symptoms appear. Younger cattle usually recover due to their ability to replace destroyed red blood cells. However, they can remain carriers of the disease and transmit it to other animals.

Anaplasmosis has serious financial repercussions for agriculture. The United States estimates that outbreaks cost the American economy close to \$100 million each year in livestock deaths and decreases in beef and milk production. In the past 20 years, Canada has experienced sporadic outbreaks caused by infected cattle and ticks that came into the country from the United States. Such incidents reflect negatively on Canada's international reputation as a leader in animal health standards. Outbreaks can also affect Canada's extensive export sales of beef and dairy products. Keeping Canada free from anaplasmosis is in *your* best interest. Read this leaflet carefully and learn what you can do to prevent and control further outbreaks.

History

Anaplasmosis occurs in most countries including the United States. Canada has generally remained free from the disease with the exception of small outbreaks in Manitoba in 1969, Quebec in 1980 and Saskatchewan in 1983. The Saskatchewan outbreak, on farms bordering the United States, was Canada's largest. Over 1100 cattle were slaughtered to prevent further spread of the disease.

How anaplasmosis is spread

For infection to take place, the causative organism of anaplasmosis must be introduced into the bloodstream of a susceptible animal. Biting insects and contaminated veterinary equipment such as needles, dehorers and castrating tools are a major cause of spread.

Ticks may be carriers in semiarid, open range areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In other parts of Canada, infected biting flies can transmit the disease.

Recovered animals often remain carriers for life and become a reservoir for further spread by biting insects.



Jaundice on the inner surface of the ear

Signs of anaplasmosis: what to look for

The symptoms usually appear 15 to 42 days after exposure. They are:

- weight loss;
- loss of appetite;
- constipation; and
- pale yellowish skin and mucous membranes.

Infected cattle may appear normal but become exhausted very easily and experience shortness of breath when moved around.

Symptoms are a good indicator of anaplasmosis. However, diagnosis must be confirmed by microscopic examination of blood smears. Cattle that are carriers of the disease but show no symptoms can be identified by veterinarians, who test blood samples for the presence of antibodies.



An engorged female *D. andersoni* tick (right) with a male

Prevention

To prevent further outbreaks of anaplasmosis in Canada, choose animals carefully when importing from countries where the disease is known to exist. Control insects and strays. The sterilization of veterinary instruments between use is also effective.

What YOU can do

- Be alert to abnormal conditions in your herds. Should you notice the symptoms in your cattle, contact your veterinarian or notify Agriculture Canada. By law, you must report suspect cases of anaplasmosis. It's your moral obligation to Canada's cattle industry and your neighbors.
- Take sanitary precautions when vaccinating, dehorning and castrating your cattle.
- Be selective and careful when buying cattle.

For more information, contact:

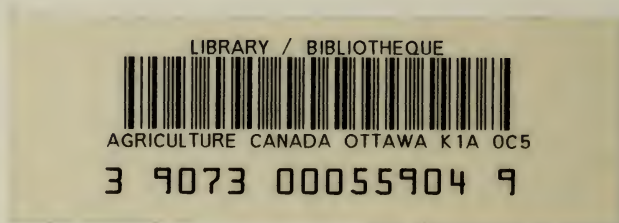
Animal Health Division
Agriculture Canada
2255 Carling Avenue
Ottawa K1A 0Y9
Telephone: (613) 995-5433


or the nearest Agriculture Canada veterinary inspection office.

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