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ЗМІСТ / CONTENTS

Ukrainian Association for Buiatrics

XIX Middle-European Buiatrics Congress

22-25 May 2019

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Abstracts of Reports

THE ECBHM: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR BUIATRITIANS?

S. Astiz Blanco
astiz.susana@gmail.com

Animal Reproduction Department (INIA), Madrid, Spain

The European College of Bovine Herd Health Medicine (ECBHM) began as a small working group on specialization in Buiatrics in Europe as a response to significant changes in cattle production with increasing unit sizes, more intensive production systems, coupled with increasing consumer demand for safe food enhanced animal welfare and environmental protection. These changes had resulted in a demand for change in a predominant professional role of cattle vets reacting to problems ("fire-brigade service") and treating individuals or small groups of animals to individuals proactive in the management and healthcare of the herd. A provisional organizing committee (POC) was subsequently established on 24th November 1998 in Paris. The POC (Drs. Baumgartner, Lekeux, Navetat, Klee, Noordhuizen and Schelcher) worked towards establishing a European College and seeking accreditation by the EBVS. This came finally on October 20th 2003. Professor Wolfgang Klee received then a letter from the President of EBVS informing that the ECBHM had been successful in achieving provisional recognition as the ECBHM. Since then, a huge work has been done, keeping the original objectives, and adjusting tis activity to the EBVS rules. The primary objective of the College shall be to advance health oriented bovine production management in the herd context in Europe and increase the competency of those who practice in this field by establishing guidelines and standards of training for postgraduate education and experience prerequisite to become a specialist in the specialty of bovine health management; examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in bovine herd health management to serve the veterinary patient, its owner, the consumer of products originating from the bovine and the public in general, by providing expert care for cattle; encouraging research and other contributions to the science and practice of bovine herd health management including; animal husbandry, internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and reproductive management, as they relate to the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting *bovidae* and the maintenance of healthy productive herds.

The ECBHM-Diploma is a professional opportunity, as the only one internationally recognized Buiatritians Specialization Title in Europe; it is a way to be part of an international network of bovine specialists; it is a fix source of continuing Education Courses with the most up to date knowledge. In the Middle European Countries there is a very important bovine producing sector, and we find many bovine specialists working in it: practitioners, professors and researchers. Goals and work, but also advantages of being EBCHM-Diplomate are the same for our MEB colleagues. However, the implication of these outstanding professionals has been tight up to now in our College. Despite of this, we are convinced that the ECBHM needs the feedback and work from these MEB-bovine veterinarians, and on the other side, that a closer connection between MEB Buiatritians and ECBHM will enrich both, enormously.

Keywords: BOVINE MEDICINE, HERD MEDICINE, SPECIALIZATION, EASTERN COUNTRIES

EXAMPLES OF UTERINE CONTRACTILITY PATTERNS IN EARLY POSTPARTUM COWS WITH RETAINED FETAL MEMBRANES AS RELATED TO VARIOUS BLOOD CA^{2+} CONCENTRATIONS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Á. Cs. Bajcsy[1], *L. Zámbó*[2], *G. Kürtös*[3], *J. Tibold*[4], *I. Mádl*[4], *O. Szenci*[5]
csaba.bajcsy@tiho-hannover.de

[1]Clinic for Cattle, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation, Hannover, Germany
[2]Animal Hospital, Veszprém, Hungary
[3]Turul Veterinary Clinic and Pharmacy, Gödöllő, Hungary
[4]Agroproduct Agrar Co., Pápa, Zsigaháza, Hungary
[5] MTA-SZIE Large Animal Clinical Research Group, Üllő, Hungary

Recent knowledge about the characteristics of mechanical activity of the early postpartum uterus in hypocalcaemic animals with retained placenta is controversial. The aim of this preliminary study was to illustrate early postpartum uterine contractility patterns in cows with normo- and various degrees of hypocalcaemia.

Intrauterine pressure (IUP) was measured with a Labview based, digital, open tip catheter system, to quantify contractility of the early postpartum uterus in dairy cows with retained fetal membranes at a large-scale Hungarian dairy farm. Fourteen to 17 hours after calving a 4-hour continuous recording took place, followed two times by further 1-hour recordings in 12-hour intervals collecting pressure signals from the previously gravid uterine horn. Contractions frequency, amplitude, duration, mean and total areas under the pressure curves were calculated. Coccygeal blood was withdrawn at the beginning of the first and at the end of all recordings and Ca^{2+} was measured on site within 30 minutes of sampling. Cows were considered hypocalcaemic with initial blood Ca^{2+} values less than 1.06 mmol/l (group 1, n=6). In a cow, milk fever had spontaneously developed and will be discussed individually. Normocalcaemic cows were involved as controls (group 2, n=5). Statistical analyses included two-sample *t*-tests, repeated measures ANOVA and correlation analysis.

Significant time-related decline occurred in all uterine contractility parameters among the 12-hour intervals recordings ($P<0.001–0.05$) without showing significant group differences, except that of the 36th hour recording, when contraction frequency was significantly higher in group 1. Initial blood Ca^{2+} concentrations in group 1 ranged between 0.79–1.04 mmol/l, representing a mild hypocalcaemia, where the lowest value in one case was 0.67 mmol/l at the end of the 4-hour long IUP recording session. However, the initial blood Ca^{2+} concentration in the clinically diseased hypocalcaemic cow before any treatment was as low as 0.48 mmol/l. This cow showed typical signs of milk fever with recumbency and had a toneless uterus at that stage.

Blood Ca^{2+} concentrations remained significantly lower in group 1 at all time points ($P<0.01–0.05$), as compared with group 2 but a time-dependent change could not be observed. Within the 4 consecutive hours of the first IUP sessions no consequent IUP changes were found. Blood Ca^{2+} level did not show significant correlations with any of the IUP parameters.

Mild hypocalcaemia does not seem to affect early postpartum uterine contractility pattern in cows with retained fetal membranes, however, severe hypocalcaemia with clinical symptoms was accompanied with the loss of uterine contractility.

Keywords: DAIRY COW, INTRAUTERINE PRESSURE, RETAINED FETAL MEMBRANES, HYPOCALCAEMIA

EVALUATION OF PASSIVE TRANSFER WITH BRIX REFRACTOMETER AND COMPARISON WITH OTHER SEMIQUANTITATIVE TESTS IN GOAT KIDS

H. Batmaz[1], *Y. Kacar*[1], *O. Topal*[1], *Z. Mecitoglu*[1], *K. Semih Gumussoy*[2], *F. Kaya*[1]
hbatmaz@uludag.edu.tr

[1]Uludag University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Internal Medicine, Bursa, Turkey
[2]Erciyes University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Microbiology, Kayseri, Turkey

The aim of this study was to evaluate a Brix refractometer in determining the level of passive transfer (PT) in newborn goat kids and to determine the PT status by semiquantitative tests (total protein — TP, glutaraldehyde coagulation test — GCT and gammaglutamyl transferase — GGT).

The study consisted of 75 newborn Saanen goat kids. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days after birth, blood samples were collected from the kids. IgG (Goat IgG-ELISA), Brix%, TP, GCT and GGT levels were measured in serum samples.

On the 1st and 2nd days, serum Brix% in the kids was measured as 9.33±0.17 % and 9.17±0.14 %, respectively. In the first- and second-day serum samples of the kids, IgG was 817.76±37.34 mg/dl and 1173.29±47.81 mg/dl, respectively, GCT was 15.24±2.84 min and 11.98±2.41 min, respectively, GGT was 1298.07±133.29 U/L and 692.26±79.86 U/L, respectively. Brix% and IgG were positively correlated on day 1 ($r=0.43$, $P<0.001$) and day 2 ($r=0.25$, $P<0.05$). IgG was similarly correlated with TP and, GCT on 1st and 2nd days, and with GGT on the 1st day after birth. The highest sensitivity and negative predictive ratio of Brix% were detected on day 2; specificity, positive predictive value and accuracy were found to be highest on the 1st day after birth.

Brix refractometer was found to be more sensitive for detection of PT status in kids on the 1st and 2nd days after birth such as TP and GCT, whereas GGT as an early indicator of PT, was useful only on the first after birth. As a result, we conclude that Brix refractometer could be used to determine the passive transfer status in goat kids.

Keywords: GOAT KID, COLOSTRUM, PASSIVE TRANSFER, BRIX REFRACTOMETER, SEMIQUANTITATIVE TESTS

BURKHOLDERIA CEPACIA COMPLEX PNEUMONIA IN CALVES: A CASE REPORT

M. Bednarski, M. Bednarska, K. Rypuła
michal.bednarski@upwr.edu.pl

Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases of Animals and Veterinary Administration, Wroclaw, Poland

Burkholderia cepacia complex (*B. cepacia*), is group of Gram-negative aerobic closely related species of bacteria. Organisms from this complex are considered ubiquitous microorganism and opportunistic human pathogens. *B. cepacia* complex were described as a reason of cystic fibrosis, lung transplantation, and chronic granulomatous disease in humans. We present cases of pneumonia in 2 beef calf herds. *Burkholderia cepacia* was identified in lung and nasal swaps cultures.

Animals were diagnosed with use anatomopathological methods. Samples of lung, liver, spleen, and kidney tissue from the calf were collected for bacteriological culture. The samples were diagnosed with use RT-PCR and ELISA test.

A 7 young death calf were submitted for examination to the diagnostic laboratory. The calf came from two beef calf herds of 42 and 36 animals in which a high calf mobility and mortality rate had occurred. Postmortem examination of the calves revealed a lobular fibrio-necrotic pneumonia mainly involving the lung cranial lobes. Fibrinous pleurisy was also evident in pneumonic areas. The cut surface of the lung was red and airless with multiple necrotic foci ranging from about 2 to 5 mm in diameter. No pathological changes in other organs were observed.

Cultures of calf lung yielded several colonies of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex. *B. cepacia* complex were also isolated from the nasal swabs taken from calf with signs of pneumonia. Animals from infected farms were tested for BVDV. In both herds antibody — ELISA and real-time RT-PCR results were negative.

To our best knowledge this is first report of *B. cepacia* complex pneumonia in cattle. The disease was associated with severe pneumonia with 80–90 % mobility and up to 45 % mortality, not responding to standard therapy. Moreover, results of our study indicate, that *B. cepacia* complex can have infectious character in calves, with out influence of BVD virus as the most common immunosupresive factor in both described outbreaks.

Keywords: CALVES, *BURKHOLDERIA CEPACIA*, PNEUMONIA

STUDY OF CEFAPIRIN RESIDUES IN MILK FROM COWS AFFECTED BY VARIOUS FORMS OF ENDOMETRITIS AFTER THEIR TREATMENT BY THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT *CEFMETRIN*

A. Berezovskyi, A. Obrazhei
bav13@meta.ua

Brovapharma Ltd., Brovary, Kyiv region, Ukraine

The purpose of the research was to establish the withdrawal period of the residues of the medicinal product *Cefmetrin* with milk after treatment of cows affected by various forms of endometritis.

Cows affected by acute and subclinical endometritis (5 animals in each group) were injected into the uterus with the medicinal product *Cefmetrin* at a dose of 19 g (the contents of one syringe dispenser) using a catheter. A single dose contained 500 mg of cefapirin administered in the form of 640 mg of cefapirin benzathine. Milk was collected from cows of two groups within six milkings in a row (for 3 days). The first selection of milk was carried out in 6 hours after the injection. A study of the content (availability) of β-lactam antibiotics in the selected milk was carried out using the *4 Sensor Ultra test kit* for immunoreceptor determination of β-lactams, tetracyclines, streptomycins and chloramphenicol in mixed milk samples. 0.2 ml of milk was added to a well with the prepared reagent, mixed, kept for 3 minutes and then a test strip was inserted into the well and kept for about 7 minutes until color reactions appeared on it. The sensitivity of the *4 Sensor Ultra test kit* for determining cefapirin was 10–20 μg/l of milk, it is 3–6 times less than MRL of cefapirin in milk for human consumption adopted in the European Union.

It was found that all milk samples that were taken within six milkings in a row for 3 days after intrauterine administration of *Cefmetrin* did not contain residues of β-lactam antibiotics and other antibiotics, including residues of cefapirin with its possible metabolites.

Milk from all cows affected by various forms of endometritis, which were injected into the uterus by *Cefmetrin* once at a dose of 19 g (the contents of one syringe dispenser) containing 500 mg of cefapirin administered in the form of 640 mg of cefapirin benzathine according to the requirements of the package-leaflet, did not contain residues of β-lactam antibiotics within all six milkings for 3 days, including cefapirin with its possible metabolites. On the basis of the conducted research, it was concluded that it is not advisable to establish a withdrawal period for the milk from cows affected by various forms of endometritis, which are injected *Cefmetrin* in the recommended therapeutic dose.

Keywords: COWS, RESIDUES, CEFAPIRIN, ENDOMETRITIS

THE ACID-BASE BALANCE IN NEWBORN KIDS BEFORE AND AFTER COLOSTRUM INTAKE

Z. Bezděková[1], K. Mikulková[2], R. Kadek[2], M. Pleško[1], I. Šimková[1], J. Illek[2]
kazatelovaz@vfu.cz

[1]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ruminant and Swine Clinic, Brno, Czech Republic
[2]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Large Animal Clinical Laboratory, Brno, Czech Republic

The purpose of our study was to obtain physiological reference values in neonatal kids depending on the colostrum intake. The research was focused on the changes of acid-base balance and basic biochemical parameters in neonatal kids before and 2 hours after colostrum intake.

Total of 66 blood samples were taken from 33 neonatal kids. The samples were collected immediately after birth and 2 hours after first colostrum intake. Blood was collected from jugular vein and sample was analyzed immediately by the automatic acid-base analyzer. Blood pH, partial pressure of carbon dioxide (pCO_2), partial pressure of oxygen (pO_2), bicarbonate concentration ($cHCO_3^-$), base excess (BE), oxygen saturation (cSO_2), total carbon dioxide (TCO_2), sodium (Na^+), potassium (K^+), calcium (Ca^{2+}), chloride (Cl^-), glucose (Glu), lactate (Lac) and creatinine (Crea) were measured. The results obtained were tested for the homogenity of variances (Hartley-Cochran-Bartlett test) and the normality of distribution (Shapiro-Wilk test). The data were analyzed statistically by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Fisher LSD *post-hoc* test.

There were no statistically significant differences in acid base parameters such as pO_2, $cHCO_3^-$, TCO_2, cSO_2 and biochemical parameters such as Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+} between two groups — before colostrum intake (BF) and after colostrum intake (AF). There were statistically significant differences in acid base parameters such as pH, BE, pCO_2 between these groups. Acid-base values of pH, BE and pCO_2 and biochemical values of chloride and glucose were statistically significant on the $P<0.001$ level. Values of lactate were statistically significant on the $P<0.01$ level and values of creatinine were statistically significant on the $P<0.05$ level.

The results presented in our study are important for veterinary practice and can improve the neonatal care especially for impaired kids. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that there is a need for next research focusing on neonatal kids. As the goat farming is increasing there are still not sufficient information in this field compare to other domestic species.

Keywords: ACID-BASE BALANCE, BLOOD, KIDS, GOATS, COLOSTRUM

Acknowledgments. This work was supported by the grant IGA VFU Brno No. 112/2018/FVL.

CASE REPORT: TRACE MINERAL DEFICIENCY WITH CONCURRENT DETECTION OF *TRYPANOSOMA THEILERI* IN A SUCKLER COW HERD IN GERMANY

L. Bittner[1], *A. Wöckel*[1], *T. Snedec*[1], *C. Delling*[2], *D. Böttcher*[3], *K. Klose*[3], *G. Köller*[1], *A. Starke*[1]
alexander.starke@uni-leipzig.de

[1]University of Leipzig, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Clinic for Ruminants and Swine, Leipzig, Germany
[2]University of Leipzig, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Institute of Parasitology, Leipzig, Germany
[3]University of Leipzig, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Institute of Pathology, Leipzig, Germany

Grazing cattle have different trace mineral requirements than dairy cattle and deficiencies leading to weakness and low production are described for many regions of the world. Three recumbent suckler cows from one farm were presented within two weeks. All of them were kachectic, unable to rise and showed variable mineral and trace mineral deficiencies. Cows were treated with an intensive downer cow-care-protocol and parenteral fluid and electrolyte therapy, mineral substitution, NSAIDs and antibiotics. In one cow *Trypanosoma theileri* was detected in blood smears. Two cases were poorly responsive to treatment and were euthanised after 8 and 22 days of treatment. One case was in a detrimental condition on arrival and died within one day. Postmortem examination of each case resulted in the common diagnoses of muscular dystrophy in the hindlimbs, kachexia and scleral edema. Liver copper content, measured in one animal, was extremely low. A diagnostic follow up herd visit was performed. The farmer fed no concentrate until just before the first farm visit. A mineral mixture was offered *ad libitum* on pasture with variable acceptance by the animals. The cows were very uneven in body condition, had a rough hair coat. In a selection of animals, serum selenium and copper values were analysed and were below reference. All other tested minerals and electrolytes were in the reference range. *Trypanosoma theileri* was detected using PCR in 10 out of 27 cases. In a second farm visit liver biopsies of 9 cows were taken and copper content in dry matter was below reference. Ration analysis was performed and farmer was adviced to adjust feeding regime. This case reports documents the importance of surveillance of the mineral status in suckler cow herds, especially when forage quality is low. The significance of the detection of *Trypanosoma* sp. is so far not known, as there are no data available for the occurrence and distribution of this parasite in suckler cow herds in Germany.

Keywords: COWS, *TRYPANOSOMA THEILERI*, TRACE MINERAL DEFICIENCY

LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES — MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA INDICATE THE ACCEPTABILITY OF SAFETY MEAT RAWS

N. Bogatko
nadiyabogatko@ukr.net

National Agrarian University, Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, Ukraine

The aim of research was development indices of improved horizontal method of *Listeria monocytogenes* detection in meat raws (beef, pork, mutton and meat of goat).

The basis of the horizontal method for the *Listeria monocytogenes* detection in meat raws (beef, pork, mutton and meat of goat) is developing the strategies for improving the horizontal method of *Listeria monocytogenes* determination in meat by using the research suspension.

The meat raws are irreplaceable in human diet and their consumption affects the health on the population. In the countries of the European Community, considerable attention is paid to the improvement of the legislative framework for controlling the traceability of meat raws material throughout the entire food chain — from field to table.

The developing the for improving the horizontal method of *Listeria monocytogenes* detection in meat with the help of research suspension, prepared in the ratio of 1:5 (samples of meat in the amount of 10−11 g and 50−55 cm^3 of initial selective enriched medium (half of Fraser broth), and further incubation of the suspension for 21−23 hours at temperature of 31±1 °C and secondary enrichment. After the first initial enrichment the received culture in the amount of 0.05−0.06 cm^3 is transferred in to the test tube that contains 5−6 cm^3 of second time enriched medium (Fraser broth). Then the environment with crops is incubated for 46−48 hours at temperature of 37 °C. After that the primary (5−6 cm^3) and the secondary (2.5−3.0 cm^3) enriched culture in terms of selective environment PALKAM-agaris in oculatedandis carried out to get clearly separated colonies of *Listeria monocytogenes* for 24±2 hours at temperature of 37±1 °C and for 46±2 hours at temperature of 37±1 °C.

The results of our research showed that *Listeria monocytogenes* colonies were found in for 24±2 hours at temperature of 37±1 °C. They were of small size about 1.5−2.0 mm in diameter of grey-green or olive-green color, sometimes with a black halo. In 46±2 hours at temperature of 37±1 °C they were of green color with deeply sunk centre and black halo in the following samples of in meat raw: 2 samples of beef and 3 samples of pork in at production in processing enterprises; 3 samples of pork, and 2 samples of mutton and 1 samples in meat of goat on agro-food markets.

The improved horizontal method of *Listeria monocytogenes* detection in meat raw have a reliability of 99.8 %. A method we propose is a qualitative technique of improving the horizontal method of *Listeria monocytogenes* detection in meat raw (beef, pork, mutton and meat of goat) along with other methods of determining meat raw safety.

Keywords: MEAT RAWS, *LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES*, SAFETY

AUTOGENIC VACCINES ARE AN EFFECTIVE FOR CONTROL OF EPIZOOTIC PROCESS FOR MASTITIS IN COWS

O. Boiko[1], *B. Kurtiak*[2], *P. Boiko*[3], *M. Romanovich*[2], *T. Pundiak*[2], *G. Sobko*[2]
pkboyko@ukr.net

[1]Institute of Veterinary Medicine NAAS,
Experimental Station of Epizootology, Rivne, Ukraine
[2]Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies
named after Stepan Gzhytsky, Lviv, Ukraine
[3]Eastern Europen National University named after Lesya Ukrainka, Lutsk, Ukraine

The main etiologic agent of cows mastitis is considered conditionally pathogenic microflora (streptococci, staphylococci, mycoplasmas) and their associations, which are usually activated under the influence of adverse animal retention factors. Prevention and treatment of mastitis is complicated by the prohibition of the use of a large number of antibacterial preparations. In recent years, in the scientific literature more and more messages appear on the successful use of autogenic vaccines to prevent mastitis. To study the effectiveness of the use of an experimental vaccine produced from autogenous strains in one of the dairy farms of the Lviv region.

Dairy farm has a herd of 600 dairy cows. For the bacteriological research samples of milk and the secretion of udder from cows with clinical and subclinical forms of mastitis the content of the uterus from cows with postpartum endometritis and specimens of faeces from newborn calves suffering from diarrhea were selected. From the 12 biomaterials, 20 isolates were isolated and identified, including *E. coli* — 9, *Str. pneumoniae* — 4, *Str. dysagalactiae* — 3, *St. aureus* and *St. intermedius* — for 2 isolates.

The analysis of the dynamics of titer of agglutinins in serum of blood of cows vaccinated with vaccine from autogenous strains, shows that the highest antigenic activity possessed by the *E. coli* immunogen (1: 2048 — mean titers in cows before calving and 1: 448 — in 2 months after the calving), lower — immunogens *Str. pneumoniae* i *Str. Dysagalactiae* (1:448, 1:256 — middle titer before calving and 1:96, 1:64 2 months after calving), and the lowest — immunogens *S. aureus i S. Intermedius* (1:112, 1:64 — middle titer before calving and 1:32, 1:28 in 2 months after calving). This indicates a high immune response of vaccinated animals, which had expressed projective effect as indicated by the data of the analysis of the zootechnical and economic parameters of the farm before and after applying the vaccine. Thus, the morbidity of cows for subclinical mastitis decreased 5 times, clinical — 6 times, on endometritis — 6 times, and the incidence of newborn calves by gastrointestinal diseases — 8 times.

Thus, the use of autogenic vaccines is effective, and therefore, a perspective direction for the prevention of diseases of cows mastitis is associated with this pathology.

Keywords: MASTITIS, VACCINE, UDDER, MILK, IMMUNOGEN

INDICATORS OF QUALITY AND SAFETY OF RABBIT MEAT DURING STORAGE

N. Bukalova[1], V. Lyasota[1], N. Bogatko[1], L. Artemenko[1], T. Prilipko[2]
nvbukalova@gmail.com

[1]National Agrarian University, Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, Ukraine
[2]Podillya State Agrarian and Technical University,
Kamyanets-Podilsky, Khmelnytsky region, Ukraine

For the investigation 52 rabbits which entered the State Laboratory of Veterinary and Sanitary Expertise of the Central Market in the city of Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region were used.

Organoleptic methods (GOST 20235.0-74) were used: determination of the appearance and color of the carcass surface, the position of the muscles in the cut, the consistency, the smell, transparency and aroma of the broth; physical and chemical (GOST 29235.1-74): determination of the hydrogen index, ammonia and ammonium salts and products of primary decomposition of proteins in the broth; bacteriological research (GOST 20235.2-74): microscopic analysis, determination of the bacteria of the coliform sticks in meat, bacteria of the genus *Salmonella*.

We investigated 52 carcasses of rabbits. Changes were found in 14 carcasses (26 %). The organoleptic study revealed changes in the meat that are of a sanitary value. During the organoleptic studies on the third day in three carcasses, changes in the indicators of freshness of meat were found, in particular: the surface of carcasses — slightly sticky, darkened, sometimes moisturized, the color of the internal fatty tissue — with a reddish tinge; the muscles in the dark red section, leave a damp spot on the filter paper. The fovea during the touch of a finger equalizes for one minute; the carcasses became smelly; during the test, the broth is muddy, with an unpleasant odor. In 8 carcases (15 %), changes were detected during meat intake, while in 6 carcases (11 %), spoilage was found during storage and sale on the agro-industrial market (dark-red meat, friable consistency, with a faint smell). We have also detected such defects of meat as tanning, mildew and rotting. During the physical and chemical analysis of rabbit meat revealed pH changes as a measure of deterioration of meat. During the mildew of the meat there was a shift of pH to the sour side (pH=5.8), and for decay — in alkaline (pH=7.6 and above). During the bacterioscopy studies, traces of muscle breakdown and the presence of gram-negative sticks in the smear were found in the number of 53±3 microbial cells in the field of vision, which is 5 times the permissible norm. Non-compliance with commodity neighborhoods was identified during implementation, in particular: teaching rabbits with carbohydrates, which led to the identification of bacteria of the genus Salmonella in rabbit meat. In 3 carcasses (5 %) found bacteria of the coli group in an amount that exceeds the permissible standards; in one carcass (2 %) the meat was found to be fermented with bacteria of the genus *Salmonella*. Since the presence of bacteria of the genus *Salmonella* in rabbit meat is unacceptable, the affected carcass was disposed of. The remaining 5 carcasses were sold during the 4th day of sale on the agro-industrial market.

On the basis of the comprehensive research, factors that reduce the health and hygiene quality of the meat of the studied carcasses of rabbits were revealed, namely: violation of slaughter technology (bad bleeding), cooling of rabbits after slaughter ("tanning" of meat), violation of the temperature regime storage during sales of rabbit meat; absence of disinfection of counters and refrigerating chambers (insemination of carcasses with microflora); non-compliance with the principles of commodity neighborhood during implementation (implementation of waterfowl carcases along with rabbits).

Keywords: RABBIT MEAT, AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MARKET, QUALITY INDICES, SAFETY INDICATORS, NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MILK YIELD AND SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISEASE IN DAIRY COWS

K. Doll, M. Blumhagen, A. Sieck
Klaus.Doll@vetmed.uni-giessen.de

Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Clinic for Ruminants, Gießen, Germany

Breeding for high milk yield is often blamed for increasing the susceptibility to disease and shortening productive life. However, the results of previous studies are contradictory. If, in fact, such a correlation really does exist it would have considerable consequences, according to German and European law, up to and including a ban of the practice of breeding to increase milk production.

The aim of these investigations was to examine the extent to which the level of milk yield and other factors (husbandry conditions, feeding, management) affect animal health, including immunocompetence, as well as the productive life. The investigations were carried out in 16 randomly selected German Holstein herds, 8 of them with high milk yield (10,421±1,111 kg/year, herd size 83–264 cows) and 8 herds with lower milk yield (8.298±701 kg/year, herd size 71–208 cows). In addition to clinical and laboratory diagnostic tests, the cows were vaccinated with a live vaccine against BVD (*Bovela®*, *Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH*, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany) for the determination of immunocompetence.

Despite significantly different milk production, there were no differences in the prevalence of subclinical ketoses or other diseases between the two groups. The same applied to the cortisol concentration in feces and the formation of neutralizing BVD antibodies after vaccination. Age of leaving the herd averaged 64.2 months in the high-performance group (medium performance group: 66.0 months), the average culling rate in this group was 23.1 % (lower performance group: 28.0 %) and the average productive lifetime 35.8 months (lower performance group: 37.4 months). There was no significant correlation between the level of milk yield and the parameters mentioned above. The same was true for the cell content in milk. However, there were significant group differences in milk yield per day of life (high performance group: 15.7±2.5 kg, low performance group: 13.0±1.4 kg) and lifetime production (31.047±8.247 vs. 26.093±4.185 kg).

The relationships between high production, reduced fertility and susceptibility to diseases are much more complex than are considered in current discussions and must therefore be viewed in a more differentiated manner. The health of dairy herds is not primarily dependent upon the milk yield, but is rather related to management including feeding, housing conditions and disease prevention. If these underlying conditions are all right it is possible to achieve very high milk production without negative effects on animal health.

Keywords: COWS, HERMAN HOLSTEIN HERD, MILK YIELD, CATTLE DISEASES

THE EFFECT OF *MYCOPLASMA BOVIS* INFECTION ON PERIPHERAL BLOOD LEUKOCYTE ACTIVITY IN THE CALVES

K. Dudek[1], *U. Lisiecka*[3], *A. Kycko*[2], *E. Szacawa*[1], *D. Bednarek*[1], *M. Reichert*[2]
katarzyna.dudek@piwet.pulawy.pl

[1]National Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Cattle and Sheep Diseases, Puławy, Poland
[2]National Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Pathology, Puławy, Poland
[3]University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Epizootiology and Clinic of Infectious Diseases, Lublin, Poland

Mycoplasma bovis is known as etiologic agent of pneumonia, arthritis and mastitis in cattle. It was previously confirmed that *M. bovis* possesses both immunostimulating and immunosuppressive properties. The aim of the study was to evaluate the effect of *M. bovis* on bovine peripheral leukocyte activity *in vivo* conditions.

The study was carried out on clinically healthy calves divided into two groups: experimental and control. The experimental calves were infected with the field *M. bovis* strain three times at 48 hour intervals. Instead the control animals were administered with phosphate buffered saline. Blood samples were collected each day up to day 9 following the first *M. bovis* infecting dose and then weekly until day 30 when the calves were euthanized to obtain the lung samples. In the blood samples phagocytic activity (*Phagotest*™) and oxygen metabolism (*Phagoburst*™) of peripheral blood leukocytes were evaluated using flow cytometry according to the manufacturer's instruction (*Glycotope Biotechnology GmbH*, Berlin, Germany). The *M. bovis* antigen was detected in the lung samples by immunohistochemistry using mouse anti-*Mycoplasma bovis* monoclonal antibody (*Millipore*).

Positive immunolabelling for *M. bovis* in the bronchiolar epithelial cells in the lungs of the experimental calves confirmed the infection efficacy. The percent of phagocytic granulocytes in the blood of experimental calves did not significantly differ from the control. However, the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) for granulocytes visibly increased on day 9 post the first infecting dose and it was significantly higher than the control on day 16. Following the calf infection the percent of phagocytic monocytes was increased throughout the study when compared to the control, with the exception of days 9 and 16. The MFI for monocytes in the experimental calves was in general slightly higher than the control. For the oxygen metabolism the percent of activated leukocytes was significantly increased on day one post the first infecting dose of *M. bovis* however after that it suddenly decreased and had similar or lower values than the control up to day 30. However the MFI was generally increased in the experimental calves throughout the study when compared to the control.

The general stimulation of phagocytic activity and oxygen metabolism of peripheral blood granulocytes and monocytes following the calf infection with *M. bovis* can show the activation of host defence mechanisms for the pathogen elimination.

Keywords: *MYCOPLASMA BOVIS*, CATTLE, IMMUNE RESPONSE

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CLINICAL EFFICACY OF IVERMECTIN AGAINST CERTAIN GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES OF CAMELIDS IN THE STARI GRAD ZOO AT ĐURĐEVAC, CROATIA

D. Đuričić[1], *M. Samardzija*[2]
smarko@vef.hr

[1]Veterinary practice, Đurđevac, Croatia
[2]University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

The objective of this study was to determine the clinical effectiveness of ivermectin (*Biomectin* 1 %) against certain gastrointestinal nematodes of camelids in the Stari Grad Zoo at Đurđevac, Croatia.

One castrated dromedary camel, three bactrian camels (two females and one male) and a pair of llamas were used in this clinical study. All animals were aged 1–3 years and were kept in a fenced area with a sandy base for exercise, with access to stables during the night. Animals had free access to good quality meadow hay, adequate concentrate for camelids and drinking water. The female camels and both llamas occasionally consumed less food, had messy hair and occasionally had short-term diarrhoea. Faecal samples were collected twice prior to treatment (in April and May) and three times every two months (July, September and November) after SC administration of 1 % ivermectin (*Biomectin*) at a SC dose of 0.3 mg/kg. Faecal examination was performed by the flotation method using $ZnSO_4$ (371 g zinc sulfate in 1000 ml water). From each animal, 3 g faeces was mixed with 10 ml prepared $ZnSO_4$ solution, and the sample was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for 5 minutes. Every sample was checked by the McMaster's test (MMT) to determine the number of eggs per gram (EPG) of faeces for each type of GI parasite.

A variety of gastrointestinal nematodes were identified prior treatment, including undifferentiated strongyles, *Nematodirus* spp., and *Strongyloides* sp. (in llamas only). Prior to treatment, the average EPG in all camelids was 28.42±9.72 (*Nematodirus* sp.), 78.08±37.06 (strongyles) and 56.05±12.00 (*Strongyloides* sp., in llamas only). After treatment, EPG was reduced to 5.05±3.19 (*Nematodirus* sp.) and 3.17±3.12 (strongyles). In July, 66.67 % of samples were negative for undifferentiated strongyles and only 16.67 % for *Nematodirus* sp. eggs. All three MMT tests after treatment were negative for *Strongyloides* sp. in llamas.

After ivermectin treatment, animals had a better appetite, shiny hair and solid faeces. Ivermectin (*Biomectin* 1 %) at a SC dose of 0.3 mg/kg, caused a reduction in egg production of *Nematodirus*, *Strongyloides*, and undifferentiated strongyle species, as determined by faecal egg counts in camelids at the Stari Grad Zoo at Đurđevac, Croatia.

Keywords: CAMELIDS, GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES, IVERMECTIN

INFLUENCE OF PARITY ON BLOOD SERUM CONCENTRATIONS OF MACROMINERALS IN DAIRY GOATS DURING EARLY LACTATION

D. Đuričić[1], H. Valpotić[2], I. Žura Žaja[2], H. Capak[2], D. Gračner[2], O. Smolec[2], M. Samardžija[2]
smarko@vef.hr

[1]Veterinary practice, Đurđevac, Croatia
[2]University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

The objective of this study was to determine the influence of parity on blood serum macromineral concentrations in Saanen dairy goats during early lactation before the weaning of goat kids.

A total of 18 Saanen dairy goats (7 primiparous and 11 multiparous) between 1 and 4 years of age were used in this research. Goats were kept in individual boxes. According to standard farming practice, animals were fed twice daily and had free access to drinking water. They were fed with good-quality meadow hay (2.2 kg per doe daily) at the same time every day. Every day, each animal received 0.98 kg of concentrate of known chemical composition (1.54 % calcium, 0.60 % phosphorous with a Ca:P ratio of 2.57:1). All does were categorized on a scale from 1 to 5 into medium does with the body condition score (BCS) ≥2.75<3.50. Blood samples were taken every five days, starting on the 5th day until the 40th day of lactation. Calcium, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, sodium and chloride serum concentrations were determined.

In primiparous dairy goats, the average serum macromineral levels were: calcium 2.28±0.27, phosphorous 2.05±0.46, sodium 148.12±6.12, potassium 4.87±0.53, chloride 107.28±4.25, and magnesium 1.21±0.41 mmol/L. The average levels of macrominerals in multiparous goats were: calcium 2.36±0.19, phosphorous 2.38±0.62, sodium 147.73±6.37, potassium 4.79±0.49, chloride 108.64±3.77, and magnesium 1.23±0.11 mmol/L. The average parity was 3.2 in multiparous does with an average litter size 1.55±0.59, while in primiparous does, this was 1.29±0.41. Phosphorus values were higher at the beginning of lactation than in mid lactation in multiparous does. Multiparous does had calcium levels below the normal range (2.3–2.9 mmol/L) until the 20th day of lactation (from the first sampling 2.07±0.28 to 2.23±0.27 mmol/L), as a clinical sign of moderate hypocalcaemia.

In this study, all goats had average macromineral levels within the physiological range for the species. Only multiparous does had calcium levels below normal range until the 20th day of lactation, and higher phosphorus values. Analyses of macromineral serum levels in dairy goats during lactation can be helpful for early detection of certain metabolic disorders.

Keywords: DAIRY GOATS, MACROMINERALS, PARITY

POSSIBILITY OF MODULATION OF THE BOVINE UTERINE PERFUSION WITH THE USE OF SILDENAFIL CITRATE IN DAIRY COWS DURING LUTEAL PHASE OF THE OVARIAN CYCLE

M. Dzięcioł, W. Bielas, R. Kozdrowski, G. J. Dejneka, W. Niżański
michal.dzieciol@upwr.edu.pl

Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences,
Department of Reproduction and Clinic of Farm Animals, Wrocław, Poland

A proper perfusion of the organs guarantee its proper functioning. Modulation of perfusion can be used to compensate for deficits as well as to create overperfusion which could have a curing effect for the tissue. The aim of the study was to evaluate the influence of the Sildenafil citrate after different rout of administration on the blood flow in the uterus of cows during dioestrus.

Uterine blood flow was examined in healthy, adult cows at the 6–8 day of the ovarian cycle. Experiment was divided on two parts depending on rout of sildenafil administration. In 1st experiment six cows received 200 mg of sildenafil diluted in 10 ml of warm saline into the body of the uterus and in second experiment another five cows received Sildenafil intravaginaly in the form of vaginal suppositories containing 200 mg per animal. In both cases a placebo infusion and suppository was also given to the cows. Analysis the maximum velocity in m/s (V max) in the aorta was performed and selected parameters of the blood flow (pulsatile index, PI; resistance index, RI; systolic peak velocity SPV; end diastolic velocity, EDV; flow velocity integral, FVI; systolic peak velocity: end-diastolic velocity ratio, SV/DV) were measured in the uterine artery (*arteria uterina*) before and after sildenafil infusion. In addition, Color Doppler examination of the uterine wall perfusion was evaluated and obtained results were analyzed with the *Pixel Flux* software (*Chameleon*, Germany). Animals were examined before and five times after drug application (two times at 15 min intervals, and three times at 2 h intervals). Statistical analysis was based on program *Statistica version 7.1* (2.3.1–2.3.2) (*StatSoft*, USA). The comparison of values of the evaluated parameters before and after sildenafil treatment was performed by Wilcoxon test, and $P<0.05$ was defined as representing a significant difference.

A significant decrease of values of PI and SV/DV ratio as well as an increase of end diastolic velocity and time averaged maximum velocity was noted. With the use of color coded sonography, the increased intensity of the blood flow in the uterine wall was observed in both method of sildenafil administration. After administration of sildenafil, significant differences in values of all parameters except SPV occurred ($P>0.05$).

It was concluded that intrauterine as well as intravaginal administration of sildenafil during dioestrus can increase uterine tissue perfusion. Further studies are indicated if this phenomenon could be useful for the uterine disorders treatment as a main or additional method of treatment.

Keywords: COWS, SILDENAFIL CITRATE, UTERINE PERFUSION

IMPACT OF FARM INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLANS ON LAMENESS PREVALENCE, PRODUCTIVITY AND WELFARE OF DAIRY CATTLE

F. Ebert[1], A. Cerna[1], M. Schären[2], R. Weck[1], A. Wöckel[1], W. Wippermann[1], P. Hufe[2], E. Ullrich[3], A. Starke[1]

[1]University of Leipzig, Veterinary Faculty, Clinic for Ruminants and Swine, Leipzig, Germany
[2]Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt für Tierzucht und Tierhaltung (LVAT) e.V., Groß Kreutz, Germany
[3]Saxon State Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, Dresden, Germany

Orthopedic disorders causing lameness belong to the most common and economically most relevant production diseases of dairy cattle worldwide. Lameness has severe economic implications while causing a serious impact on animal welfare. Reasons for orthopedic disorders are multifactorial and can be divided in cow-, housing- and management-related risk factors. The aim of the study was to assess the impact of farm individual action plans on lameness prevalence, productivity and welfare of dairy cattle.

Five dairy farms in eastern Germany with high prevalence of lameness were visited between January 2017 and February 2019. The average number of milking cows per herd was 675, ranging from 257 to 1137 cows. All farms housed German Holstein cows as the predominant breed in freestall barns with cubicles and fed total mixed ration and used the herd management system *Herde®* (*DSP Agrosoft GmbH*, Ketzin, Germany). Regular hoof trimming was conducted at a minimum of twice per year and new cases of lame cows were treated at least once per week. The same veterinary hoof care professionals always visited farms. Information regarding animals, performance, housing, diet, management practices, biosecurity and claw health management were collected using direct observation of the cows and their environment, interview with the herd manager during the visit and analysing of herd data. Cows were evaluated for lameness using a 6-point locomotion scoring (LS) system (modified according to Starke et al., 2007), where 1 = regular locomotion, without lameness, 2 = imperfect locomotion, 3 = slight lame, 4 = moderately lame, 5 = severely lame and 6 = highly severely lame. Clinical case of lameness was indicated by a LS≥3. Furthermore body condition score (Edmonson et al., 1989), integument alterations (Lombard et al., 2010) and cleanliness (Reneau et al., 2005) of cows were assessed. Regarding the aims of the farm and the collected data, we developed an individual action plan together with the farms management, the herd manager and the farms external consultants and accompanied the implementation. Frequency, interval and topic of the following farm visits were adapted to the action plan.

Farms were visited between 2 and 24 times. At the first farm visit the farms were characterized by: average annual milk yield per cow and lactation of 9,779 kg (range from 8,387 kg to 11,542 kg), average life span production of 31,635 kg (17,631 kg to 54,908 kg), 31 % (20 % to 46 %) average culling rate and an average of 3 (2.4 to 4.6) lactations in herd until culling. The median lameness prevalence was 54 % (35 % to 80 %). The following conditions were considered when developing the farms individual action plans: efficiency, feasibility, sustainability and profitability. Optimizing herd health documentation, raising the knowledge level about claw health and intensifying the hoof trimming and treatment were the most common objectives. Possible effects of the action plan were steadily monitored. Resulting conclusions led to adjustments to the action plan. About six month after the first farm visit, the mean lameness prevalence decreased from 54 % to 32 % (15 % to 50 %). Annual milk yield per cow and lactation increased to 9825 kg (8,424 kg to 11,747 kg) and life span production increased to 32,616 kg (21,419 kg to 53,042 kg).

Using an in-depth analysis to assess and eliminate the farm-related risk factors for orthopedic disorders helps to develop an effective farm individual action plan. With consistent implementation, decreasing of lameness prevalence is possible. Hence, productivity and welfare of dairy cattle increase.

Keywords: DAIRY CATTLE, LAMENESS, GERMAN HOLSTEIN BREED, DAIRY FARMS

THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT STARCH LEVEL STARTERS WITH OR WITHOUT AMYLASE ON PERFORMANCE AND HEALTH PARAMETERS IN CALVES

M. M. Efil[1], O. Topal[2], D. Udum[3], H. Gençoğlu[1], H. Batmaz[2]
gencoglu@uludag.edu.tr

[1]Uludag University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Animal Nutrition and Nutritional Diseases, Bursa, Turkey
[2]Uludag University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Internal Medicine, Bursa, Turkey
[3]Uludag University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Biochemistry, Bursa, Turkey

The purpose of this study is to evaluate effects of calf starter feeds with different starch levels on feed intake, body weight gain, feed conversion, blood glucose levels, rumen pH, wither height, chest widht, body length, clinic and respiratory score in 0–56 day calves.

The research was carried out in calf unit in İtimat Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Therefore, 6 groups were formed and 90 Holstein-Friesian female calves were used totally as 15 calves in each group. Starter feed containing 23 %, 28 % and 33 % starch in 88 % dry matter and same feeds with amylase enzyme (*RumiStar*, *DSM Animal Nutrition & Health*, Turkey) added at a dose of 1 kg/ton were given to groups respectively. The groups were named as 23E–, 23E+, 28E–, 28E+, 33E– and 33E+ according to the starch content of the calf starter feeds and whether or not the enzyme is contained. Body weights of the calves measured at 0, 28, and 56 days; calf starter consumption and feed conversion were calculated weekly. On 56th day, approximately 10 ml of blood sample was taken, glucose values were measured. In addition, on 56th day, wither height, chest widht, body length was measured and clinic and respiratory score was recorded. Ph measurement was made in rumen fluid taken on 56th day. Statistical analysis of datas was performed by one-way ANOVA method and pearson chi-square method for clinic and respiratory score records was applied with SPSS package program.

The average starter feed consumption until 56th day was 12.2 kg and there was no difference between groups. No difference was found between groups for daily body weight gain, feed conversion, wither height, chest widht, body length, clinic and respiratory score. However, the pH value of 23E+ feds was higher than 33E+ feds ($P<0.05$). Then, 23E– feds had the lowest blood glucose levels (72.9 mg/dL) and were found different from 23E+, 28E– and 33E+ feds.

It was concluded that calves fed 23E+ diet have higher rumen pH, which may contribute to health and performance.

Keywords: CALVES, STARTER, RUMEN pH, HEALTH

THE INFLUENCE OF GENETIC AND PARATYPIC FACTORS ON THE DURATION AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LIFETIME USE OF DAIRY CATTLE

Ye. I. Fedorovych[1], *N. P. Mazur*[1], *V. V. Fedorovych*[2]
logir@ukr.net

[1]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine
[2]Institute of Animal Breeding and Genetics named after M. V. Zubets NAAS, Chubynske village, Boryspil district, Kyiv region, Ukraine

The influence of genetic and paratyphoid factors and manifestation of phenotypic characteristics on indicators of productive longevity of dairy cattle have been studied.

Studies on cows of Holstein (n=2902), Ukrainian Black- (n=14876) and Red-and-White (n=2176) dairy breeds. The variability of productive longevity of dairy cattle is significant influenced by housing conditions, a little less — by the year and the season of birth and the first calving. Born in the autumn-winter period cows had the highest rates of duration and effectiveness. The season of the first calving didn't show any consistent pattern, but birth and the first calving year had almost the same impact on productive longevity indicators. Animals that have not reached the breed standard in live weight in a certain age period, in the future, had lower indicators of lifetime use and productivity. In order to prolong the productive longevity of cow their first calving should be planned at the age of 25–29 months. Among the animals of Holstein and Ukrainian Red-and-White the cows with 121–150 days of the first service period had the longest use in herds and had the highest milk yield, and among Ukrainian Black-and-White with the duration of the indicated period 151–180 days. There was observed the significant impact of milk yield during first and best lactation regardless of breed of mothers, mothers of mothers and mothers of fathers on the milk yields of descendants of the same lactations, but not on their productive longevity. High productivity of cows and their female ancestors in most cases led to a reduction of the duration of productive use and lactation period of daughters and grandchildren, reducing their lifelong productivity and premature dropping out of the herd.

The indicators of the duration and effectiveness of life-long use of the daughters of long-lived Holstein breed were lower not only than their mothers, but also lower than the average of the herd. Descendants of Ukrainian Black-and-White, Red-and-White breeds had a little higher indicators of productive longevity, than the average per herd: lifetime yield was higher by 10.4 and 28.9 % respectively, and the number of lactations for life – by 6.4 and 22.7 %.

Such Holstein breeders as Rock 373840409, V. M. Dan 5510544, V. Teksel Kin 393522 (Canadian breeding) E. Samb 3035115974 (Hungarian selection), Lord 661288 (German breeding), Valentin 373840175, Matador 373840109 (Russian breeding) improved productive longevity of daughters by some separate features, and also the breeders of Ukrainian Black-and-White, Red-and-White breeds Abrykos 5806 and Khlor 2052.

The nonadditive type of inheritance cows for the first lactation characterized by a longer duration of productive use and higher lifelong yields than the ones with additive inheritance. During selection cows with "over-domination" and "domination of the mother" and "domination of the father" the forms of yield inheritance should be preferred since these animals were characterized in most cases by the highest rates of duration of productive use and lifetime productivity.

One-factor dispersion analysis has established that the most significant impact on the productive longevity of dairy breeds were made by genetic factors, namely, the origin of the father, conditional pedigree by Holstein breed and linear affinity. Factor "Herd" had the greatest impact on the productive longevity of cows among the paratypes factors and much smaller is birth and the first calving year and birth and first calving season.

Keywords: BREED, COWS, DURATION OF PRODUCTIVE USE, LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY, GENETIC FACTORS, PHENOTYPIC FEATURES, ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS, POWER OF INFLUENCE

MACRO- AND MICROELEMENTS OF BLOOD AND ITS ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY IN LACTATING COWS UNDER THE ACTION OF IODINE CITRATE IN DIFFERENT DOSES

R. Fedoruk[1], *V. Vlizlo*[1], *I. Kovalchuk*[1], *O. Koleshchuk*[1], *M. Khrabko*[1], *M. Tsap*[1], *V. Kaplunenko*[2], *G. Denys*[1]
khrabko95@gmail.com

[1]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine
[2]LLC "Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies", Kyiv, Ukraine

The earlier studies indicate the important role of iodine in the life of the organism. The determinative influence of this element on the reproductive ability of females and their productivity has been proved. However, the use of mineral salts of iodine in animal rations is limited by their high chemical reactivity. Currently, the nanotechnology for the production of carboxylates of macro- and microelements has been developed in Ukraine, including iodine citrate, which makes it possible to use organic compounds of iodine as an environmentally safe feed additive. The purpose of the research was to find out the effects of various doses of iodine citrate on the content of macro- and trace elements in the blood and antioxidant protection of the body of cows in the first period of lactopoesis.

The research was carried out on 15 full-year-old cows of Ukrainian black-and-white milk breed, formed in the winter-stool period, having been anchored and divided into three groups, 5 animals in each, the analogs by age (3–5 lactation), body weight (580–620 kg), the period of lactation (1st month after calving). Cows of group I (control) received the basic diet, which was normalized according to the physiological state, productivity and body weight. The animals of the II (experimental) group from 18–23 to 78–83 days of lactation received daily iodine citrate in the feed of the basic diet at a rate of 0.6 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet, and animals of the III (experimental) group received the basic diet and the iodine citrate at the rate of 0.06 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet. For biochemical studies, selected samples of venous blood were used in the preparatory (prior to feeding I citrate) and experimental (60 days of supplementation of the iodine supplement) periods. The processes of mineral metabolism were evaluated by the concentration of Ca, P, Fe, Zn, Cu in the blood, and the antioxidant defense of the organism by the content of lipid hydroperoxides, TBK-active products and its catalase, glutathione peroxidase and superoxide dismutase activity.

The probable influence of iodine citrate on mineral metabolism and the antioxidant protection of cows in the beginning of lactation has been established. In particular, in the blood of cows of II and III groups, the content of Ca ($P<0.001$), P ($P<0.05$), Fe, and Zn was increased only by 0.6 mg of iodine. These data indicate a more pronounced effect of higher applied dose of iodine citrate for the exchange of Zn, and Ca, P and Fe — for both concentrations of iodine. The applied doses of iodine citrate resulted in activation of the enzyme level of antioxidant protection of the organism, as evidenced by an increase in the catalase activity ($P<0.05$), glutathione peroxidase ($P<0.05$) and superoxide dismutase ($P<0.05$) blood counts in both experimental groups. However, the content of lipids hydroperoxy decreased significantly only in the blood of cows under the action of lower (0.06 mg I) dose.

Consequently, the use of iodine citrate, obtained by the method of nanotechnology, in doses of 0.6 and 0.06 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet in the first 3 months of lactation causes an increase in Ca, P and Fe content, and Zn — only under the action of 0.6 mg of iodine citrate in the blood during the 1st period of lactopoesis and enhances the enzyme level of antioxidant protection of their organism. The obtained results of the research can be used to substantiate the approbation of iodine citrate application to their diet on the sufficient lactation cows in the range of experimentally determined doses (0.06–0.6 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet).

Keywords: MINERAL METABOLISM, ANTIOXIDANT ENZYMES, LACTATION

ASSESSMENT OF DIFFERENT PAIN MANAGEMENT METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF CLAW LESIONS IN MEAT MERINO EWES

H. Fieseler[1], R. Weck[1], M. Kaiser[1], H. Müller[1], J. Spilke[2], N. Mielenz[2], G. Möbius[3], A. Starke[1]
Helena.fieseler@gmail.com

[1]Universität Leipzig, Veterinärmedizinischen Fakultät,
Klinik für Klauentiere, Leipzig, Germany
[2]Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg,
Institute für Agrar- und Ernährungswissenschaften, Arbeitsgruppe Biometrie
und Agrarinformatik, Halle (Saale), Germany
[3]Universität Leipzig, Veterinärmedizinische Fakultät,
Institut für Tierhygiene und Öffentliches Veterinärwesen, Leipzig, Germany

Pain management during veterinary procedures is a significant component of animal welfare and has legal as well as ethical implications. Even though intravenous regional anaesthesia (RIVA) is an accepted method for painful procedures involving the distal digits of sheep, this anaesthetic technique is rarely used in the field. The primary goal was to investigate the feasibility, safety and efficacy of the RIVA in sheep. A secondary goal was to examine whether the anaesthetic procedure can be improved by combining the RIVA with sedation and whether these methods have a positive effect on postoperative wellbeing.

36 Meat Merino sheep with contagious interdigital dermatitis and 12 healthy control sheep were used. Behaviour was observed during treatment of the lame sheep using various pain management protocols and during routine claw trimming of the healthy sheep, and all the sheep were observed after the procedures. The observed behaviours were assessed using scores and the scores compared among the animals of the 4 study groups (control, RIVA, sedation with Xylazine hydrochloride + RIVA, placebo).

The RIVA was successfully conducted in sheep. Local reactions at the application sight and in the tourniquet area in two animals resolved completely. A significant reduction in defensive movements during the painful procedure confirmed the efficacy of the RIVA. Stress-associated behaviours such as head shaking and idle chewing occurred with similar frequency in RIVA- and placebo-animals, leading to the conclusion, that stress levels due to the handling in dorsal recumbency were comparable between the two groups. Sedation reduced the frequency of pain- and stress-associated behaviours such as guarding, favouring limbs, vocalisation, idle chewing and bruxism. Xylazine hydrochloride-RIVA-animals showed better weight-bearing in the affected limb, better food uptake and ruminated more postoperatively than sheep from the other treatment groups.

Concluding, the RIVA in sheep is straightforward, safe and effective. Additional sedation reduces the stress- and pain-response. This pain and stress management has a positive effect on postoperative wellbeing of sheep. However it is clear, that the investigated pain management methods are not sufficient to treat post-operative pain and need to be extended by further components.

Keywords: EWES, MERINO BREED, CLAW LESIONS, XYLAZINE HYDROHLORIDE

DETERMINATION OF SERUM ALBUMIN IN LARGE ANIMALS

J. Filípek, J. Illek
filipekjaroslav@seznam.cz

University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Large Animal Clinical Laboratory, Brno, Czech Republic

The serum albumin is most commonly photometrically determined by reaction with bromcresol green (BCG) or bromocresol purpure (BCP) in biochemical laboratories. Both colors are known to react differently to albumin of vary animal species, and BCP shows more significant differences in this regard. Our aim was to examine the reactions of these dyes with serum albumin from large animals and compare these results with electrophoresis as a reference method. On this basis, decide on the suitability of these dyes for the determination of serum albumin in cows, calves, goats and horses.

Commercial diagnostic kits were used for the analyzes and were followed as recommended by the manufacturers. Measurement was performed on the *Cobas Mira Plus* automatic analyzer. Electrophoretic separation was performed on an agarose gel with a *Sebia* diagnostic kit. Blood was collected from the animals in a conventional manner and processed immediately or frozen (–18 °C) until analysis was performed.

In the determination of albumin in cows, higher results were obtained by the BCG method ($P<0.05$). However, this increase in the results averaged about 1 g/l. On the other hand, using BCP, the differences were statistically significant ($P<0.001$) and were up to 15 g/l lower. In calves, the BCG method provided an average of about 2.0 g/l higher ($P<0.01$), but the BCP method was again more than 10 g/l lower ($P<0.0001$). In cattle, statistically significant differences were not measured by the BCG method, again in the BCP method, statistical significance ($P<0.01$) and about 8 g/l lower results. Regarding to horses, both methods were not statistically significant, and the BCP method had very good agreement with the results obtained by electrophoresis (mean difference of approximately 0.3 g/l).

Determination of serum albumin belongs to routine biochemical examinations with simple analysis. Despite the simplicity of performance, however, the analysis of albumin is connected with some difficulties. One of this difficulties is calibration of the method. The certified reference material ERM DA 470k/IFCC has been used less efficiently for the metrological continuity of work calibrators. In addition, there is not enough consistency among manufacturers using the same methods, and methodological differences can cause deviations of up to 17 %. In spite of all the differences numerous papers in human medicine show that, the BCP method has better results and it is recommended to use this method. However, our results show that BCP method completely fails in veterinary medicine, and although the BCG method gives slightly better results than electrophoresis (about 1–2 g/l higher) and these results can be used in clinical practice. We don't recommend to use the BCP method in veterinary laboratories. Also field practitioners who have samples analyzed in human laboratories should be informed that the laboratory uses the BCG method.

Keywords: SERUM ALBUMIN, BROMKRESOL PURPLE, BROMKRESOL GREEN, ELECTROPHORESIS

ASSOCIATIONS OF REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE IN PRIMI- AND MULTIPAROUS COWS ON LARGE DAIRY FARMS

I. Fodor[1], *Gy. Gábor*[2], *L. Ózsvári*[1]
fodor.istvan@univet.hu

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Forensics, Law and Economics, Budapest, Hungary
[2]Research Institute for Animal Breeding, Nutrition and Meat Science, National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Herceghalom, Hungary

The aim of this study was to analyse the associations among management practices and reproductive performance in primiparous and multiparous dairy cows on large commercial dairy farms.

Personal interviews were performed between 22 May and 6 November 2015 in order to survey the reproductive management practices on 34 Holstein-Friesian large commercial dairy herds in Hungary. Individual data of 23,781 cows that calved between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 were also gathered from the farms participating in the survey. The associations of the management practices and reproductive performance by parity were analysed retrospectively by mixed effects models. Data were managed in *Microsoft Excel 2013* (*Microsoft Corporation*, Redmond, WA, USA). Statistical analyses were performed in *R version 3.4.0*.

Mean±SD size of the studied herds was 755±470 cows (range: 291–2,502), whereas the 305-day milk yield of the herds amounted to 10,014±965 kg (range: 8,330–12,541). Primiparous cows had shorter breeding interval (42.2 vs. 43.2 days, $P<0.001$), shorter calving to conception interval (152.3 vs. 161.8 days, $P<0.001$), higher first-service conception risk (24.8 vs. 17.3 %, $P<0.001$) and higher probability of pregnancy at 200 days in milk (65.2 vs. 55.4 %, $P<0.001$) compared to multiparous cows, however, no differences between parities were found regarding days to first service (75.7 vs. 75.6 days, $P>0.05$). The use of voluntary waiting period was linked to larger increase in calving to conception interval ($P<0.05$) and greater decline in the probability of pregnancy at 200 days in milk ($P<0.001$) in multiparous cows. Primiparous cows experienced larger improvement in days to first service ($P<0.001$), breeding interval ($P<0.05$), calving to conception interval ($P<0.01$) and probability of pregnancy at 200 days in milk ($P<0.001$) than their multiparous counterparts when estrus synchronization was used (vs. not used). Early pregnancy diagnosis and pregnancy recheck improved breeding interval ($P<0.01$ for both practices), calving to conception interval ($P<0.01$ and $P<0.001$, respectively) and the probability of pregnancy at 200 days in milk ($P<0.001$ for both practices) to a larger extent in primiparous cows.

Primiparous cows generally experienced larger improvement in reproductive parameters when estrus synchronization, early pregnancy diagnosis and pregnancy recheck were applied compared to their multiparous herdmates. Therefore, our study has shown that the associations of reproductive management practices and parameters are different in primi- and multiparous cows.

Keywords: DAIRY CATTLE, REPRODUCTION, PARITY, MANAGEMENT, PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS

ZINC DEFIENCY IN BREEDS OF DAIRY COW IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

K. Geboliszová, R. Kadek, K. Mikulková, J. Illek
geboliszovak@vfu.cz

University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno,
Large Animal Clinical Laboratory, Brno, Czech Republic

The aim of this study was to evaluate serum zinc levels and determine deficiency of this microelement in the Czech Republic.

Serum zinc concentrations were measured in 583 Holstein high-yield dairy cattle. Samples were collected as a part of monitoring herd's health status during performing the metabolic profile test. Those tests has been performed on 28 selected farms during year 2018, either for preventive or diagnostic reasons. There is one to five groups containing 5–10 animals is chosen for a metabolic profile test (e.g. group after calivng, 1/2 lactation, end of lactation and dry period). Blood samples were collected from the the coccygeal vein into serum separation tubes. Serum levels of zinc were measured by atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) at wavelength 213.9. The measured values of samples were then compared with a reference physiological range of 12.0–15.0 μmol/l. The data were evaluated by using a standard deaviation.

According to comparation with physiological range 5 groups were created: <8.0 μmol/l — 34 pcs, 6 % (σ 1.24); 8.01–10.0 μmol/l — 98 pcs, 17 % (σ 0.55); 10.01–11.9 μmol/l — 148 pcs, 25 % (σ 0.56); 12.0–15.0 μmol/l — 225 pcs, 39 % (σ 0.83); 15.01 μmol/l and more — 78 pcs, 13 % (σ 2.43). Standard deviation helped us to determine that highest variability of values were in groups with highest and lowest zinc levels, which might be due to wide range of results in those groups. In other groups variability of zinc status was low.

Serum zinc levels in high-yield cows are very variable in the Czech Republic. In the 39 % of samples physiological level of zinc was measured. As deficiency we consider a value lower to 12 μmol/l, in our study it was 48 % of the samples.

Keywords: ZINC DEFICIENCY, METABOLIC PROFILE TEST, DAIRY CATTLE

RISK ANALYSIS CONCERNING LUMPY SKIN DISEASE INTRODUCTION TO UKRAINIAN TERRITORY. ASPECTS OF LSD PREVENTION

A. P. Gerilovych, B. T. Stegniy, O. M. Korneykov, I. O. Gerilovych
antger2011@gmail.com

National Scientific Center "Institute for Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine", Kharkiv, Ukraine

The lumpy skin disease (LSD) is viral vector-borne disease, caused by the Capriposvirus. The disease incidence could reach up to 90 %, with the mortality rate about 45 %, and significant economic losses consist of rubbish and death of the diseased livestock. The decreasing of productivity, quality of milk and leather raw materials, abortions, stillbirth, and infertility could be detected. The consequences of the LSD are devastating not only for agricultural regions, but also at the national level. According to the O.I.E. classification, the LSD is classified as particularly dangerous and subjects to mandatory notification. The disease prevention is based in mass alive vaccines application. Since last couple of years LSD is potentially hazardous for our country.

The epidemic situation concerning LSD was studied in the affected countries, most closely located to Ukraine, using the O.I.E. data and personal communications. The risks for disease introduction were calculated by the ball rate factors-assessment matrix. The populations of potential LSDV vectors were tested for virus presence using in house PCR protocol for Capripoxvirus. The comparative review of vaccines for LSD prevention.

The confirmed high level risks (12 balls) for LSDV introduction in cattle herds from Russia, Central Europe and Turkey. Situation regarding LSDV introduction to Ukraine is likely to be non-optimistic. Russia, Caucasian countries, and Bulgaria high LSD-associated risks put our territory on high range of risk regarding LSDV introduction. Disease introduction probabilities could be estimated as extremely high and high from the side of Russia. The first way for possible introduction could be potentially associated with warm and wet summer-spring period, sufficient for growing of the population of different insects, potentially could be LSDV transmission factors in the wildlife and farming animals, especially backyards kept on free pastures.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), as very fast tools for agent's identification are widely used and recommended by OIE. In house PCR test has been development in NSC IECVM and SSRILDVSE based on FAO protocol. The PCR-based screening of the midges, and biting-flies demonstrated absence of viral DNA in samples of insects collected in Sumy and Kharkiv regions.

As far as LSD vaccines are concerned, only live attenuated vaccines against LSD are currently commercially available. RM-65 attenuated sheep pox vaccine at the recommended dose for sheep has limited effectiveness in protecting animals from LSD. The Neethling attenuated lumpy skin disease virus vaccine is highly effective in the prevention of morbidity, thus confirming the need to use homologous vaccines for the control of Capripoxvirus infections. Nevertheless, some safety issues have been reported that are linked to generalize clinical reactions due to vaccination with LSD strains that can be observed.

The high level risks (12 balls) for LSDV introduction are existing for Ukraine. Effective prevention could be realized by the application of regular surveillance of disease, including monitoring of the vectors populations. Vaccines reserve could be also created for the specific disease prophylaxes.

Keywords: LUMPY SKIN DISEASE (LSD), CAPRIPOSVIRUS, UKRAINE

TREATMENT OF NANO PREPARATION IN LIPOSOMAL FORM OF CATTLE ENDOMETRITIS

I. Gevkan[1], Yu. Slyvchuk[1], O. Shtapenko[1], V. Syrvatka[1,2], M. Sharan[1]
shtapenko31@gmail.com

[1]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine
[2]Lviv National University named after Ivan Franko, Lviv, Ukraine

Endometritis remain one of the main bovine postpartum diseases that cause of the infertility, survival and welfare of dairy cows. Endometritis is an inflammatory disease caused by pathogenic bacteria and associated with delayed uterine involution and poor reproductive performance. Antibiotics are generally used in the treatment of endometritis; however, frequent usage of them is limited via the emergence of antibiotics multidrug resistant.

The main goal of research was the development and improvement of effective new nano-preparation for treatment of cattle endometritis. Thus we elaborated a new complex liposomal preparation with silver nanoparticles, vitamins and hormones.

For study of the therapeutic effectiveness of new liposomal nano-product we used cows with clinic symptoms of endometritis. The first group of cows received commercial preparation with AgNPs (control) at the dose of 20 ml/day during 6 days. Second group of animals was intrauterus treated of liposomal nano-preparation "Argoton" at the same dose. The animals condition was monitored by ultrasound and blood sampling was done for determine of hematological and biochemical parameters.

Using to the preparation "Argoton" for the cows with endometritis of the first group led to a decrease the concentrations of aspartate-aminotransferase and alkaline phosphatase in comparison with the control group, which was been administered the preparation "Sumer silver". The increase in the concentration of urea on the 4th and 14th day after the introduction of drugs with silver nanoparticles by 1.5 and 2.5 times was detected in the blood serum of both experimental groups, especially in the second experimental group with "Argoton". While the lower content of uric acid on the 4th day after the introduction of preparations with silver nanoparticles in both groups was observed. In the experimental group with "Argoton", its level was reduced from 239±27 to 53.6±6.5 μmol/L, and remains at approximately this level throughout the study period. The significantly change the content of cholesterol, total protein, albumin, magnesium, phosphorus, calcium, estradiol and progesterone in the blood serum cows after treatment were not observed.

The results showed that new nano-preparation is effective substance for treatment of cattle endometritis without antibiotics (effectiveness more 98 %). It was confirmed by biochemical analysis of blood samples obtained before and after drug administration.

We explored the possibility of use the nanoparticle in liposomal form as new alternative drugs to fight against uterine infections in dairy cattle. The present study showed that the new liposomal preparation was effective on treatment of cattle endometritis without antibiotics.

Keywords: COWS, LIPOSOMAL PREPARATION WITH SILVER NANOPARTICLES, ENDOMETRITIS, BLOOD

AMINO ACID COMPOSITION OF GRASS SILAGES CONTAINING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TRUE PROTEIN IN TOTAL CRUDE PROTEIN

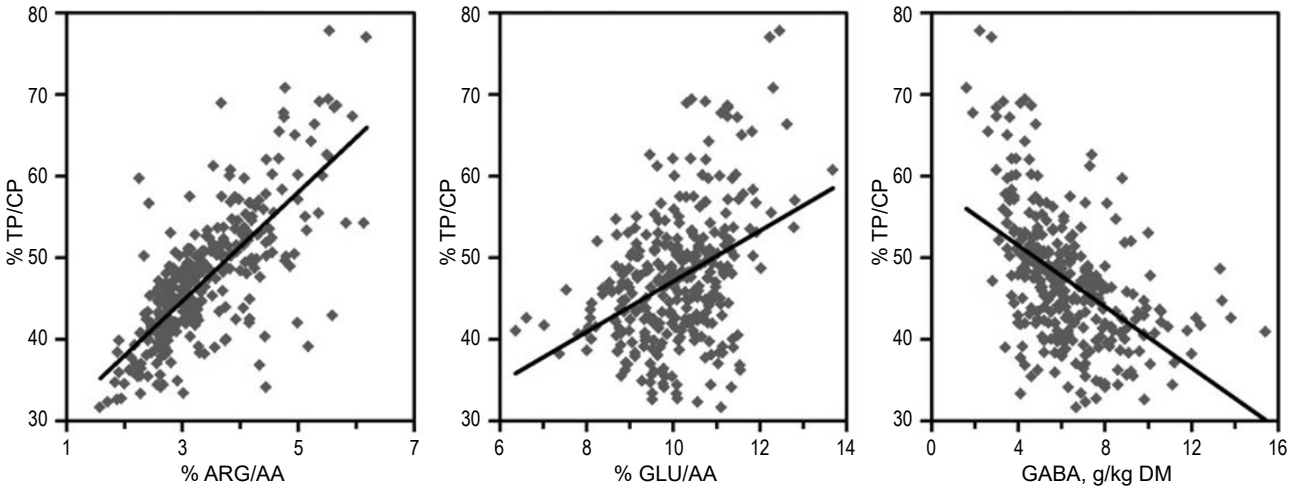
M. Höltershinken, C. Schulte, M. Hoedemaker
Martin.Hoeltershinken@tiho-hannover.de

University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation,
Clinic for Cattle, Hannover, Germany

Grass silage is an often used compound in the diet of dairy cattle. However, its quality and composition may be influenced by numerous factors. It is well known that after harvesting grass for silage production, plant enzymes like proteases degrade the true protein (TP). As long as the grass is not wilted yet, enzymes in the plant cells can still function, hence the percentage of TP in total crude protein (CP) decreases. Simultaneously, the amino acid (AA) composition of the grass changes. 311 grass silages were analyzed for their contents of AA, TP and CP. The aim of the present study was to investigate whether the AA profile changes with different percentages of TP in CP.

The AA composition of all 311 grass silages was analyzed via VDLUFA III, method 4.11.1 by *Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH*, Hanau, Germany. Assayed AA were: MET, CYS, LYS, THR, ARG, ILE, LEU, VAL, HIS, PHE, GLY, SER, PRO, ALA, ASP, GLU as well as the biogenic amine GABA (γ-aminobutyric acid). The Institute for Animal Nutrition, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation, analyzed TP and total CP contents. TP contents were determined using the Barnstein method, corresponding to VDLUFA III, method 4.4.1. The amount of total CP was analyzed via KJELDAHL according to VDLUFA III, method 4.1.1. The concentration of every single assessed AA was converted into a percentage of the sum of all measured AA. Statistics were evaluated via Spearman rank correlation (src).

Statistics revealed a highly significant correlation ($P<0.001$) between the contents of arginine (src = 0.73), glutamate (src = 0.36), GABA (src = –0.52) and the respective percentages of TP in CP in the grass silages, as can be seen in fig. 1–3. The other AA were not or had only low correlations with TP and CP.



Correlation between arginine (*fig. 1*, left), glutamate (*fig. 2*, center) and GABA (*fig. 3*, right) and the percentage of TP in total CP

As opposed to the literature, a change in AA composition was only noticeable for arginine, glutamate and GABA. Deficiencies of arginine or glutamate in the forages or higher concentrations of ornithine and/or biogenic amines [e.g. GABA (from GLU), putrescine, spermidine, spermine and thermospermine (from ARG)] could be a result of plant protein degradation. This information may aid in finding an answer to the question: How are sensorially ordinary grass silages with low TP in CP a cause of dairy herd diseases?

Keywords: COWS, GRASS SILAGES, AMINO ACID PROFILES, HERD DISEASES

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF SOMATIC CELLS (SCC) IN THE MILK AND THE CONCENTRATION OF VITAMIN A, E AND β-CAROTENE IN THE BLOOD SERUM OF DAIRY COWS

J. Illek, M. Pleško, J. Filípek, K. Mikulková, R. Kadek, J. Šmídková, K. Geboliszová, P. Kišová
illekj@vfu

University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Brno, Czech Republic

The aim of this study was to compare SCC in the milk and the concentration of vitamin A, E, and β-carotene in the blood serum of dairy cows during the first month of lactation.

Samples of milk from 50 selected dairy cows were examined from 10th to 30th day of lactation in the Holstein dairy cows with average yield of 10,500 kg of milk for standard lactation, The number of somatic cells (SCC) and serum concentrations of vitamin A, E and β-carotene were determined in the milk. Selected dairy cows were categorized into 5 groups of 10 pieces according to number of somatic cells. Group no. 1 consisted of 10 dairy cows with SCC to 100,000 in 1 ml, group no. 2 consisted of 10 dairy cows with SCC 100,000–200,000, group no. 3 consisted of 10 dairy cows with SCC 200,000–400,000, group no. 4 consisted of 10 dairy cows with SCC 400,000–800,000, and group no. 5 consisted of 10 dairy cows with the number of somatic cells above 800,000. Somatic cells were determined on Fossomatic instrument, the vitamins concentrations ware determined by the HPCL method. The statistical evaluation of the results was carried out using the ANOVA method.

Concentrations of vitamin A, E and beta-carotene were significantly different among the groups of dairy cows. In the group no. 1, the vitamin A concentration was 1.13 μmol/l, vitamin E concentration was 6.31 μmol/l and β-carotene 4.81 μmol/l. With the increasing number of SCC in milk, concentration of these micronutrients decreased, and in the group no. 5 concentrations were very low. Level of vitamin A was 0.69 μmol/l, vitamin E 4.22 μmol/l and β-carotene 1.59 μmol/l. The differences between group no. 1 and no. 5 were statistically significant. In the vitamin A, group no. 1 vs. no. 5 $P<0.001$, group no. 1 vs. no. 4 $P<0.001$, group no. 2 vs. no. 5 $P<0.001$. In vitamin E, group no. 1 vs. no. 5 $P<0.01$, group no. 2 vs. no. 5 $P<0.001$. And in β-carotene, group no. 1 vs. no. 5 $P<0.05$, and group no. 1 vs. no. 4 $P<0.05$.

On the 1st month of lactation in dairy cows, a significant difference in vitamin A, E and β-carotene was find out according to SCC in the milk. In the group with SCC up to 100,000 in 1 mil of milk were the statistically higher concentrations of vitamin A, E and β-carotene than in the group of cows with number of somatic cells greater than 800,000.

Keywords: DAIRY COW, SCC, VITAMIN A, VITAMIN E, β-CAROTENE

BIOCHEMICAL CHANGES IN FOLLICULAR FLUID AND VENOUS BLOOD DURING ACUTE RUMINAL ACIDOSIS IN HEIFERS

E. Indrová[1], *M. Andrlíková*[1], *A. Pechová*[2], *S. Čech*[1]
indrovae@vfu.cz

[1]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno,
Ruminant and Swine Clinic, Brno, Czech Republic
[2]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno,
Department of animal protection, welfare and behavior, Brno, Czech Republic

The aim of this study was to evaluate biochemical changes in composition ofollicular fluid and blood during acute ruminal and metabolic acidosis in dairy heifers.

Ten Holstein heifers were synchronized by cloprostenol (500 µg i.m. per cow, *Oestrophan*®, *Bioveta a.s.*, Ivanovice na Hane, Czech Republic). Seven days later dominant follicles were ablated to start the new follicular wave. Two days later (day 0, D0), stimulation using FSH was initiated. A total dose of 345 µg FSH (*Pluset*®, Calier SA, Spain) was administered intramuscularly in eight doses at 12 h intervals (D0–D3) in order to induce production of follicular fluid for the whole experimental period. The first sampling (venous blood, follicular fluid) was performed on D3 (time 0, T0). Than metabolic acidosis was induced by oral administration of sucrose at a dose of 9 g/kg of bodyweight dissolved in 10 L of warm tap water givenas a ruminal drench. After this treatment, the heifers were not fed until the last sample was collected on D5. Subsequent samplings were collected after 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 40 and 48 hours (T8–T48) of each cow. Samples of follicular fluid obtained by transvaginal follicular aspiration (TVFA) and peripheral blood obtained by indwelling jugular catheters were examined for biochemical parameters: urea, glucose (Glu), non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA), β-hydroxybutyrate (BHB), sodium (Na), phosphorus (P) and magnesium (Mg).

During the experiment, changes in acid-base balance variables in blood were determinated to monitor acute metabolic acidosis development. Values of pH reached the minimum 16 h after sucrose treatment (ST) — 7.30. The lowest values of HCO_3^- were observed 24 hours after ST (18.75 mmol/l) as well as the lowest values of BE (–6.61 mmol/l).

Statistically significant decrease (T0 vs. time after ST) were recorded in ureaconcentration (5.09 vs. 2.33 mmol/l), NEFA (0.90 vs. 0.17 mmol/l), BHB (0.3 vs.0.08 mmol/l), Mg (1.00 vs. 0.78 mmol/l) and statistically significant increase in P concentration (2.20 vs. 3.18 mmol/l) in blood. Statistically significant decrease were recorded in ureaconcentration (4.57 vs. 1.99 mmol/l), BHB (0.40 vs. 0.07 mmol/l) and statistically significant increase in glucose (4.19 vs. 6.64 mmol/l), Na (141.5 vs. 165.0 mmol/l), P (2.74 vs. 3.45 mmol/l) in FF.

Ruminal and subsequent metabolic acidosis significantly influenced evaluated blood parameters. The composition of follicular fluid reflected changes of blood composition. We supposed that the affection of follicular fluid by metabolic acidosis can impair fertility in dairy cows.

Keywords: FOLLICULAR FLUID, RUMINAL ACIDOSIS, HEIFER, TRANSVAGINAL ASPIRATION

DEVELOPMENT OF SERUM VITAMIN E, A AND β-CAROTENE LEVELS IN HEIFER CALVES DURING THE FIRST 8 WEEKS OF LIFE

R. Kadek[1], *I. Tejnil*[1], *K. Mikulková*[1], *J. Filípek*[1], *J. Illek*[1], *D. Kumprechtová*[2]
kadekr@vfu.cz

[1]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Brno, Czech Republic
[2]Institute of Animal Science, Prague, Czech Republic

The aim of the study was to determine the development of vitamin E, A and β-carotene levels in the serum of Holstein heifer calves during the pre-weaning phase (first 8 weeks of life). Another objective was to evaluate the correlations between serum vitamin levels and live weight in the heifer calves.

Serum vitamin E, A and β-carotene levels were measured in 11 Holstein heifer calves. The calves were included in the study in their first week of life. All the calves received 2 litres of colostrum within 2 hours from birth. Another 2L of colostrum were fed within 4–6 hours from the first dose of colostrum. Then the calves received milk replacer. Blood sampling and determination of serum vitamin E, A and β-carotene levels were performed weekly, from the week (wk) 1 to wk 8 of the calves' life. Blood was collected from the jugular vein into serum separation tubes. Serum levels of vitamins E, A and β-carotene were measured by HPLC. The calves were weighed after every blood sampling. The data were processed by one-way ANOVA.

Serum levels of vitamin A did not change significantly during the first 8 weeks of life ($P>0.05$). However, significant differences in serum vitamin E levels occurred between the week 1 and wks 3, 7, 8 ($P<0.05$), and between the wk 2 and wk 3 ($P<0.001$), wk 4 ($P<0.01$), wk 5 ($P<0.01$), wk 6 ($P<0.01$), wk 7 ($P<0.001$), and wk 8 ($P<0.001$). Vitamin E serum levels were increasing during the first 8 weeks of life. There were significant differences in serum β-carotene between the wk 2 and wks 5, 6, 7 ($P<0.05$). Significant correlations between serum vitamin A and E levels and live weight were found during the first 8 weeks of life ($P<0.01$). No significant correlations were observed between serum β-carotene levels and live weight ($P>0.05$).

The serum vitamin A levels were suboptimal throughout the pre-weaning phase, whereas the vitamin E levels were within the reference range. This implies that the milk replacer was insufficient in vitamin A, but had an optimal vitamin E content. Positive correlations were found between live weight and serum vitamins A and E during the the first 8 weeks of life. The serum level of β-carotene had no effect on the calves' growth.

Keywords: VITAMIN E, VITAMIN A, β-CAROTENE, HEIFER CALVES

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A TWO-STAGE APPROACH FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE MAP PREVALENCE IN CATTLE HERDS AS PART OF REGIONAL CONTROL PROGRAMS — EXAMPLES AND EXPERIENCES

J. Khol[1], *S. Eisenberg*[2], *I. Noll*[3], *M. Zschöck*[4], *T. Eisenberg*[4], *K. Donat*[5,6]
johannes.khol@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department for Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]Animal Disease Fund Lower Saxony, Hannover, Germany
[3]District Government of Gießen, Germany
[4]Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Hessian State Laboratory (LHL), Gießen, Germany
[5]Thuringian Animal Disease Fund, Institution by Law, Jena, Germany
[6]Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Clinic for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Andrology with Veterinary Ambulance, Gießen, Germany

Paratuberculosis (Johnes disease) is caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP) and leads to substantial economic losses in infected herds. Examples of regional control programs, consisting of the identification of MAP-positive herds followed by voluntary control measures, are presented.

In course of the program for the reduction of the MAP prevalence in Lower Saxony, Germany, dairy farms are obliged to test bulk milk samples for MAP antibodies, followed by testing of individual animals in seropositive farms. Subsequently, farmers can decide to join the accompanying MAP control program. Within the first 11 months of the program 6,035 bulk tank samples were tested, 13 % were MAP-positive and 670 farms joined the MAP control program.

Within the voluntary certification program in Hesse, Germany, the MAP herd status is evaluated using boot swab sampling (PCR and culture). In positive farms, animals are tested by milk or blood ELISA-serology. In case of double positive results, a fecal examination can be performedadditionally. 100 farms participated in the voluntary program until the end of 2018. Of these farms, 60 were MAP-negative and 33 positive, respectively (no status assigned in 7 farms). In participating farms, the mean intra herd prevalence decreased from 7.56 % to 4.06 %.

The program for the abatement of MAP infections in cattle herds in Thuringia, Germany, is based on a yearly fecal examination of all adult cattle within a herd. In 2017, fecal samples from 28,941 animals were tested of which 1.8 % were MAP-positive. Of the 136 participating farms, 64 are MAP-negative and 72 positive, with 39 of the positive farms in the last step of the program before achieving a MAP-unsuspected status.

The biennial survey of the MAP herd status by boot swabs (PCR and culture) is the base of the MAP program in Tyrol, Austria. Positive farms may have their animals tested by fecal sampling and join the MAP control program. In 2016/17 boot swab samples from 4,206 farms were tested with 0.97 % positive farms. In these farms 2,151 fecal samples were collected of which 2.3 % were MAP-positive. Altogether, 131 farms joined the voluntary MAP control program until summer 2018.

The programs presented show, that a two-stage approach consisting of the evaluation of the MAP herd level, followed by the testing of single animals, is generally well accepted by the stakeholders and therefore seems a promising way for the surveillance and control of MAP infections in cattle herds.

Keywords: CATTLE HERDS, JOHNES DISEASE, *MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM* SPP. *PARATUBERCULOSIS*, GERMANY, AUSTRIA

THE EFFECT OF LAMENESS ON MILK YIELD AND FERTILITY IN AUSTRIAN DAIRY COWS — RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL EFFICIENT COW PROJECT

J. Kofler[1], *J. Burgstaller*[1], *B. Fürst-Waltl*[2], *F. Steininger*[2], *C. Egger-Danner*[3]
Johann.Kofler@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna, Austria
[3]ZuchtData, Vienna, Austria

Lameness is one of the three major factors influencing the profitability and economic stability in modern dairy farming. It is associated with pain and has a clear negative effect on welfare. The objective of this study was to analyze the effect of lameness on milk yield and fertility in Austrian dairy cows within one 305-day lactation period.

Within the scope of the big national "Efficient cow" project data on locomotion scores and lameness episodes, milk production and fertility parameters were- collected from 2013 to 2015 in 5392 Brown-Swiss, Simmental and Holstein cows from 166 dairy herds from all over Austria. All thecows were scored every 60 days during one 305-day lactation period for locomotion (Sprecher method), and were grouped regarding their observed locomotion score and number of lameness observations during the lactation period into five groups (LOC-G 1: never lame; LOC-G 2: only two observations with locomotion (LOC) score 2; LOC-G 3: more than two observations with LOC-score 2 and one LOC-score 3 observation; LOC-G 4: two and more observations of LOC-score 3; LSC-group 5: one or more observations of LOC-score 4 and 5). The impact of lameness on milk yield and selected fertility parameters was calculated by various statistical tests and a mixed ANCOVA-model using various covariates and fixed effects.

The statistical model calculation for all breeds showed significant differences in milk yield and milk protein yield between non-lame and lame cows. Regarding milk yield per 305-day lactation differences between cows of LOC-G 1 and LOC-G 4 (–234 kg) became evident. The milk protein yield per 305-day lactation resulted in significant differences in cows of LOC-G 1and 2 compared to LOC-G 4 (–13 kg) for all breeds and for Holstein cows (–23 kg) respectively.

In regard of the fertility parameters evaluated (calving to conception interval, time from the first to the successful insemination, calving interval) between never lame cows (LOC-G 1) of all the 3 breeds and the other lameness groups were particularly statistically significant for each breed.

The mean calving interval for cows of LOC-G 3, LOC-G 4 and LOC-G 5 of all breeds was significantly longer compared to never lame cows. The mean calving interval for never lame Holstein cows was 392.5 days compared to 425.3 and 429.0 days for LOC-G 5 and LOC-G 4 respectively. The mean calving to conception interval, the mean calving interval were significantly lower in never lame cows within the first 100 DIM compared to cows with lameness during the first 100 DIM. First service conception rate was assessed to be the highest for never lame cows (50 %), the poorest results with 35.4 % were observed for cows of LOC-G 4 ($P<0.05$).

This was the first study of the impact of lameness in dairy cows on milk yield and selected fertility parameters in Austria. The results indicated that the milk yield and even fertility parameters were significantly negatively influenced in cows being moderately and severely lame on repeated observation dates compared to never lame cows.

Keywords: LAMENESS, CLAW LESIONS, MILK PRODUCTION, FERTILITY PARAMETERS, COW

LIMB FRACTURES IN 98 CATTLE — TREATMENT AND OUTCOME

J. Kofler[1], *K. Schieder*[2], *B. Vidoni*[3], *R. Steiner*[1]
Johann.Kofler@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]Clinic for Diagnostic Imaging, Vienna, Austria
[3]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Surgery, Department of Small Animals and Horses, Clinic for Small Animals, Vienna, Austria

Food animals are excellent orthopedic patients due to their quiet temperament, their long lying periods, their excellent bone healing potentialand their good acceptance of external coaptation devices on their limbs. The objective of this study was to evaluate the records of 98 bovine patients treated due to limb fractures during a 17-years period.

The records of 98 bovine patients of our clinic suffering from limb fractures were analyzed retrospectively regarding the species, breed, and age of the animals, age, localization and type of fracture, the applied treatment method, and the final outcome.

Of a total of 98 cattle of different breeds, 33 were male and 65 were female. They had a mean age of 281.4 days (±403.9), and 33.7 % of them were only some hours to up to 26 days old. 58.9 % of fractures were located at the rear and 41.9 % at the front limbs. Fractures of the metatarsus (23.4 %) and metacarpus (29.2 %) were most common, with lower fracture incidence of the tibia (15.9%) and femur (14%). 59 patients with fracture were treated by external coaptation (cast, PVC-splints), 9 surgically by internal fixation, and in 29 cattle no treatment at all was performed due to poor prognosis.

A success rate of 83.6 % could be revealed by conservative and of 66.7 % by surgical treatment respectively. The conservative treatment in one calf failed, and therefore subsequently a surgical treatment was applied with good final outcome. In total, 38 cattle experienced complications, which were mild in cattle treated conservatively and all of them healed successfully. However, 8 of 9 surgically treated patients developed complications, resulting in euthanasia of 3 of them. The other 5 patients had a satisfactory final outcome. Statistical analysis revealed no significant correlation between the age of fracture and success rate. However, a logistic regression analysis showed that each day of treatment delay in a fracture patient led to a negative drift of 3.8 % for the success rate.

This retrospective study showed that conservative treatment of long bone fractures in cattle was associated with a significantly higher success rate of 83.6 % then surgery with 66.7 %. Similar success rates for fracture treatment in bovines were reported by others. This favorable success ratefor treatment of limb fractures in young and adult cattle should encourage to apply conservative treatment in particular in metacarpal, metatarsal, phalangeal fractureseven in practice. In contrast, for proximal bovine limb fractures, internal fixation is the applied method of choice. In any case, an adequate and professional emergency management of limb fractures, a correct decision to apply conservative or surgical treatment, and an adequate treatment at an early stage of fracture occurrence improve the likelihood for a successful final outcome.

Keywords: LONG BONE FRACTURE, TREATMENT, EXTERNAL COAPTATION, FRACTURE SURGERY, CATTLE

BACTERIOLOGICAL STUDIES FOR CHARACTERIZING INFECTIOUS SITUATIONS AT THE CLAWS OF DAIRY CATTLE

T. Kuehn[1], *M. Riedel*[1], *A. Cerna*[1], *F. Ebert*[1], *P. Hufe*[2], *A. Starke*[1]
alexander.starke@uni-leipzig.de

[1]University of Leipzig, Veterinary Faculty,
Clinic for Ruminants and Swine, Leipzig, Germany
[2]Care Lab GmbH & Co. KG, Leipzig, Germany

Polybacterial skin infections of the bovine foot are the most common causes of lameness on dairy farms worldwide. Primary and complicated secondary infections at the distal limb like *Dermatitis digitalis*, interdigital phlegmons, septic arthritis, and claw horn disruption lesions are the important lameness causing foot lesions. Their etiology is multifactorial, but infectious processes are implicated in disease pathogenesis. It may be that mostly they are opportunistic pathogens infecting pre-existing lesions and are not solely responsible for lesion initiation. The cultivation methods are imperfect and show often random results only, similar to an ice peak phenomenon.

But at least, a correct recognition is an important requirement for a treatment decision including antimicrobial resistance testing. In addition to the Spirochetes associated with Digital dermatitis, *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and several other bacteria such as *Bacteroides* spp., *Dichelobacter nodosus*, *Porphyromonas levii* and *Trueperella pyogenes* have been suggested to play a role in the pathogenesis. Nevertheless, most of that research was done long ago and, for example, the taxonomical changes since then make interpretation of the results challenging.

We have carried out microbiological studies on the pathogen involvement in sole ulcers as well as phlegmonous inflammations as a model case for other local infections. Especially the use of MALDI-TOF MS facilitates the differentiation considerably, but also shows the wide variety of the microbiome, especially in superficial infections. In comparison to earlier studies, species such as *Helcococcus kunzii*, which is thought to have pathogenic potential, could also be identified.

For the future, comparative investigations between bacteriological investigation and molecular biological diagnostics are to be considered.

Keywords: DAIRY CATTLE, CLAWS, *DERMATITIS DIGITALIS*

HAPTOGLOBIN AND SERUM AMYLOID IN SERUM OF DAIRY COWS WITH CLINICAL AND SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS

D. Kumprechtová[1], *J. Illek*[2], *K. Mikulková*[2], *I. Šimková*[2], *Z. Bezděková*[2], *R. Kadek*[2]
dana.kumprechtova@gmail.com

[1]Institute of Animal Science, Prague, Czech Republic
[2]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno,
Large Animal Clinical Laboratory, Brno, Czech Republic

The aim of the study was to compare serum levels of acute phase proteins (haptoglobin and serum amyloid A) between healthy dairy cows and those with subclinical or clinical mastitis at 3 weeks *post-partum* under field conditions. Also the relationship between milk somatic cell count (SCC) and hematological parameters was evaluated.

The study included 107 Holstein-cross, primi- and multiparous dairy cows from a 600 head herd. The cows with clinical metritis and lamenes were excluded. The cows were evaluated for clinical signs of mastitis at the milking parlour. Milk SCC was measured at 7 and 21 days postpartum. Blood samples were collected at 1 week prepartum (T1) and 21 days postpartum (T2) from the coccygeal vein into serum separation tubes. Serum was frozen at –20 °C. Serum haptoglobin was analyzed by colorimetry (*Konelab 20XT*), SAA by *Sandwich ELISA* (*BIOTEK Instruments Inc.*, USA). Hematology was performed with the analyser *BC-2800 Vet* (*Mindray*, China). Based on milk SCC values at 21 days postpartum, the cows were divided into 4 groups: group 1 — healthy cows, 0–100 thous. cells/mL (n=70); group 2 — SCC 101–200 thous. cells/mL (n=9); group 3 — SCC 201–800 thous. cells/mL (n=10); group 4 — high SCC and clinical cases, SCC >801 thous. cells/mL (n=18). Differences between the groups in serum SAA, haptoglobin levels, hematological parameters (white blood cells, lymphocytes, monocytes, granulocytes, etc.) and leucogram (band cells) were evaluated. The data were processed by one-way non-parametric ANOVA.

At T1 serum levels of SAA and haptoglobin were generally low. An increase in serum SAA and haptoglobin between T1 and T2 was statistically significant only for the clinical mastitis group 4 ($P<0.001$), averaging 0.483 mg/L and 0.998 mg/mL at T2, respectively. For the healthy group 1, no increase between T1 and T2 was noted. At T2, serum levels of SAA and haptoglobin were significantly higher in group 4 than in the other groups ($P<0.01$), exceeding markedly the reference haptoglobin values reported for healthy cows. Also the haptoglobin level was significantly higher in group 3 than in group 1 at T2. The healthy group 1 had average SAA and haptoglobin levels at T2 of 0.097 and 0.117 mg/mL, respectively. SAA and haptoglobin were highly correlated in groups 4 and 3 at T2 ($r=0.61$ and 0.79, resp., $P<0.001$). No significant differences in hematological parameters and band cell percentages were found between the groups.

Clinical mastitis/high SCC significantly increased serum haptoglobin and SAA as compared both with the healthy udder cows (SCC <100 thous.) and the cows with elevated SCC (200–800 thous.). We did not find any differences in serum SAA between the healthy udder cows (SCC <100 thous.) and the cows with elevated SCC (200–800 thous.), whereas serum haptoglobin was significantly increased with elevated SCC. Hematological parameters and leucogram were not significantly influenced by increasing milk somatic cell counts, not even by clinical mastitis.

Keywords: COWS, MASTITIS, MILK SOMATIC CELLS, ACUTE PHASE PROTEINS

DOT BLOTTING ANALYSIS AS A WAY OF CELLULAR PRION TOTAL LEVEL DETERMINING

M. V. Kushkevych, V. V. Vlizlo
M_Kushkevych@ukr.net

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies are fatal diseases caused by pathogens of protein nature — prions. Scrapie is diagnosed in sheep and goats and bovine spongiform encephalopathy is diagnosed in cattle. These diseases have a long period of incubation which is required for the replication and accumulation of the pathogen protein. The cellular prion (PrP^C) is a membrane protein of normal cells and it is involved in important processes. But under conditions of neurodegeneration PrP^C becomes a substrate for the formation of abnormal pathological prion. The study of cellular prion level in different tissues is an important for understanding the mechanism of neurodegeneration. The aim of study was the determination of the PrP^C total level in spleen, jejunum, liver, kidneys, muscle and brain of laboratory rats.

Research was carried out using the six months males of laboratory rats *Rattus norvegicus var. alba*, *Wistar* line. The animals were decapitated and the tissues were selected. The dot blotting analysis of tissues was carried out. For that, the tissue was homogenized and lysed in a special buffer with the addition of 0.001 % mixture of proteinase inhibitors (*Sigma*, Germany) as well as centrifuged. The protein level was measured by Lowry method.

The samples with the same concentration of the protein were deposited on polyvinyl diftorid (PVDF) membrane (*Millipor*, USA). The monoclonal primary antibodies (Antibody mAB6H4; *Prionics*, Switzerland) and secondary polyclonal goat anti-mouse antibodies, which are conjugated with alkaline phosphatase (*Sigma*, Germany), were used too. Detection of the immune complexes was carried out using a substrate for alkaline phosphatase CDP-Star (*Tropix*, UK). Visualization was performed using X-ray film *Retina XBM* (*Lizoform Medical*, Ukraine) and film development kit for films (*Kodak*, Japan) (Vlizlo V. V., 2012). The cellular prion total level was 100 % in jejunum, 97.41 % in medulla oblongata, 91.72 % in spleen, 52.63 % in cerebellum, 40.71 % in liver, 29.84 % in kidneys and 17.14 % in femoral muscle.

Prion pathologies arise mainly as a result of oral infection, while eating affected meat products or feed, as evidenced in experiments on monkeys (Verbitsky P. I., 2005). So the highest PrP^C level in jejunum cells contributes to prionopathy. In experimental mice pathological prion was found in the spleen and lymph nodes on 5–13th week after injection, in the spinal cord on 13–17th week, and in the cerebrum on 17–19th week. Pathological changes in the brain appeared on the 25th week, and the clinical symptoms of encephalopathy appeared from 34th week. Pathological changes were observed only in the brain (Yuan J. et al., 2010).

Obviously, due to the cellular prion expressing spleen is the organ of prion replication. Neurons and glial cells express high level of PrP^C too so they are very sensitive to abnormal prion lesions. This may explain a considerable degradation of neurons during prionopathies. Total PrP^C level in other investigated tissues is lower but the infection spared depends on the PrP^C production in this tissues.

The cellular prion is revealed in spleen, jejunum, liver, kidneys, muscle and brain of laboratory rats by dot blotting analysis. This confirms that PrP^C is playing an important physiological function and investigated tissues are potentially dangerous because express cellular prion which is a precursor of pathological prion. The infection spared depends on the production of PrP^C in the tissues.

Keywords: RATS, DOT BLOTTING ANALYSIS, CELLULAR PRION, TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATIES

FORMATION OF MILK PRODUCTION OF BLACK-AND-WHITE CATTLE IN THE WESTERN REGION OF UKRAINE

M. I. Kuziv, E. I. Fedorovych, N. M. Kuziv
kuzivmarkiyan@ukr.net

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

The main aim was to investigate the formation of milk productivity of black-and-white cattle.

Studies conducted on black-and-white cattle in the "Milk River" farm in the Sokal and Brody offices breeding reproducers "Breeder" Lviv region and plant breeding "Yamnytsya" Ivano-Frankivsk region. Milk productivity was studied using zootechnical materials accounting. The force of influence on performance metrics was calculated by Single-factor disperse analysis method. The results of research were treated by variation statistics.

Black-and-white cattle in the western region of Ukraine are characterized by high milk productivity throughout all studied lactation. In the firstborn, depending on the farm, milk productivity was from 4592 to 6032 kg, the fat content in milk — from 3.73 to 3.86 %. The milk productivity of the cows increased to the 3rd–4th lactation, and then gradually decreases. In experimental farms there were 2.3 to 14.7 % of cows with milk productivity during better lactation of 8000 kg and more. The coefficients of the variability were 13.3–27.4; the fat content in milk was 3.1–6.4, milk fat — 13.8–26.9 %, the coefficient of repeatability of milk productivity — 0.404–0.753, the fat content in milk — 0.242–0.781, the relative variability and the content of fat in milk — 0.282–0.254.

The formation of milk productivity of the cows was influenced by the intensity of their weight and linear growth during the period of growth, as well as the live weight after the 1st, 2nd and 3rd calving and the size of the body of the cows after first calving. The correlative variability of the live weight of animals during the period of growth and feeding was 0.018–0.604, the body measurements during the period of cultivation and fertilization — 0.170–0.458, live weight after the 1st, 2nd and 3rd palates, and infusion — 0.413–0.551, the body measurements of the foetuses and infusion — 0.297–0.478. The most significant impact on the future dairy productivity of the cows was made by their live weight at the age of 18 months and after the first calving, high-altitude measures, the circumference of the chest on the shoulder blades, and the skid length of the trunk, and the smallest — the live weight at birth and the circumference of the heel.

The influence of the lines on yield of milk, depending of the farm and lactation, was 9.6–39.0, the fat content of milk — 2.9–32.2 and the yield of milk fat — 9.7–38.8 %, the strength father's influence — 6.9–49.3; 7.4–68.4 and 6.8–51.0 % respectively. The coefficients of inheritance on the path along the "mother-daughter", depending of the farm and lactation, were within 0.034–0.618, fatty milk — within 0.032–0.762.

A black-and-white cattle in the western region of Ukraine is characterized by high milk productivity. The formation of milk productivity of the cows was influenced by the intensity of their weight and linear growth during the period of growth, as well as the live weight after the first, second and third calving and the size of the body of the cows after first calving. Significant influence on the milk productivity of cows was caused by their linear affiliation and parentage.

Keywords: BLACK-WHITE CATTLE, MILK PRODUCTIVITY, CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS, INHERITANCE AND REPEATABILITY, POWER OF INFLUENCE

SUPEROXIDE DISMUTASE ISOFORMS IN TISSUES OF REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS IN BULLS

N. Kuzmina, D. Ostapiv
inenbiol@mail.lviv.ua

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

The content of AFO is optimally supported by the antioxidant system. In it superoxide dismutase (SOD) plays the key role. In the reproductive organs of males the enzyme exists in three genetically predisposed forms — mitochondrial, cytosolic and extracellular. Therefore, it is important not only to state the changes in the activity of SOD, but also the redistribution of enzyme isoforms, when studying spermiogenesis and after ejaculation.

The aim is to investigate the content of SOD isoforms in the tissues of the reproductive system of the bulls.

Tissues of the testicles and epididymis, which were taken after the slaughter of the bulls (n=5) were used. Epididymium spermatozoa were washed with 0.9 % NaCl solution. Tissues were homogenized at 4 °C in 0.25M sucrose at 6000 rpm within 2 minutes. Homogenate was centrifuged for 15 min at 8000 rpm, supernatant was taken for study of enzyme isoforms. SOD isoforms were detected after electrophoresis in 10 % polyacrylamide gel by staining gel plates using Beauchamp and Fridovich method in our modification. Content of isozymes was calculated using *TotalLab TL120* program.

Five isoforms of SOD were detected in testicle tissues, epididymis and in spermatozoa. In testicle tissue isoform distribution was: 2.4–2.8 % S1 and S2 isoforms, 23.6–24.6 % S3 and S5, and 46.6±0.9 % S4 isoforms. In epididymis head 10.4±0.4 and 58.3±1.7 %, correspondingly, S1 and S4 isoforms, on 3.3 % and 12.6 % ($P < 0.001$) lower in body and 5.6±0.6 and 43.2±0.6 % in tail. Content S3 and S5 isoforms in epididymis head, respectively, 12.4±3.5 and 6.2±1.3 %, in body — 1.2 and 15.1 % ($P < 0.001$) higher and in tail — 17.0±0.2 and 22.2±2.6 %. The content of S2 isoform in epididymis head was 12.6±0.3% and remains at same level in tissues of body and tail.

Content of SOD isoforms in epididymal sperm depends on localization in morphological parts of the epididymis. S1 isoform content in spermatozoa of epididymis head was 18.4±1.5 %, increased to 29.1±3.0 % in spermatozoa from body and tail. S2 isoform content in spermatozoa with change in morphological part: head → body → tail of epididymis increases from 19.6±1.6% to 6.7 and 14.7 % ($P < 0.05$), respectively. S3 isoform content was high (14.7±1.6 %) in body of epididymis, lower by 5.1 % in tail and the lowest (4.5±0.6 %) in head. S4 isoform content in spermatozoa is reduced with a change in part of epididymis: head → body → tail with 52.3±5.6 %, 29.5 % ($P<0.001$) and 30.5 % ($P<0.01$), respectively. S5 isoform content was low (5.2–5.9%) in sperm from head and tail and on 1.9 % higher in epididymis body.

There are 5 isoforms of SOD in tissues of testicles and epididymis and in spermatozoa. In tissues of bull testicles, activity of SOD is mainly realized by S3, S4 and S5 isoforms, in epididysis by S2, S3, S4 and S5, and in sperm from epididymis: heads — S1, S2 and S5, bodies — S1, S2, S3 and S4 and in tails S1, S2 and S4.

Keywords: SUPEROXIDE DISMUTASE, ISOFORMS, REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS, SPERMATOZOA, BULLS, ELECTROPHORESIS

OCCURRENCE OF SELECTED CALF DIARRHEA AGENTS IN AUSTRIA

K. Lichtmannsperger[1], *B. Hinney*[2], *T. Wittek*[1], *A. Joachim*[2]
Katharina.Lichtmannsperger@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department for Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Institute of Parasitology, Department of Pathobiology, Vienna, Austria

Calf diarrhea is one the most important diseases affecting calves worldwide. The high morbidity and mortality of the disease leads to tremendous production losses. Aim of this study was to determine the occurrence of selected viral, bacterial and parasitic causes of calf diarrhea on Austrian farms and to validate commercially available rapid tests for the detection of calf diarrhea agents.

Farm animal veterinarians and farmers from all over Austria were contacted directly (e-mail, telephone, congresses) and asked to participate. Calves less than six months of age with diarrhea were included in the survey which was carried out from November 2017 to June 2018. At the farm a personal interview was conducted, fecal samples were collected *per rectum* and clinical examination was performed on all included calves. Four different immunochromatographic rapid tests (A-D) for the detection of *Giardia intestinalis*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *E. coli* (F5), Rotavirus and Coronavirus were performed on-site on individual samples. At the university parasitological examination for *Giardia* spp. (immunofluorescence microscopy), *Cryptosporidium* spp. (phase-contrast microscopy) and *Eimeria* spp. (light microscopy, Mc-Master technique) was performed by one of the authors (KL). For virological and bacteriological examination samples were sent to the appropriate laboratories at the university where the fecal samples were screened for bovine Coronavirus, bovine Rotavirus A, *E. Coli* (F5, F41), *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. perfringes* (a, Pi, p_2).

In total 177 samples from calves with diarrhea originating from 70 farms were collected and completely analyzed. Bacteriological examination of the 177 (100 %) samples yielded positive results for *C. jejuni* (8.5 %), *E. coli* (98.3 %), *C. perfringens* (29.9 %) and *Salmonella* spp. (1.1 %). *Eimeria* spp., *Giardia* spp. and *Cryptosporidium* spp. were found in 15.3 %, 27.1 % and 55.4 %, respectively. Virological examination showed 33.9 % and 23.7 % of the analyzed samples positive for bovine Coronavirus and bovine Rotavirus A, respectively. Rapid test A was positive for Rotavirus (25.4 %), Coronavirus (3.4 %), *E. coli* (1.7 %) and *C. parvum* (36.7 %). Rapid test B, C and D were positive for *Giardia intestinalis* (9.0 %), *C. parvum* (46.9 %) and *C. perfringens* (31.1 %).

Results confirm the widespread occurrence of the selected calf diarrhea agents on Austrian farms and that there are great differences in sensitivity and specificity of rapid tests for the detection of calf diarrhea agents.

Keywords: ENTEROPATHOGENS, PREVALENCE, DIAGNOSTICS, RAPID TESTS

DISTRIBUTION AND CLINICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL STATUS OF D-HYPOVITAMINOSIS IN CALVES OF BLACK-AND-WHITE BREED IN WINTER-STALL PERIOD

I. Ligomina[1], V. Fasola[2], V. Sokolyuk[1], S. Furman[1], D. Lisogurskaya[1]
ligominairina@ukr.net

[1]Zhytomyr National Agroecological University, Zhytomyr, Ukraine
[2]Private Veterinary Clinic "Chance", Zhytomyr, Ukraine

Many scientific papers, which comprehensively covered violations of D-vitamin and phosphorus-calcium metabolism devoted to pathology of metabolism in young cattle. A characteristic feature of most of these diseases is that they are mostly hidden the stage of flow at which the developing pathobiochemical disorders, back even to the stage of pathognomonic symptoms. Among the latter, D-hypovitaminosis is particularly common. It is characterized by a violation of the formation of bone tissue and its calcification with the following functional changes in the nervous, cardiovascular, digestive and respiratory systems. In addition to the lack of vitamin D, other hypovitaminosis — A, B_1, C, as well as zinc deficiency, manganese, copper and cobalt contribute to the development of this pathology. Also, one of the important reasons is a deficiency or violation of the optimal ratio of Calcium and Phosphorus. It was found that it should be in the diet of ruminants 1.5–2:1. The diagnosis of the disease at this stage can be made only by special, including laboratory methods of investigation.

When performing the work, general clinical and laboratory methods were used. The state of mineral metabolism in calves was determined by the serum content of total calcium (arsenazo-III reagent), inorganic phosphorus (by the method of UV detection of phosphomolibdate complex), and the activity of alkaline phosphatase (by the method of Wagner, Putilin and Kharabuga).

The distribution of D hypovitaminosis among calves 1-3 months of age was examined using clinical and laboratory methods, in OOO "Mojari" (Mogari village, Ovruch district, Zhytomyr region). The course of pathology in calves had two forms: subclinical and clinically expressed, which was much less common. During the clinical study, changes typical for D-hypovitaminosis were noted. Clinical symptoms of the disease were diagnosed in 53 calves (35.6 %), and subclinical course was noted in 97 animals (64.6 %).

The analysis of the content, feeding and the results of blood studies suggest that the main etiological factors of D-hypovitaminosis in calves is insufficient insolation with non-motorized content, low availability of their main nutrients and biologically active substances, namely feeding animals with insufficient intake of vitamin D_2 with feed (hay, haylage, silage, straw), excess Calcium and deficiency or excess Phosphorus. The imbalance of phosphorus-calcium nutrition is complicated by a pronounced deficiency of vitamin D_2 (65.4–89.5 %), deficiency of trace elements — Cobalt, Cuprum, Zinc, the provision of which was, respectively, 65.7, 71.3, and 81.4 % of the need. This imbalance of minerals in the objects of the environment is the cause of specific diseases in animals, including D-hypovitaminosis. Subclinical course of D-hypovitaminosis in calves was not expressed. Under these conditions, the most characteristic symptoms of the clinical course of the disease were characterized by softening and partial resorption of the last rib, pain of the backbone, thickening of the joints, curvature of the limbs (X-shaped formulation of the forelimbs), and resorption of the last tail vertebrae within 10 cm of the distal parts of the tail. The imbalance of minerals in the feed included in the diet of calves had a significant impact on the blood counts of calves. Significant violations of the clinical status in young cattle for subclinical and clinically expressed course of D-hypovitaminosis are confirmed by the results of biochemical blood tests: hypocalcemia, respectively, in 80 % of the diseased young animals — 2.05±0.05 mmol/l, hypophosphatemia — 20 % 1.65±0.04 mmol/l, is likely to increase the activity of alkaline phosphatase ($P<0.001$). The activity of total alkaline phosphatase for D-hypovitaminosis increases by 1.6 times, indicating a violation of the mineralization of bone tissue.

D-hypovitaminosis was registered in winter-spring period. The main causes of D-hypovitaminosis in calves 1–3 months of age are: low supply of vitamins D_2 and D_3, Cobalt, Copper and Zinc, excessive Calcium, high calcium-phosphorus ratio (2.6–4.3:1 against 1.5–2.0:1). Characteristic symptoms of D-hypovitaminosis in 1–3-month-old calves is softening and partial resorption of the last rib, pain of the backbone, thickening of the joints, curvature of the limbs, resorption of the last tail vertebrae.

Keywords: CALVES, TOTAL CALCIUM, INORGANIC PHOSPHORUS, D-HYPOVITAMINOSIS

DIGITAL AMPUTATION FOLLOWED BY SCREW FIXATION OF THE SUBSEQUENT PROXIMAL PHALANX LUXATION IN AN ALPACA STALLION

B. Linsbichler[1], *J. Kofler*[2], *T. Licka*[3,4]
bernadette.linsbichler@zoetis.com

[1]Zoetis Austria GmbH, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[3]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Horses & Small Animals, University Clinic for Horses, Vienna, Austria
[4]University of Edinburgh, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Digital amputation is the most commonly applied treatment for severe deep digital sepsis involving the distal and proximal phalanges in cattle. To our knowledge there are no previous publications reporting digital amputation and its sequelae in new world camelids. This case report describes the digital amputation through the proximal phalanx (P1) for treatment of septic arthritis of the proximal interphalangeal joint (PIJ) in an alpaca stallion, and the treatment of subsequent luxation of P1 using internal fixation.

A 4-year-old alpaca stallion was presented with severe lameness (3/5 in walk) and an infected, 10×5 cm sized wound on the abaxial aspect of the medial digit of the left front limb reaching from the PIJ to the distal interphalangeal joint. During cleaning maggots, necrotic tissue and fibrin were flushed out. At first, wound debridement, curettage, administration of antibiotics, NSAIDs, and bandage changes every other day was applied. However, after initial improvement and after termination of administration of antibiotics and NSAIDs, lameness re-appeared and a fistula developed. Radiographs showed an axial subluxation of P2 and gas inclusions in the region of PIJ, leading to the diagnosis of septic arthritis of the PIJ in combination with subluxation. Under general anaesthesia, the wound was diligently debrided and the joint flushed. The leg was stabilized with a half limb cast. The fistula healed and the alpaca was discharged showing a mild lameness in walk (1/5) only.

After four weeks of repeated bandage changes and wound management the fistula recurred and instability of the joint was palpated. Radiographs revealed a complete axial luxation of P2 and diffuse areas of radiolucency indicating osteomyelitis of P2 and the distal part of P1. Under general anaesthesia, an amputation through the distal aspect of P1 was performed and the amputation wound was closed with sutures. The wound healed by first intention and the alpaca was free of lameness in walk, pace and gallop for 5 years.

In 2018, the stallion was presented with severe, sudden onset lameness (4/5) of the left front limb in walk. A painful swelling was identified at the lateral aspect of the fetlock joint. Radiographs showed abaxial luxation of P1. Under general anaesthesia, the luxation was treated by internal fixation of the displaced lateral P1 to the remnant of the medial P1 using a cancellous bone screw inserted at their proximal aspects, and by a Robert Jones bandage. After four weeks of box rest the stallion was discharged from the hospital, and after eight additional weeks of box rest with gradual increase of controlled exercise and bandaging, the stallion showed no lameness in walk and pace.

After searching in all available databases (MED-LINE/PubMed, Google etc.), it seems that this is the first report describing digital amputation and its sequelae in an alpaca. Thus initial screw fixation of the remaining P1 at the time of digital amputation is an interesting possibility for future investigations. Despite the worry that alpacas as tylopoda might have problems when walking on one digit, the final, successful outcome is encouraging.

Keywords: ALPACA STALLION, DIGITAL AMPUTATION, LAMENESS

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF BEEF IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MARKET

V. Lyasota[1], N. Bukalova[1], N. Bogatko[1], T. Prilipko[2]
lyasota777@gmail.com

[1]National Agrarian University, Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, Ukraine
[2]Podillya State Agrarian and Technical University,
Kamyanets-Podilsky, Khmelnytsky region, Ukraine

Beef samples of *NOR* and *PSE* obtained from cattle carcasses from different enterprises of the Kyiv region on the agro-industrial markets of Bila Tserkva (no. 1, no. 2 and Indoor market), improvement and development of express methods for the determination of beef of NOR quality and PSE.

Organoleptic, biochemical, physico-chemical, microscopic, microbiological, morphological, biometric (GOST 7269–79 and GOST 23392–2016).

Beef produced from quality beef *NOR* was registered at 85.2 %, quality of *PSE* — 11.4 %, *DFD* — 19.6 %. Sufficiently often (31.0 %) is found beef, which requires special treatment to improve its quality. The pH of beef quality *of PSE, DFD* in one hour after the slaughter of cattle was 5.11±0.14 and 6.21±0.17, respectively, in comparison with the NOR quality (6.02±0.12). PSE and DFD had worse organoleptic characteristics, lower biological value compared to NOR beef. The relative biological value of beef PSE was, on average, 67.3 %, and beef DFD — 62.4 %. The water content of PSE beef was 1.07 times higher than that of NOR beef and 1.2 times less in DFD beef. The content of dry matter was the lowest in beef quality of PSE — 20.14 %, which is 21.2 % lower, compared to beef NOR values. The content of ash in beef of all categories of quality ranged from 1.03 to 1.19 %. The protein content was the highest in DFD quality beef, which is 1.5 times more than NOR quality beef. The fat content was the lowest in PSE quality beef, which is 0.7 times less than that of NOR quality beef. The beekeeping capacity of the beef was the lowest quality PSE — 52.27±2.31 %, which is 1.2 times less, and in the beef quality DFD — 0.7 times more than in the quality of NOR. The content of glycogen was lowest in beef-grade DFD — 127.65 mg%, which is 54.9 % less, and in beef quality PSE — lower by 7.13 %, compared to NOR indicators. The content of lactic acid was the largest in beef PSE quality — 1.23 times, and in beef quality DFD — 3.4 times less, compared with NOR indicators. The content of glucose was higher in beef-quality PSE — 1.3 times, and in DFD — 1.6 times less, compared to NOR indicators of quality. The content of tryptophan in the beef quality of PSE and DFD was less than 1.08–1.05 times compared to NOR beef quality. The content of oxyproline in beef PSE and DFD was greater by 1.05–1.1 times compared to NOR beef. The protein-quality index was lower in beef quality PSE. An express photometric method of improving the determination of the total content of pigments in the beef of NOR, PSE, DFD quality, which was 98.3 % probable compared to pH. The established optical density indicators for the total content of pigments in beef of NOR quality range: 8.43–10.17 B, PSE 1.68–2.41 B and DFD 16.22–18.89 B.

For the determination of NOR, PSE, DFD quality beef, in addition to the existing complex of organoleptic, biochemical studies, it is necessary to use morphological and photometric methods to determine the total content of pigments and color intensity applied for under no. 03329, u 2007 03330 on the issuance of Ukraine's Declarative Patents for invention.

Keywords: BEEF, QUALITY NOR, PSE, DFD, RESEARCH COMPLEX, PIGMENT CONTENT AND COLOR INTENSITY

GLUTATHIONE REDOX STATE, GPX ACTIVITY AND SE CONCENTRATION IN DAIRY COWS DURING NEGATIVE ENERGY BALANCE

K. Mikulková, J. Illek, R. Kadek
mikulkovak@vfu.cz

University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Large Animal Clinical Laboratory, Brno, Czech Republic

The aim of research was to evaluate glutathione redox state, GPx activity, Se concentration and also NEFA and BHB concentrations in 15 Holstein dairy cows during negative energy balance.

Blood samples were collected 4 times during this period — 7 days a.p., calving day, 7 days p.p. and 14 days p.p. All of the cows had gone through two or more lactations. The BCS was recorded at every single blood collection of the cows. Serum NEFA and BHB concentrations and whole blood GPx activity were measured using standardized kits supplied by *Randox Laboratories*. Reduced and oxidized glutathione concentrations were measured with a BIOXYTECH GSH/GSSG-412 kit (*Oxis-Research*, USA) using a colorimetric enzymatic method. The selenium concentration in whole blood was analyzed using atomic absorption spectrometry. The data were analyzed statistically by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Fisher LSD *post-hoc* test. The relationship between parameters was evaluated by the correlation coefficient and the significance of correlation using linear regression analysis.

A significantly increased NEFA concentration was recorded on calving day ($P<0.05$) and 7 days p.p. ($P<0.01$) compared to 7 days a.p. An increase in BHB concentration was also observed after parturition in our study, but was not, however, significant ($P>0.05$). The GSH concentration was significantly decreased on calving day and 7 days p.p. ($P<0.05$) as compared to 7 days a.p. The mean GSSG concentration was significantly higher 7 days p.p. as compared to calving day ($P<0.01$) and 14 days p.p. ($P<0.05$). The differences in GSH/GSSG ratio were not, however, significant ($P>0.05$). The significant decrease in GPx activity was found 14 days p.p. as compared to 7 days p.p. ($P<0.05$). No significant differences ($P>0.05$) in Se concentration between individual groups were found. Between the GSSG concentration and the GSH/GSSG ratio a significantly negative ($r = –0.84$; $P<0.001$) correlation was found. A significantly positive correlation was found between the BCS value and the GSSG concentration ($r = 0.44$; $P<0.05$). The BCS value was also negatively correlated to GSH/GSSG ratio ($r = –0.30$) but it was not, however, significant ($P>0.05$).

The results of our study indicate significant changes of antioxidant markers during negative energy balance and also confirm that during the periparturient period oxidative stress occurs in dairy cows. It seems that BCS value correlates to antioxidant markers and could influence the level of oxidant processes in cows during the periparturient period.

Keywords: REDUCED GLUTATHIONE, OXIDIZED GLUTATHIONE, OXIDATIVE STRESS, NEGATIVE ENERGY BALANCE, DAIRY COWS

Acknowledgements. This study was supported by the institutional research fund of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Czech Republic.

EFFECTS OF TETRACYCLINE INJECTION ON BLOOD CALCIUM AND RUMINAL ACTIVITY IN SHEEP

P. Mudroň
pavol.mudron@uvlf.sk

University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, Košice, Slovak Republic

Tetracycline is widely used in the treatment of the foot rot in ruminants. They chelate with Ca^{2+} ions causing a depression of levels of ionised calcium. The objective of the study was to assess effects of tetracycline administration on serum calcium concentrations and the frequency of ruminal contractions.

Rumen contractions were monitored by auscultation in 23 sheep prior to administration of oxytetracycline and recorded every 12 hours for 84 hours after intramuscular injection of the antibiotic. Blood for calcium analyses was collected by venepuncture of the jugular vein before and 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours after administration of oxytetracycline. The serum calcium concentrations were determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometry. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyse the time effect of tetracycline treatment on the rumen contractions and serum calcium concentrations.

There was a significant decrease ($P<0.01$) in ruminal contractions following application of oxytetracycline, with a maximum decrease at 24 hours following oxytetracycline application and a return to the initial rumen contraction frequency by 60–72 hours following oxytetracycline application. The oxytetracycline administration resulted in serum calcium decrease from 2.42 mmol/l to 2.26 mmol/l 24 hours after the administration ($P<0.01$).

In conclusion, the administration of tetracycline in sheep can be associated with a decline in ruminal motility potentially causing production losses, particularly in lactating ewes. Despite the resulting transient production decreases, oxytetracycline remains the antibiotic drug of choice for the treatment of bacterial infections in small ruminants, foot rot especially.

Keywords: SHEEP, TETRACYCLINE, RUMINAL ACTIVITY

HAPTOGLOBIN CONCENTRATIONS IN DAIRY COWS WITH INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

P. Mudroň
pavol.mudron@uvlf.sk

University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, Košice, Slovak Republic

Haptoglobin is an acute phase protein produced primarily in the liver in response to pro-inflammatory cytokines. The objective of this field study was to determine if common inflammatory diseases like mastitis and claw inflammatory disorders are associated with increased serum haptoglobin. Moreover, the sensitivity and specificity of haptoglobin levels were tested.

237 Holstein dairy cows were included in the study; farm feeding management was based on TMR and the dairy cows were housed in free stalls with cubicles. Health condition of mammary gland and claws was examined in the crush. The subclinical mastitis was diagnosed by using California mastitis test. Blood samples were obtained from the jugular vein at the time of the clinical examination and treatment. Serum haptoglobin concentration was measured by colorimetric assay (*Tridelta Development*, Ireland). For statistical analyses the dairy cows were divided into two groups: INFLA (cows with inflammation) and control (no inflammation found). Differences in serum haptoglobin levels were tested by *t*-test. The threshold level of haptoglobin for calculation of sensitivity and specificity was 0.05 g/L.

Clinical mastitis, subclinical mastitis, and inflammatory claw disorders, including digital dermatitis, interdigital dermatitis, pododermatitis, interdigital hyperplasia, and subclinical laminitis were found in 204 dairy cows (INFLA). 33 dairy cows were found to be free of inflammatory changes (control). Cows with inflammation had higher serum haptoglobin than controls (INFLA: 0.21 g/L; control: 0.06 g/L; $P<0.01$). The sensitivity detecting dairy cows with inflammatory disorders by serum haptoglobin levels was 84 %, whereas the specificity in the control group of 33 clinically unsuspicious cows was 68 %.

Results of the study show that the inflammatory disorders in dairy cows are associated with increased concentrations of the serum haptoglobin. However, sensitivity and specificity of the serum haptoglobin are rather low for detection of inflammatory processes in dairy cows. Therefore, a use of serum haptoglobin for monitoring of inflammatory diseases on the dairy farm level can be recommended only with limitation.

Keywords: DAIRY COWS, HAPTOGLOBIN, INFLAMMATION

LINK BETWEEN SOLE ULCER AND SUBCLINICAL LAMINITIS

P. Mudroň
pavol.mudron@uvlf.sk

University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, Košice, Slovak Republic

Subclinical laminitis is a multifactorial syndrome with complex pathophysiology and significant economic impact on dairy industry. One of the effects it has on the welfare of cattle is that it predisposes to the development of other lesions on the foot, predominantly sole ulcers and white line disease. The aim of the study was to investigate if the subclinical laminitis actually predisposes dairy cows to the development of sole ulcer.

The data used in this study were obtained on 220 Holstein Friesian dairy cows during 2 sessions of routine orthopaedic and claw trimming visits (autumn 2016 and spring 2017) as well as within a period between them when lame cows were treated. All of the cows were kept on manure solid bedding and fed TMR. The average milk year yield was 9000 kg. At the first visit the cows with subclinical laminitis were identified (LS group). The occurrence of the sole ulcer was checked at the following visits in all the cows. Statistical analysis was performed by running a chi-squared test to test a difference between sole ulcer incidence in LS and control (healthy) group.

Out of the 220 dairy cows examined during autumn 2016 10 cows were affected by the subclinical laminitis (LS group; 4.55 %). 69 dairy cows were free of claw diseases (control group; 31.4 %). In the following orthopaedic controls the sole ulcer was detected in two cows from the LS group (20 %) and only in one cow in the control group (1.45 %). The difference in incidence of the sole ulcer between both groups was significant ($P<0.05$).

The results of this study indicate that there is an association between subclinical laminitis and prevalence of sole ulcer in dairy cows. Therefore, a dairy farm management should pay more attention to avoid all known risk for subclinical laminitis development on the farm to prevent higher incidence of lameness.

Keywords: COWS, SOLE ULCER, SUBCLINICAL LAMINITIS

CLINICAL TRIAL OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE HERBAL PRESCRIPTION *CHANFUKANG* ON PREVENTION OF CLINICAL ENDOMETRITIS

L. D. Na, D. S. Wang, S. D. Zhang, S. W. Dong, X. H. Wu, Z. T. Yan
yanzuoting@caas.cn

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lanzhou Institute of Husbandry and Pharmaceutical Science, Lanzhou, China

The study was aimed to investigate the effect of traditional Chinese herbal medicine *Chanfukang* on reducing postpartum dairy cow uterine infection.

Primary trial involved 66 animals, group 1 (200 g/day/cow, 22 animals), group 2 (300 g/day/cow, 22 animals) and control one (0 g/day/cow, 22 animals). Powder of *Chanfukang* were added to daily food of the animal in group 1 and group 2, from 1 day before calving and to 6 days after calving, while control group feed with normal TMR food. In the expending experiment, 352 animals from 6 different farms were involved. *Chanfukang* was given to 182 animals with 200 g/cattle/d, the other 170 cows served as control group, received normal TMR food. Related data were collected, including time of expelling fetal membrane; animals suffer retained fetal membrane, days to first estrus, days to first service, the rate of pregnancy on day 85, incidence of clinical endometritis.

The primary trial showed the indexes in group 1 and group 2 were similar, and the incidence of retained fetal membrane, clinical endometritis were much lower than the control group, which indicated that 200 g/cattle/day was sufficient for clinical use. In the expending experiment, morbidity of retained fetal membrane was 7.14 % in *Chanfukang* group compared with 17.06 % in the control group. Days to first estrus and days to first in *Chanfukang* group and control group were 47.68±7.3 and 59.9±8.8 vs. 59.5±12.9 and 68.1±13.3. Rate of pregnancy on day 85 was 87.91 % and 77.06 % in experimental group and control group. And the incidence of clinical endometritis was 8.24 % and 26.47 % in *Chanfukang* group and control group. By using *Chanfukang*, days to first estrus and days to first service were ahead for about 10 days than the control animals.

The Chinese herbal prescription *Chanfukang* was effective in promoting uterine evolution, contribute to reduce the days to first service, increase the pregnancy rate and prevent the animals suffering from clinical endometritis.

Keywords: DAIRY COWS, ENDOMETRITIS, *CHANFUKANG*, PREVENTION

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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF IMMUNOGLOBULIN CONCENTRATION BETWEEN HEALTHY COWS AND ANIMALS WITH CLINICAL ENDOMETRITIS (CE COWS)

L. D. Na, X. H. Wu, D. Shao, D. S. Wang, Z. T. Yan
yanzuoting@caas.cn

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lanzhou Institute of Husbandry and Pharmaceutical Science, Lanzhou, China

The study was designed to investigate the dynamic changes of IgA, IgGs and IgM in serum and uterine secretions of postpartum dairy cows.

Involved animals were limited to these aged from 3 to 8, with similar calving time and without other peripartal diseases. The animals were evaluated by eye view and confirmed *per rectum* on d21, 9 CE cows were enrolled in the evaluation and another 9 healthy animals were served as the control group. Serum samples and uterine secretions were collected on d21, d28, d35 and d42. All samples were kept on ice till laboratory handling or kept at –80 °C freezer. The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was adopted for concentration analysis.

The results showed that:

1) The uterine mucus IgA concentration in healthy animals were consecutively decreases from d21 to d42, while in the CE cows reduced from d28 to d35, but significantly rose from d35 to d42. Serum IgA in healthy animals followed a decreasing manner and in CE cows the changes were fluctuated.

2) Uterine mucus IgGs in CE cows down regulated from d28 to d35, but significantly rose from d35 to d42, while in healthy animals the IgGs rises sharply from d28 to d35 and goes even higher on d42. But the serum IgGs in both healthy and CE cow generally down-regulated and did not changed much from d35 to d42. This significant difference between the serum IgGs and the uterine mucus IgGs concentration indicated an independent immune response of the uterus.

3) The serum IgM in the two groups showed a same decreasing manner, but in the uterine mucus, IgM in the CE cows maintained around 1.5 g/L while in the healthy animals less than 0.5 g/L during the period.

In summary, the uterine mucus IgA, IgG and IgM showed a different changing manner than the serum concentration, which indicated an independent immune response in the uterus environment. In the CE cows, IgGs and IgM plays the major role in defending invasiveness from outside, and the IgGs responded a week earlier than the IgA. The higher concentration of IgM in the uterus might serve as an indicator of CE cows, further studies were required to confirm the theory.

Keywords: DAIRY COWS, CLINICAL ENDOMETRITIS, IMMUNOGLOBULIN CONCENTRATION

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RUMEN HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH-CONCENTRATE FEEDING IN CATTLE: MORE THAN A SIMPLE DROP IN RUMINAL pH

V. Neubauer[1,2], *R. Petri*[1], *E. Humer*[1], *I. Kreger*[1], *Q. Zebeli*[1]
qendrim.zebeli@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine, Institute for Animal Nutrition and Functional Plant Compounds, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Veterinary Medicine, Institute for Milk Hygiene, Vienna, Austria

The intensive feeding of high-yielding milking cows with grain-rich diets causes a drop in ruminal pH and can impact cow health and production with long term consequences, known as subacute ruminal acidosis (SARA). Results from new analytical methods, such as next generation sequencing and gene expression, have shown that feeding high-grain diets is not just a matter of acidosis but of a dysbiosis of the whole rumen ecosystem. We hypothesized that high-concentrate feeding impacts the microbial diversity differently in the rumen digesta compared to the epithelium, shifts fermentation end products, as well as host epithelial metabolism-, and barrier function gene expression.

Eight rumen cannulated Holstein cows were fed a 100 % roughage diet (RD, 1 week), followed by an intermittent 65 %-high-concentrate-diet (HC1 and HC2; 1 and 2 weeks, respectively, interrupted by 1 week roughage only). The feeding protocol was conducted in 2 consecutive runs, with a 3 weeks washout period. Reticular pH was measured continuously; rumen sampling was performed in RD, HC1, and HC2. Ruminal pH, short-chain fatty acids (SCFA), lactate, and ammonia were analysed in the rumen digesta and fluid. Particle-associated rumen microbiota (PaM) and epithelial microbiota (EpM) were analysed using *Illumina MiSeq* sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene, and epithelial gene expression using RT-qPCR to target barrier function-, cellular transport, pH, and metabolism genes. Bioinformatic analysis was performed using *QIIME 1.0*, and statistical analysis using *PROC MIXED of SAS 9.4*.

The drop of reticular pH was more severe in HC1 with 370 min spent <pH 6.0 vs. 164 min <pH 6.0 in HC2. Microbial diversity in PaM decreased the most in HC1 ($P<0.01$), whereas EpM increased in diversity in HC1 and HC2 ($P<0.05$). Distance matrix analysis revealed that PaM in RD clustered more tightly and away from HC samples compared to the EpM. There was a significant decrease of the highest abundant phylum *Firmicutes*, and an increase of *Bacteroidetes*, and *Actinobacteria* in PaM ($P<0.05$), and a decrease of the highest abundant phylum *Proteobacteria* and an increase in *Bacteroidetes* in EpM with HC ($P<0.05$). SCFA shifted with decreasing acetate and increasing propionate in both rumen digesta and fluid ($P<0.01$), lactate increased ($P=0.07$), and ammonia decreased ($P=0.02$) with HC feeding in comparison to RD. Nutrient transport genes such as MCT1 and MCT4, cellular metabolism target BDH1, and barrier function gene CLDN4 were all downregulated in HC1, whereas the barrier function gene DSG1was upregulated in HC1 ($P<0.05$), and cellular pH regulation gene DRA was upregulated in HC2 ($P<0.05$).

In our study HC1 had greater impact on reticular pH and PaM, suggesting that the microbiota that are located in the rumen digesta are more susceptible to all types of nutritive changes. Most targeted genes showed either a significant or numeric decrease in HC1, with recovered levels in HC2, speaking for an adaptation in HC2. EpM also stabilized in HC2, but was generally less impacted by high-concentrate feeding. In summary, our findings show an impact of the high-concentrate feeding not only on pH but both PaM and EpM communities, their metabolic products, and host gene expression.

Keywords: HIGH-GRAIN FEEDING, RUMEN MICROBIOTA, EPITHELIAL-GENE EXPRESSION, RUMEN DYSBIOSIS

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC IMAGING OF EPIPHYSEAL GROWTH PLATES IN CALVES — PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

H. Nikl-Zinner[1], K. Schieder[2], E. Ludewig[2], J. Huber[3], J. Kofler[1]
Johann.Kofler@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Clinic for Diagnostic Imaging, Vienna, Austria
[3] University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Vet-Farm, Vienna, Austria

Calves suffer frequently from septic haematogenous arthritis, oftentimes associated with a concurrent osteomyelitis of the epiphyseal growth platesor of the subchondral articular bone. An accurate and early diagnosis is the key for a successful treatment. Radiography is the diagnostic imaging method of choice for the evaluation of bones and joints, however it is inadequate for detecting early stages of septic arthritis and even of early stages of osteomyelitis. Furthermore, many bovine practitioners are not equipped with a radiographic unit, therefore making an accurate diagnosis of disorders of the epiphyseal growth plates difficult or impossible. In contrary, many bovine practitioners are equipped with 5–8 MHz linear rectal probes.

The objective of this study was to describe the ultrasonographic appearance of the epiphyseal and apophyseal growth plates of the front and the rear limbs in young calves from the age of 1 week to 3 months, and to establish an examination protocol which can be applied as a reference for their ultrasonographic examination in calves with suspected pathology.

An ultrasonographic examination of the epiphyseal growth plates of the distal metacarpus/metatarsus, distal radius/ulna, proximal radius, distal and proximal humerus, distal and proximal tibia, distal and proximal femur, of the apophyses of olecranon tuber, major tuberculum, tuber calcis, tibial tuberosity and of the major trochanter was carried out in 12 Simmental calves at 5 time-points from the first and 12th week of life. The calves were examined in a standing position using a 7.5 MHz (5–8 MHz) linear probe. All growth plates were scanned in longitudinal planes from all sides by moving the probe always from dorsal/cranial in a circumferential 360 ° course over the lateral, caudal to the medial aspect, if possible in the particular anatomical situation. At each time point, all these growth plates were imaged and ultrasonographic measurements of their proximo-distal width were taken.

The indicated cartilaginous growth plates were imaged in all calves at the subsequent time-points appearing as short anechoic interruptions (a few millimeters to less than 1 mm in older calves) of the adjoining hyperechoic bone surface in longitudinal planes. The indicated cartilaginous apophyses in these calves were depicted as large heterogeneous hypoechoic 5 to about 17 mm thick structures bordered distally by the hyperechoic contour of the ossified bone. The time needed for ultrasonography of one particular epiphyseal growth plate was about 7 minutes for a trained operator.

It can be concluded that ultrasonography enables good imaging of the cartilaginous growth plates of all long bones in the front and rear limbs of calves. Therefore, this non-invasive diagnostic imaging technique is well suited for examination of these particular areas in young calves with swollen joint regions, suspected septic arthritis and the history of haematogenous spread leading to a possible concurrent infection of the adjoining epiphyseal growth plate, in particular when a radiographic unit is not available.

Keywords: DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND, RECTAL PROBE, EPIPHYSEAL GROWTH PLATE, HAEMATOGENOUS OSTEOMYELITIS, CALF

EFFECT OF CHROMIUM (III) ON MICROBIAL BIOMASS AND HYDROLYTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE BULLS RUMEN

N. Pakholkiv[1], *I. Vudmaska*[1], *A. Petruk*[2], *I. Nevostrueva*[1], *V. Hudyma*[1], *N. Holova*[1], *R. Sachko*[1], *A. Skorokhid*[1]
pakholkiv@gmail.com

[1]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine
[2]Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies named after Stepan Gzhytsky, Lviv, Ukraine

Despite the proven positive effect of chromium as an essential micronutrient, the mechanisms of its action have not been studied sufficiently, and its recommended content in the animal diet is not yet standardized. Chromium affects glucose and fatty acid metabolism, immune resistance, antioxidant status, and performance of cattle. However, chromium has antimicrobial properties and can cause damage to the plasmid DNA and violation of protein metabolism. Because the diet of ruminant is previously fermented in the rumen, it is important to know the influence of dietary chromium to the rumen microbiota. Therefore, the study of metabolic action of chromium for ruminants needs not only investigations of effects on the animal body but actions on the rumen microbiota too.

The content of the rumen from the fattening bulls of Ukrainian dairy black-and-white breed, with a body weight of 330–340 kg, at the age of 24 months was taken. All animals received similar nutritionally balanced diet. The incubation of the rumen filtrates were performed in anaerobic conditions at a temperature of 38 °C for 24 hours. Chromium chloride (III) was added to the incubation in the amount of 0.5; 1.0; 1.5 and 2.5 μM. The amylolytic and cellulolytic activities and the mass of rumen microorganisms were determined.

Important parameters that characterize the processes of digestion in the rumen and the degree of provision of ruminant with the microbial protein is the quantity and mass of microorganisms. *In vitro* studies, we found that the addition to an incubation medium with a rumen content of chromium chloride (III) in a dose of 1.0 μM had a pronounced stimulating effect on the proliferation of microbial cells and metabolic activity, and led to increasing of microbial mass and elevation of activities of the hydrolytic enzymes in the rumen. Our results have shown that the addition of chromium chloride (III) to the incubation medium has led to the activation of anabolic processes in microorganism cells, resulting in an increase in their mass. The most intense growth of rumen microorganisms after 24 hours of incubation *in vitro* observed when chromium chloride (III) was added to the incubation medium for 0.5 μM concentration. Adding to the medium low doses of chromium (III) stimulated the enhancement of cellulolytic activity of the rumen microorganisms. Under the influence of inorganic chromium (III) in doses of 0.5 and 1.5 μM, the amylolytic activity of the rumen microorganisms increased also. The highest investigated concentration of chromium chloride (III) at a dose of 2.5 μM did not change the rate of growth of microorganisms and somewhat suppressed the cellulolytic activity of rumen microorganisms.

Chromium chloride (III) added to the rumen content in amount of 0.5 μM, positive affects some microbial enzymes what lead to increase in the microbial mass and higher hydrolytic activity in the rumen. So, chromium chloride (III) is an activator of metabolic processes in microbial cells of the rumen microbiota.

Keywords: BULLS, RUMEN, CHROMIUM CHLORIDE (III), MICROBIAL MASS, CELLULOLYTIC AND AMYLOLYTIC ACTIVITIES

THE T- AND B-CELL SPECIFIC IMMUNITY OF CALVES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COMPLEX LIPOSOMAL DRUG

M. Ratskiy, O. Vishchur, K. Smolyaninov, D. Mudrak
mratskiy@ukr.net

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

There are contradictions between traditional and modern views on the immunobiology of pregnancy. In the last month of pregnancy certain changes occur, which are accompanied by a decrease in cellular and humoral protection and activation of lipid peroxidation. These disorders in cows' body are caused by physiological immunosuppression, which increases in pregnant animals due to unsatisfactory conditions for the maintenance at this period. So, the elaboration of complex immunotropic drugs with the immunorehabilitation effect, which will be achieved by the presence of components that provide optimization of critical biochemical mechanisms for maintaining metabolic homeostasis is relevant.

Studies were conducted on cows of the last gestation period. Animals of the control group received intramuscular isotonic solution of sodium chloride, cows of the 1st and 2nd experimental groups — vitamins A, D_3, E, lecithin, L-methionine, L-arginine, sodium selenite intramuscularly 20- and 10-days before calving as liposomal emulsion, at a dose of 0.04 ml/kg of body weight. Calves born from cows of the 2nd experimental group — vitamins A, D_3, E, lecithin, L-methionine, L-arginine, sodium selenite in the form of a liposomal emulsion were administered intramuscularly at 3-day age. Calves received from cows of the 1st experimental and control group, respectively, were injected with isotonic sodium chloride solution. The material for researches was blood of calves at 3-, 7-, 14- and 21-day-old age.

The studies have shown that the introduction to cows at the last month of pregnancy of the liposomal drug causes an immunoregulatory effect on the cellular link of specific immune protection. This is evidenced by the greater number of T-lymphocytes (common, active, theophylline-resistant) in the blood of calves in both experimental groups throughout the study period ($P<0.05$-0.001). At the same time, the number of theophylline-sensitive T-lymphocytes in the blood of calves in both experimental groups on the 7th day of life was lower ($P<0.05$). At the same time, the number of T-suppressors in the blood of calves in the 1st experimental group increased at 14 and 21 days of age ($P<0.05$; $P<0.001$), and in animals of the 2nd experimental group at the 14th day of life ($P<0,001$).

During the study period, a higher level of T-lymphocyte induction to blast transformation with phytohemagglutinin, as well as a greater number of B-lymphocytes in the blood of calves in both experimental groups was observed for the action of the liposomal drug ($P<0.05$–0.001). The increase in the number and functional activity of T- and B-lymphocytes in blood of calves is probably due to both the direct and/or indirect effects of vitamins A, D_3, E, lysine, methionine, arginine and sodium selenite on the expression of T- and B- lymphocytes on the plasma membrane. Thus, the positive effect of the elaborated liposomal drug on the state of the T- and B-cells immunity of calves which will increase their immune potential has been confirmed.

Parenteral administration to cows in the last month of the pregnancy of the complex liposomal drug which includes: vitamins A, D_3, E, lecithin, L-methionine, L-arginine, sodium selenite, causes an increase in the number of T-lymphocytes (common, active and theophylline-resistant), and B-lymphocytes in the blood of calves born of them and increases the functional activity of immunocompetent cells due to the redistribution of the receptor apparatus of T- and B-lymphocytes in the direction of increasing their avidity. In this case, an increase in the functional activity of T-lymphocytes in the reaction of ballast transformation of lymphocytes with phytohaemagglutinin was noted.

Keywords: IMMUNITY, BLOOD, CALVES, VITAMINS, LYMPHOCYTES

IRON SUPPLY STATUS OF BREEDING CALVES IN AUSTRIA

J. Reif[1], F. Gewessler[2], T. Wittek[1]
Thomas.Wittek@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna,
University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]Sauwald Tierärzte, Sankt Roman, Austria

Veal production is important branch of the Austrian beef industry. Many consumers still prefer pale veal over darker meat although it is produced from iron deficient beef calves. However, optimal iron supply is of importance for growth and health, especially in female heifer calves raised for breeding.

The aim of the study was to assess iron supply in female breeding calves in Austria.

Twenty one dairy farms located in the Innviertel (Upper Austria) were visited to take blood samples from 118 heifer calves. Calves were excluded from the study if they were older than 16 weeks of age or had received a treatment with iron containing drugs within 7 days before collection of blood samples. Hematocrit, hemoglobin and plasma iron concentration were measured. On each farm a questionnaire concerning housing, feeding, health and medical treatment of the calves was completed.

Results showed the presence of iron deficiency anemia in a substantial proportion of the heifer calves. In 43.2 % and 17.8 % of the calves hematocrit and hemoglobin were either moderately or severely decreased below physiological values. Calves showed a deficiency of iron in blood plasma in 44.9 % of the cases.

The highest prevalence of anemic calves was found between the 5th and the 8th week of life. After this age the measured parameters in sampled calves steadily increased until 16 weeks of age.

The feeding of milk replacer instead of whole milk resulted in a positive effect on hematocrit, hemoglobin and plasma iron concentration. The same effect was observed if hay or grain was added to the diet as early as day eight of age. A positive effect caused by prophylactic application of iron supplements was evident: calves which received such supplements showed significantly higher blood hematocrit, hemoglobin and iron concentration than calves without any prophylactic measures.

Iron deficiency anemia plays an important role in heifer calves and needs to be considered in veterinary practice. Additional to therapeutic measures in animals suffering from iron deficiency prophylactic measures should become part of the general prophylactic concept for the herd.

Keywords: IRON DEFICIENCY, CALVES, IRON SUPPLEMENTATION

TESTICULAR WEIGHT, OCCURRENCE OF TUBULES WITH ELONGATED SPERMATIDS AND SERTOLI CELL COUNT IN ABATTOIR CALVES. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

M. Rohländer[1], *H. Otzen*[2], *T. Harborth*[1], *M. Heppelmann*[1], *Á. C. Bajcsy*[1]
maike.rohlaender@tiho-hannover.de

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation,
Clinic for Cattle, Hannover, Germany
[2]ET-Service Schleswig-Holstein, Glücksburg, Germany

It is important to know when male calves become potentially fertile in mixed suckler herds in order to avoid unwanted pregnancies. The occurrence of tubules with elongated spermatids and especially Sertoli cells is important for the development of sperms as it supports spermatogonia and its successors. The aim of this study was to investigate the appearance time of these markers during testicular development in calves slaughtered at various ages.

Carcass weight and age of 5- (n=5), 6- (n=10), 7- (n=10) and 8-month-old (n=7) male beef calves were documented and their testicles examined. After removal of their sheaths and adnexa, pure testicles were weighted. Left and right testicles were dissected and tissue samples were taken from 3 different localizations of each testis. After collection, all samples were fixed in Bouin's solution. Consecutively, these tissue samples were embedded in paraffin and finally stained with hematoxylin-eosin. Tubules with elongated spermatids and Sertoli cell count per tubule cross section for each of the six locations were histologically examined. The preliminary results include correlation and regression analyses.

Correlation between the means of testicular weight of left and right testicles and carcass weight (R^2=0.32, P<0.0001) was markedly higher than that between testicular weight and age (R^2=0.03, P=0.0152). With advancing age and slaughter weight, the P-value is slightly above 0.05 and is therefore not significant. Histological evaluation showed that increasing total testicular weight only slightly interacted with the number of tubules with elongated spermatids (R^2=0.10, P<0.0001) and even less with increasing age and Sertoli cell count in the testicles (R^2=0.02, P=0.0017). In 14 of 32 calves, 5- (n=5), 6- (n=5) and 7-month-old (n=4), elongated spermatids could not be detected. The number of Sertoli cells per tubule cross-section shows a large individual variation. A weak trend towards slightly more Sertoli cells can be detected with increasing age. This supports the hypothesis that Sertoli cell formation is almost complete at the age of five months and that only minor changes occur thereafter. Due to the absence of elongated spermatids, five months young calves still seem to be prepubertal.

Male and female calves should be separated at the latest shortly before they reach 6 months to avoid the presence of potentially fertile young males along females and, thereby, unwanted pregnancies. However, these data should be further analysed, and a larger number of samples might make the recent findings even more reliable.

Keywords: BOVINE, TESTIS, HISTOLOGY, PUBERTAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE OCCURRENCE OF OSTERTAGIOSIS IN POLAND

K. Rypuła[1], K. Płoneczka-Janeczko[1], J. Piekarska[2], M. Czopowicz[3], T. Nagas[4]
krzysztof.rypula@upwr.edu.pl

[1]Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases of Animals and Veterinary Administration, Wroclaw, Poland
[2]Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Division of Parasitology, Wroclaw, Poland
[3]Warsaw University of Life Science-SGGW, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Autonomous Laboratory of Epidemiology and Veterinary Economics, Warsaw, Poland
[4]CEVA Animal Health, Poland Sp. z o.o., Warsaw, Poland

The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence *Ostertagia ostertagi* antibodies in bulk tank milk (BTM) in dairy cattle herds in the all voivodeships in Poland.

BTM samples were collected from dairy farms in Poland. The BTM samples, collected by veterinarians and then were transported directly to the Diagnostic Laboratory at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Wroclaw. The *Ostertagia ostertagi* antibody levels in milk were determined using a semi-quantitative indirect ELISA (*Svanovir® O. ostertagi-Ab*, Svanova, Sweden), according to the manufacturer's instruction. According to the manufacturer's data, the ODR exceeding 0.5 could be associated with a reduction in milk yield.

The studied herds were assigned to two areas of Poland, corresponding to the colloquial and conventional division of the country into two zones "A" and "B". In the area of "traditional agriculture" still dominates, there is an increased migration of the young generation to cities and the highest percentage of people in the post-working age. In the area "A" — where the level of development is high only in the vicinity of large cities, which affects the labor market and income, increase the profits of rural areas. The ODR rates obtained in studies for ostertagiosis are as follows: Area A (Warmia-Masuria, Podlasie, Lublin, Masovia, Świętokrzyskie and Łódź) mean ODR and SD was 0.421/0.157. In the area "B" (Pomerania, West Pomerania, Kuyavia-Pomerania, Greater Poland, Lubusz, Lower Silesia, Opole, Silesia, Subcarpathian) was 0.483/0.236.

There were no differences in ODR in the studied regions of Poland. ODR values are similar, but differences in ODR rates between voivodships were observed.

Keywords: DAIRY CATTLE HERDS, OSTERTAGIOSIS, *OSTERAGIA OSTERAGI*, BULK TANK MILK, POLAND

USE OF HOP CONES AND VITAMIN E TO PREVENT METABOLIC DISORDERS IN TRANSITION DAIRY COWS

S. Sachko, I. Vudmaska
ivvudmaska@gmail.com

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

After calving cows get into negative energy balance accompanied by glucose deficiency and excessive release of fatty acids from adipose tissue. In assessing the metabolic status of cows during this period, the focus is on the violation of carbohydrate and lipid metabolism, but such important aspect as the ammonia intoxication, what is one of the factors of liver degeneration remains often out of attention. The main contribution to the formation of ammonia in the rumen is performed by gram-positive hyper ammonia producing bacteria (HAB). The activity of these bacteria is inhibited by ionophore antibiotics that are prohibited for use as a feed supplement in the EU. The substitute for antibiotics may be hop cones contained substances that selectively affect gram-positive bacteria, including HAB. However, ionophores inhibit cellulolytic bacteria activity too. High doses of dietary vitamin E can stimulate fiber degradation in the rumen. The purpose of our study was the possibility of use hops cones and vitamin E as a complex for prevention of metabolic disorders in the transition cows.

The experiment used twenty Ukrainian dairy black-and-white breed cows; milk yield 6000–7000 kg for previous lactation; divided into two groups 10 animals each. The 1st group is control. Diet of the 2nd group was supplemented with (per kg DM) 1 g of dry hop cones and 300 mg of α-tocopherol acetate as a 0.6 g of *Rovimix E-50* (NRC 2001 recommends 80 mg/kg for dry cows and 30 mg/kg for lactating cows). Experiment lasted during transition period (from 3 wk prepartum until 3 wk postpartum).

Supplementation the diet with hop cones and vitamin E has affected rumen fermentation. In particular, the feed additive stimulated cellulosolytic and suppressed proteolytic activities ($P<0.01$). As a result, the concentration of ruminal volatile fatty acids was increased. Reduced proteolytic activity led to a decrease in ammonia concentration in the rumen ($P<0.05$). At the same time, the amount of microbial nitrogen in the rumen of the experimental group of cows has moderately increased, what indicates the absence of depress effect of the additive on the rumen microbiota in general. The feed supplement reduced the concentration of lipid oxidation products ($P<0.05$) in the blood of dry cows, without affecting other parameters. After calving, changes that are more significant were detected. In the blood of cows of the experimental group an increase in the concentration of glucose ($P<0.05$), triacylglycerols ($P<0.05$), cholesterol esters ($P<0.05$), and a decrease in the concentration of NEFA ($P<0.05$), TBARS ($P<0.05$), and beta-hydroxybutyrate ($P<0.05$) were found.

Consequently, supplementation the diets of transition cows with 300 mg of α-tocopherol acetate and 1 g of dry hop cones per kg of DM stimulates the synthesis of glucose by the liver, reduces the intensity of release of fatty acids from adipose tissue, suppresses peroxide oxidation and reduces the concentration of ketone bodies in blood. Proposed feed supplement can be used to prevent metabolic disorders in cows.

Keywords: TRANSITION COWS, HOP CONES, VITAMIN E, RUMEN, BLOOD

POLYARTHRITIS CAUSED BY *ERYSIPELOTHRIX RHUSIOPATHIAE* IN THREE AUSTRIAN SHEEP FLOCKS — DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE

J. Schoiswohl[1], *J. Spergser*[2], *J. Kofler*[1]
julia.schoiswohl@vetmeduni.ac.at

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department for Farm Animals and Veterinary Public Health, University Clinic for Ruminants, Vienna, Austria
[2]University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Department of Pathobiology, Institute of Microbiology, Vienna, Austria

Between December 2017 and March 2018 lambs from 3 different farms were presented at the University Clinic for Ruminants because of lameness. First clinical examination at the clinic revealed different swollen joints. By anamnestic questionnaire the farmer reported that all animals with lameness are lambs of twin or multiple births. Orthopaedic examination revealed swollen and painful carpal and tarsal joints and in some of these lambs a slight to moderate abnormal flexion of the carpal joints. Ultrasonographically, a mild to moderate anechoic to hypoechoic effusion with and without flow-phenomena, and raw articular bone surfaces were assessed in affected joints. Radiological examination confirmed the ultrasonographic findings showing mild subchondral osteolysis and mild periosteal bone proliferation of the affected joints. Blood analysis revealed that the blood count was inconspicuous and calcium, phosphorus, iron and magnesium were within the physiological range.

Samples for bacteriology were taken from the incriminated joints by arthocentesis. The bacteriological examination revealed an infection with *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*. In addition an antibiotics-resistance test was carried out.

Severely infected animals were euthanized and a standard necropsies were undertaken with special emphasis on the joints, showing moderate to severe cartilage damage of subchondral osteolysis.

Slightly infected sheep were treated with antibiotics (ampicillin) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and had a successful outcome. A herd-specific autogenous vaccine was produced from isolated *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*, which was administered to pregnant sheep and lambs in the affected farms.

Keywords: SHEEP, POLYARTHRITIS, *ERYSIPELOTHRIX RHUSIOPATHIAE*, AUTOGENOUS VACCINE

CASE REPORT: EXTRACTION OF INCISORS AND LOWER JAW RECONSTRUCTION IN LLAMA

J. Šmídková[1], *J. Šterc*[2], *I. Tejnil*[2]
jana@smidkova.eu

[1]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic
[2]Orthovet s.r.o., Brno, Czech Republic

Fractures of the incisor part of mandibular may be caused by clinching in the box, kicking by another animal or, for example, after a fence impact, as it was in this case. The mental canal in camelids makes this area more weak and susceptible to fractures.

The male llama was brought to the clinic in age of 2 years. It was refered due to a mouth injury. After clinical examination and x-ray imaging, the alveolar fracture and the dislocation of the incisors were found on both sides — I2, I3. The nutritional condition of the animal was poor. It was obvious that the llama could not properly eat, because the teeth were partially dislocated in direction to the upper hard palate and mechanically prevented the complete closure of the mouth. Given that this was an older injury and that the ossification already occurred in a dislocated position, it was not possible to carry out the incisors reposition. Therefore, it was approached to extraction of the incisors under the total injection anesthesia. Following the extraction of the incisors, debridement in fracture line was performed. Then intraoral cerclage was used to retract the caudal wall of the alveolar remains back to the physiological position along with the mucosa and bone base. Cerclage was performed using a 1.2 mm diameter osteosynthetic wire. After recovering from the anesthesia, llama started to eat without any complications. Post operative medical therapy included systemic antibiotics and NSAID. In 14 days cerclage was removed and the healing continued with Healing by secondary intention of the wound. The wound was daily flushed and food residue was manually removed.

Intraoral cerclage was successful for reconstruction of lower jaw. The animal was able to eat properly and improved the nutritional status.

Fractures of incisor part of mandibular are common within camelids. Intraoral cerclage is one of the option how to deal with this type of fractures. It was successful in this case, where we had to deal with older jaw injury.

Keywords: LLAMA, INTRAORAL CECRLAGE, INCISORS

PREVALENCE OF FOOTROT IN BILOGORA REGION IN CROATIA

O. Smolec[1], *P. Džaja*[2], *M. Samardžija*[3], *D. Đuričić*[4], *M. Pećin*[1]
osmolec@vef.hr

[1]University of Zagreb, Veterinary faculty,
Clinic of Surgery, Orthopedics and Ophtalmology, Zagreb, Croatia
[2]University of Zagreb, Department for Forensic
and State Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
[3]University of Zagreb, Veterinary faculty, Clinic for Obstetrics
and Reproduction, Zagreb, Croatia
[4]Veterinary practice, Đurđevac, Croatia

The aim of this study was to investigate prevalence of the ovine footrot (FR) in Bilogora region in Croatia.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in areas of Bilogora region in Croatia from May of 2016 to July of 2017. History of the farms and management as well as previous outbreaks data were collected. Data of interdigital lesions with lameness, foul odor and discharges were recorded as positive cases. The study area of the region comprised 5 villages. A total of 1344 randomly selected sheep from 5 farms were selected as the study population. The FR in this population was not studied previously in details.

The overall prevalence of ovine FR was 14.6 %. The prevalence of the FRis reported to be 8 to 10 % in the United Kingdom and 12 % to 15 % in India. The prevalence of FR among the 5 villages in Croatia was not significantly different ($P>0.05$). The owners of sheep in the study areas do not practice footbath, foot trimming or paring of hoof, which are commonly practiced in developed countries. Most farmers did not ask veterinary care when sheep showed lameness.

This is the first study to report the prevalence of FR lesions in a random sample of sheep flocks in Bilogora region. The knowledge on the etiology of the disease and the development of effective management practices may be key facts to control the FR. The prevalence of FR depends on the environmental conditions and pasture because the regular management practices prevent the colonization of bacteria in the interdigital spaces. It decreases the chance of skin integrity damage due to trauma, wetness or mud deposition, which are essential for the FR causative agents to colonized the interdigital space. These data may be helpful for advising farmers of potential environmental events and preventive management practices that may control the probability of sheep develop FRs.

Keywords: OVINE, FOOT ROT, PREVALENCE

CYTOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF BONE MARROW SMEARS IN GOATS DURING MASTITIS

A. Snarska[1], P. Sobiech[1], H. Snarska[2], K. Żarczyńska[1], D. Wysocka[1]
psobiech@uwm.edu.pl

[1]University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department and Clinic of Internal Diseases, Olsztyn, Poland
[2]University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, School of Medicine, Olsztyn, Poland

Mastitis occurs in sub-clinical and clinical form with visible and easily perceptible changes within the mammary gland. Mastitis is often a result of bacterial infections caused by *Streptococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus agalactiae* and *Escherichia coli* which mainly occur at the beginning of lactation and during dry period. Several factors, including: conditions in which animals are kept, feeding, milking hygiene and stress generating factors, may have a huge impact on the development of mastitis.

The aim of this study was to determine the effect of mastitis on the results of cytological evaluation of bone marrow smears in goats during mastitis.

For obtaining bone marrow samples 63 mm long 16 G biopsy needles were used. The animals were premedicated with xylazine prior to bone marrow sampling. The site of sampling was prepared in accordance with standard surgical procedures. Due to the very fast coagulation of the tested material, smears were made on previously prepared microscope-slides. The bone marrow smears were stained with the May-Grünwald-Giemsa method with shorter staining times than used for staining peripheral blood smears. The hematological counter SH-96/24D was used to count the bone marrow cells. Hematological analyses were performed using the ADVIA 2120i apparatus.

Results of the experiment showed an increase in the number of white blood cells and platelets above the reference values specific to goats. In peripheral blood smears, a significant increase in the number of neutrophilic granulocytes with segmented nucleus was noted. The increase in the number of leukocytes above the reference values was mainly caused by the increase in the number of neutrophilic metamyelocytes (MYE) and segmented granulocytes. In the erythroblastic cell line a decrease in the number of polychromatic and orthochromatic erythroblasts (EPOL and EORT) with a decrease in the number of reticulocytes was observed. Cytological evaluation of bone marrow smears revealed an increase in the number of neutrophilic and eosinophilic metamyelocytes. Also significant decrease in the number of megakaryocytes should be highlighted.

The decrease in the number of megakaryocytes and consequently the number of platelets may suggest the occurrence of disturbances in blood clotting tests.

Keywords: GOAT, MASTITIS, BONE MARROW

CYSTICERCOSIS OUTBREAK IN FATTENING BOVINES

J. Starič[1], M. Ačko[2], B. Šoba[3], J. Ježek[1], J. J. Hodnik[1], B. Krt[1], A. Vergles Rataj[1]
joze.staric@vf.uni-lj.si

[1]University of Ljubljana, Veterinary faculty, Ljubljana, Slovenia
[2]Veterinarska bolnica Slovenska, Bistrica, Slovenia
[3]University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Cysticercosis is a parasitic disease of cattle caused by human tapeworm *Taenia saginata*. Cattle are the intermediate hosts and harbour a larval form called *Cysticercus bovis*, which resides primarily in skeletal and cardiac muscle tissues. To prevent completion of the life cycle of *T. saginata* animals for slaughter are routinely inspected for presence of cysticerci. Carcases that contain cysticerci on meat inspection are confiscated or in case of very mild infestation have to undergo a cold treatment at –18 °C for 10 days to be declared fit for human consumption according to regulations (EU Zoonosis Directive 2003/99/EC and Regulation EC 854/2004). Infested animals are asymptomatic and there is no treatment that can clear the cysticerci from muscle tissues, so it is not possible to prevent zoosanitary measures after slaughter in case we suspect infestation. Thus, economic impact of infestation is very significant. The only prevention of the disease is to prevent consumption of human faeces by cattle. Since cattle are known for coprophagy of human faeces, all efforts should be made to prevent human faeces to come into contact with cattle. The aim of the study was to investigate a cysticercosis outbreak in a fattening bovine herd.

A fattening bovine herd of 220 animals was included in the study. Management practices were analysed. Meat inspection for cysticercosis was conducted. Stool samples from persons working at the farm were examined by microscopy, copro-antigen ELISA and copro PCR for *T. saginata*. Basic descriptive statistics were calculated.

In a fattening bovine herd of 220 animals 13 (5.9 %) animals were recognised as having cysticeri at carcass inspection. None of the carcases were confiscated, but all had to be cold treated before selling. All the persons working at the farm tested negative for taeniasis.

This was the first case of cysticercosis in the examined herd. Animals in the herd were divided into boxes with 10 to 30 animals and infested animals came from boxes located at different parts of the barn. Due to such distribution of cases there is a high probability that ova from *T. saginata* were dispersed by total mix ration. Prevalence of cysticercosis in cattle in Slovenia was from 0.003 to 0.05 % according to official meat inspection findings and just 0 to 20 persons per year were diagnosed as having *T. saginata* reported by Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection in the 7 years period before the outbreak and up to year 2018. Even though prevalence of cysticercosis is very low in Slovenia, this case proves that strict meat inspection for cysticercosis is prudent. Possible ways of infestation and strategies to prevent cysticercosis in cattle are discussed.

Keywords: *TAENIA SAGINATA*, CATTLE, PARASITIC ZOONOSIS, MEAT INSPECTION, PREVENTION

SAFETY CULTURE ON A LIVESTOCK FARM AND PREVENTION OF ZOONOSES

J. Starič[1], J. J. Hodnik[1], J. Ježek[1], D. Bugarski[2], N. Janev Holcer[3,4], J. Leppälä[5], R. Rautiainen[5]
joze.staric@vf.uni-lj.si

[1]University of Ljubljana, Veterinary faculty, Slovenia
[2]Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad", Novi Sad, Serbia
[3]Croatian Institute of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia
[4]Faculty of Medicine Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
[5]Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Helsinki, Finland

Veterinarians in buiatrics practice are not responsible just for caring for animal health and welfare, but also for protection of personnel assisting them as well as personnel dealing with livestock from zoonoses. So, it is our duty to be knowledgeable about common zoonotic diseases of ruminants, and especially how people can protect themselves from contracting them. Veterinarians should know which zoonotic diseases are present in their country and neighboring countries in order to be prepared in case of an outbreak. Zoonotic diseases of ruminants often do not show typical clinical presentation, so awareness of how to safely behave when dealing with livestock in order to prevent zoonoses is very important. In the paper ruminant zoonoses common in Middle Europe are going to be presented as well as behaviors of people that prevent their transmission.

Analysis of the most common zoonoses of domestic ruminants that are transmitted when handling animals and the ways they are transmitted to humans were studied. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control database was used for identification of domestic ruminant's zoonoses in Middle European countries, which is a result of EU member state reporting according to Zoonoses Directive 2003/99/EC and peer reviewed literature.

Identified zoonoses that could be transmitted by direct and indirect contact with live animals in Middle Europe are cryptosporidiosis, rabies, infections with parapox viruses, leptospirosis, tuberculosis, listeriosis, brucellosis, Q fever, chlamydiosis, salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, colibacillosis, clostridiosis, anthrax, staphylococcal infections and dermatomycosis. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment and adequate hygiene can effectively prevent most zoonoses. Especially vulnerable for contracting a zoonosis are persons on immunosuppressive medication, those who have immunosuppressive diseases, children and pregnant women.

The risk of zoonosis cannot be eliminated but can be significantly reduced by following preventive measures. For nearly all the diseases there is a relationship between dose and severity. A threshold dose is required to establish infection, and low doses may cause only mild infections, which can also be asymptomatic. Developing risk control tools for better safety culture and risk management on farms is important. Safety culture when dealing with animals as potential risk for zoonosis has a major effect on preventing them. In order to reduce zoonoses on a farm strict biosecurity plan and systematic surveillance should be implemented as well.

Keywords: DISEASE TRANSMISSION, SAFETY, WORKER, RUMINANTS, ZOONOTIC AGENTS

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BOLA-DRB3 GENE AS A MARKER OF COW'S MAMMARY GLAND STATUS

T. M. Suprovych[1], O. I. Vishchur[2], T. M. Prylipko[1], V. A. Chepurna[1], K. B. Smolyaninov[2]
kokas2008@ukr.net

[1]Podillya State Agrarian and Technical University,
Kamyanets-Podilskyi, Kmelnytsky region, Ukraine
[2]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

In recent years, research on the use of liposomal drugs, which do not contain antibiotics for therapy of mastitis are of a great importance. The research used a liposomal preparation which contains *Hypericum perforatum* extract, vitamins, lecithin, and twin. The aim of this study was to assess the suitability of the BoLA-DRB3 gene polymorphism for determining the phenotypic value of the somatic cells in Ukrainian black-and-white dairy cows and to find out the effect of the "Limanin" on the number of somatic cells in cows with subclinical mastitis.

The spectrum of the BoLA-DRB3.2 gene alleles was studied by PCR in Van Eijk et al. For restriction analysis of exzone 2 of the BoLA-DRB3 gene the endonucleases of restriction RsaI, HaeIII, BstYI (XhoII) were used. For the somatic cell count (SCC) samples of parenchymal milk were taken from cows at day 1, 3 and 9 of the experiment. Somatic cell count (SCC) was carried out by Prescott-Breed's calculation method.

The investigated breed is characterized by a uniform distribution of allelic frequencies of the BoLA-DRB3 gene. 28 alleles (mean frequency P=3.57 %) of the cows of Ukrainian black-and-white are identified from 54 PCR-RFLP and allelic-specific PCR for the BoLA-DRB3.2 gene. In patients with mastitis of cows, 24 alleles were detected (mean frequency 4.17 %). With a frequency of more than 5 %, five BoLA-DRB3.2 alleles were identified: *24, *28, *26, *22, and *03. Alleles *16, *25, *31 and *36 in this group did not show at all. Among healthy cows 27 alleles were detected. Of the 8 alleles BoLA-DRB3.2: *22, *24, *08, *13, *28, *10, *03 and *36, were detected with P(A)≥5%. The allele BoLA-DRB3.2 *41 was never detected. Biometric analysis of the polymorphism of the BoLA-DRB3.2 gene revealed two alleles that affect the morbidity of cows with mastitis: *24 (RR=2.17; P=11.7 %; χ_2=4.33) and *26 (RR=4; 62; P=4.3 %; χ_2=7.13). There are also two alleles that determine the resistance of cows to diseases of the udder: *13 (RR = –5.29; P=5.3 %; χ_2=5.65) and *22 (RR = –2.52; P=1.2 %; χ_2=5.02).

In samples of milk taken in 92 cows, the number of somatic cells varied from 84 to 6926 thousand cells/cm^3. Among them, only 27 samples of SCC did not exceed the threshold of 200 thousand cells/cm^3. There were 22 animals with subclinical mastitis in which 876 to 4436 thousand cells/cm^3 were detected. The SCC value in 5 cows diagnosed with clinical mastitis was from 2264 to 6926 thousand cells/cm^3. The number of somatic cells in 65 healthy cows ranged from 84 to 704 thousand cells/cm^3. It was found significant association between allele *28 and low level of somatic cells. Treatment of subclinical mastitis of cows with the "Limanin" led to a decrease in SCC in the milk of experimental animals. On the 9th day in experimental group cows the number of somatic cells (388.7+44.97 thousand/cm^3) decreased compared to the first day of the experiment (667.9+64.9 thousand/cm^3), which shows the normalizing effect of the drug on the content of somatic cells in the milk of cows with subclinical mastitis.

In cows of the Ukrainian black-and-white breed of the allele BoLA-DRB3.2 *24 and *26 determine the morbidity of mastitis. Alleles BoLA-DRB3.2 *13 and *22 indicate the resistance of cows to mammary gland diseases. There is a statistically significant association between the allele *28 and the low level of somatic cells in milk. The normalizing effect of liposomal drug "Limanin" on somatic cell cultures in patients with subclinical mastitis of cows has been established.

Keywords: MASTITIS, SOMATIC CELLS, GENE, ALLELE, MAMMARY GLAND, SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS

THE EFFECT OF SILICON DIOXIDE NANOPARTICLES AS FEED ADDITIVE ON HEALTH CONDITION AND IMMUNOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF CALVES

E. Szacawa[1], *K. Dudek*[1], *D. Bederska-Łojewska*[2], *U. Lisiecka*[3], *D. Bednarek*[1], *M. Pieszka*[2]
ewelina.szacawa@piwet.pulawy.pl

[1]National Veterinary Research Institute,
Department of Cattle and Sheep Diseases, Puławy, Poland
[2]National Research Institute of Animal Production,
Department of Nutrition Physiology, Balice, Poland
[3]University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Department of Epizootiology
and Clinic of Infectious Diseases, Lublin, Poland

In the initial stage of cattle breeding attention should be paid on immune system of calves. An increased sensitivity to bacterial and viral infections leads in consequence to economic losses in cattle industry. Published data indicate that the use of a silicon dioxide nanoparticles as feed additives have a destructive effect on bacterial cells, which leads to their death. Then the bacterial toxins are selectively bound in the gastrointestinal tract. Additionally a mixture of organic acids acidifying the digestive tract and gives an additional biocidal effect against pH-sensitive bacteria.

In the study six calves in the age 4–8 weeks of life were divided into two equal groups: experimental (E) and control (C). Calves from the E group were given feed additives which contained silicon dioxide nanoparticles with a mixture of protected organic acids which were added to milk replacer at the dose of 3000 mg per calf once a day for 7 weeks. The C group received milk replacer without additives in the same time. Behavioral observations were conducted daily; the amount of feed intake, rectal temperature, overall health and their weekly body weight gains were monitored. The blood samples were collected from animals once a week. White blood cells counts (WBC) with leukocyte differentiation (lymphocytes, monocytes and granulocytes) were examined in peripheral blood using veterinary blood analyzer (*Exigo*, *Boule Medical*, Spånga, Sweden). Immunophenotyping of lymphocyte subsets, i.e. T-cells ($CD2^+$), Th ($CD4^+$), Tc/s ($CD8^+$) according to Beckman Coulter's Guide, phagocytic activity of granulocytes and monocytes and their mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) (*Phagotest*, *Glicotope Biotechnology GmbH*, Berlin, Germany) were analysed with the use of flow cytometer (*Epics XL*, *Beckman Coulter Inc.*, Brea, California, USA).

The overall health condition of the animals was good, they had good appetite and it was better expressed in the group E. The body weight of animal was on average higher by 11 kg in the group E. The leukocyte subpopulation counts were similar in the both groups. The percentage of $CD2^+$, $CD4^+$ and $CD8^+$ in the group E was similar to the control group. A mean percentage of phagocytic monocytes was similar in the C and E groups. In the 0 day of experiment, i.e. before the beginning of feed additives administration, the value for the E group was lower than for the C group ($P<0.05$). In E groups the values increased by 7 % and in C decreased by 4 % on 7 weeks of the study. The MFI of monocytes was similar for the both groups. The mean percentage of phagocytic granulocytes decreased by 5 % and by 14 % in E and C group respectively. The MFI of granulocytes decreased by 10 % and 20 % in the E and C group respectively on 7 weeks of the study.

There were examined overall body condition and nonspecific immunological parameters of calves. The obtained results were similar in the experimental and control group. Although the experimental animals were in better health condition and higher body weight gains. Further studies are needed to assess the protective role of examined feeding additives against bacteria on calves.

Keywords: CALVES, SILICON DIOXIDE NANOPARTICLES, IMMUNOPHENOTYPING, PHAGOCYTIC ACTIVITY

PREGNANCY LOSSES IN BOVINE SINGLETON AND TWIN PREGNANCIES

Z. Szelényi[1,2], *L. Kovács*[2,3], *Á. Cs. Bajcsy*[4], *O. Szenci*[1,2]
szelenyi.zoltan@univet.hu

[1]University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest,
Department and Clinic for Production Animals, Budapest, Hungary
[2]MTA-SZIE Large Animal Clinical Research Group, Üllő-Dóra major, Hungary
[3]Szent István University, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science,
Institute of Animal Science, Gödöllő, Hungary
[4]Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover, Klinik für Rinder, Hannover, Germany

Twin pregnancy in dairy cattle is affecting reproductive performance as an unwanted phenomenon. In practice, pregnancy loss due to embryonic/fetal mortality is the main factor affecting the results of pregnancy diagnoses; therefore the nature of the phenomenon must be taken into consideration when evaluating any diagnostic method.

In total, 1253 positive pregnancy diagnoses on three farms [farm A: n=304 (24.3 %), farm B: n=674 (5 3.8%) and farm C: n=275 (21.9 %)] were made between days 29 to 42 of gestation and followed up until calving. The prevalence of twin gestations diagnosed between days 29 to 35 (73/866, 8.4 %) and days 36 to 42 (32/387, 8.3 %) were similar. There were one CL in 957 (83.4 %) and two CLs in 191 (16.6 %) singleton pregnancies, respectively.

In twin-carriers only one CL was found in three cases (2.9 %), and all other twin cows had two (n=99) or three CLs (n=3). Cavitary CL occurred in one twin-carrier (1.0 %) and in 58 singleton pregnancies (5.1 %).

The rate of pregnancy loss diagnosed between days 29–42 and 57–70 was altogether 4.6 % (53/1148) in singleton and 4.8 % (5/105) in twin pregnancies (P=0.95), respectively. Differences in pregnancy loss at drying-off were also not significant between singleton and twin pregnant animals (P=0.99). Based on logistic regression analysis, in any time points total losses were not different in singleton and twin pregnancies (P=0.94, OR=1.04 and P=0.96, OR=0.98, respectively), and we could not detect any farm effect (P=0.36, OR=0.83 and P=0.08, OR=0.79, respectively). Pregnancy loss was also evaluated on the basis of laterality in cases of singleton and twin pregnancies. In singleton gestations, the rate of right-side pregnancy losses (35/670; 5.2 %) did not differ significantly (P>0.05) from those of the left-side pregnancy losses (18/478; 3.8 %) between days 29–42 and 57–70, respectively. This difference was also not significant at drying-off pregnancy check (P>0.05). Based on logistic regression analysis in twin gestations neither the difference of the pregnancy losses at days 57–70 (4/57; 7 % vs. 1/48; 2.1 %), nor the differences at the time of drying off (4/57; 7 % vs. 2/48; 4.2 %) were significant (P>0.05) between unilateral and bilateral pregnancies.

When analysing the pregnancy losses of twin pregnancies in dairy cattle there was no differences between singleton- and twin-carrying cows at the confirmation of pregnancy between days 57–70 of gestation, moreover, at drying-off also a non-significant difference was detected between singleton and twin carrying groups. In singleton pregnancies, presence of a cavity in the *corpus luteum* effected pregnancy loss. Between days 57–70 of gestation and drying-off this difference between cavitary vs. non-cavitary CL was still significant, while it was non-significant between cows with one CL vs. double CLs.

Keywords: DAIRY CATTLE, TWIN PREGNANCY, SINGLETON PREGNANCY, CAVITARY *CORPUS LUTEUM*

IMPORTANCE TO PREDICT THE ONSET OF CALVING TO DECREASE STILLBIRTH AND STRESS RELATED UTERINE DISEASES

O. Szenci[1,2], *L. F. Kézér*[2,3], *Z. Szelényi*[1,2], *L. Kovács*[2,3]
szenci.otto@univet.hu

[1]MTA-SZIE Large Animal Clinical Research Group, Üllő, Hungary
[2]Szent István University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest, Hungary
[3]Szent István University of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science, Institute of Animal Husbandry, Budapest, Hungary

Successful genetic selection for higher milk production has caused a dramatic decline in the reproductive performance of dairy cows all over the world. Achievement of optimum herd reproductive performance requires concentrated management activities especially during calving and during the first 100 DIM. The following management activities are needed to pursue during early postparturient (p.p.) period to reach or approach the optimal reproductive performance such as careful surveillance and assistance at calving, prevention of pp metabolic diseases, early diagnosis and treatment of p.p. uterine diseases, accurate detection of oestrus, correct timing of insemination, reducing the effect of heat stress and early pregnancy diagnosis. Among these main activities only careful surveillance and assistance at calving and their effects on milk production, reproductive performance as well as on newborn calves will be discussed.

Due to the fact that the cause of stillbirth with a non-infectious aetiology is likely to be multifactorial and difficult calving may explain only about half of them therefore it is very important to examine the risk factors of stillbirth especially in large-scale dairy farms. While it is not possible to eliminate dystocia, adequate management of growing heifers and close observation during calving are essential for reducing stillbirth rate. Since in many cases there are no visible clinical signs of the onset of calving, therefore especially in large dairy farm it is difficult to recognize it. The aim of our study was to evaluate an intelligent control system and test its effectiveness in predicting calving.

Two hundred fifty-seven Holstein-Friesian dairy cows were monitored by inserting a vaginal thermometer into the vagina (*Vel'Phone*, *Medria*, Châteaugiron, France) from day 5 before expected calving while 116 cows served as control. Once the thermometer has been placed into the vagina, the *Vel'Phone* was going to inform via SMS about the imminence of calving, and breaking of the allantoic sac.

Our results indicate the effectiveness of such instrument to control the onset of parturition in dairy cows because in case of heifer calvings the stillbirth rate was 1.7 % in the monitored group vs. 10.5 % in the control group, while in case of cow calvings it was 2.5 % (monitored group) vs. 10.3 % (control group), respectively. The differences in both groups were statistically significant (P=0.029 and P=0.003 respectively).

According to Heinrichs & Radostits (2001) the target prevalence rate of perinatal mortality would be 1 to 3 %, and it seems that it can be reached in large dairy farms by using *Vel'Phone* to predict the onset of calving. On the other hand it has been recently confirmed by our group that inappropriately timed obstetrical assistance can significantly increase the prevalence of stillbirth, the injuries of the soft birth canal, retained fetal membranes and clinical metritis.

Keywords: DAIRY COW, MONITORING CALVING, STILLBIRTH, VAGINAL THERMOMETER

SHEDDING OF *COXIELLA BURNETII* IN DAIRY CATTLE AND POSSIBILITY OF TRANSMISSION VIA ALIMENTARY ROUTE

M. Szymańska-Czerwińska, A. Jodełko, K. Zaręba-Marchewka, K. Niemczuk
monika.szymanska@piwet.pulawy.pl

National Veterinary Research Institute,
Department of Cattle and Sheep Diseases, Puławy, Poland

Estimation of herd-level prevalence of *C. burnetii* shedding in the Polish dairy cattle and identification of the pathogen's genotypes and STs using multiple-locus variable number tandem repeat analysis (MLVA) and multispacer sequence typing (MST) methods. Moreover, the possibility of transmission of the pathogen via alimentary route was evaluated.

In total 2635 bovine serum samples from 969 cattle herds were tested by ELISA/CFT test. Moreover 1439 specimens such as: individual milk samples (n=897), bulk tank milk (n=101), vaginal swabs (n=409), placenta (n=32); were subjected to *C. burnetii* specific qPCR. The qualitative real-time PCR, detecting IS1111 element was performed. The 49 samples with the lowest Ct values were selected for genotyping by MLVA-6 and MST methods. MLVA was performed using 6 variable loci. Amplification products were run on *ABI 3500 Genetic Analyser* and electropherograms were evaluated with *GeneMapper* software. MST was performed as previously described by Glazunova et al. (2005). Ten different intergenic spacers: Cox 2, 5, 18, 20, 22, 37, 51, 56, 57 and 61 were amplified and after purification products were subjected to sequencing. Moreover, to assess the possibility of transmission of the pathogen via alimentary route, an experiment on guinea pigs was conducted.

Average seroprevalence for bovine herds was 24.46 % (969/237). Molecular analysis by real-time PCR revealed the presence of *C. burnetii* DNA in 88 (31.54 %) of tested cattle herds. Positive results were obtained for placenta specimens as well as for swabs from reproductive tract, however the most common was shedding in milk. Five previously described MLVA genotypes: I, J, BG, BE, NM and two novel PL1 and PL2 were identified in 31 out of 49 samples. Two sequence types: ST16 and one newly discovered, named ST61, were identified in field samples using MST technique. After *per os* administration of the pathogen, one guinea pig developed seroconversion and the presence of *C. burnetii* DNA was detected using real-time PCR in testicles and intestine of some animals.

The research confirmed that level of prevalence of *C. burnetii* in dairy cattle herds in Poland is significant and similar to other European countries. It should be highlighted that MLVA and MST profiles identified in this research were different from profiles of the strain involved in the Q fever outbreak in The Netherlands as well as from genotypes of the outbreak strains isolated in Poland the 20th century. However, some of them as genotype I, J, NM and ST16 have been previously recorded in humans, therefore zoonotic threat cannot be ruled out. The results of conducted experiment did not exclude the possibility of infection by alimentary route.

Keywords: *COXIELLA BURNETII*, MILK, CATTLE

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EFFECT OF PEGYLATED GRANULOCYTE COLONY-STIMULATING FACTOR ON HEALTH OF MAMMARY GLAND IN DAIRY COWS

J. Tabery[1], M. Andrlíková[1], V. Bina[2], A. Lauschmannová[1], M. Mizeráková[1], T. Páleník[1], V. Stařecká[1], K. Švédová[1], S. Čech[1]
cechs@vfu.cz

[1]University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno,
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ruminant and Swine Clinic, Brno, Czech Republic
[2]University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic

The granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (gCSF) from a family of glycoprotein cytokines-stimulates the production of granulocytes and stem cells in the bone marrow.Their release into the bloodstreamis the most important cellular defense against different pathogens. Pegylated granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (PEG-gCSF) has been shown to significantly increase the number ofcirculating neutrophils, level of phagocytosis, myeloperoxidasis release and oxidative burst in dairy cows. Clinical effect of PEG-gCSF on occurrence of clinical mastitis during the first month postpartum as well as on disease severity, bacterial count or reduction of milk yieldwas reported. However, available studies are not numerous and confirmation of published results is necessary. The aim of the study was to evaluate the effect of PEG-gCSF on health of mammary gland postpartum in dairy cattle.

Cows in experimental group (n=119) were treated by PEG-gCSF (*Imrestor*, *Elanco*, treatment 7 days before expected parturition and 1 day after parturition s.c.). Cows in control group (n=125) remained without treatment. Incidence of clinical mastitis and subclinical mastitis was observed during 3 months postpartum. Bacteriological examination of milk was performed in 3rd and 8th week (1st sampling, 2nd sampling) postpartum in 55 cows from experimental and control group.

Incidence of clinical mastitis was 26.9 % and 21.6 % during 1 month postpartum, 31.1 % and 29.6 % during 2 months postpartum and 37 % and 33.6 % during 3 months postpartum in experimental and control group, respectively. Incidence of subclinical mastitis was 18.1 % and 18.8 % during 1 month postpartum, 32.8 % and 37.6 % during 2 months postpartum and 46.1 % and 56.4 % during 3 months postpartum in experimental and control group, respectively. Proportion of bacteriologically positive milk samples was 14.5 % and 16.4 % at 1st sampling, 10.9 % and 10.9 % at 2nd sampling and 23.6 % and 20 % at both samplings in experimental and control group, respectively. There were no significant differences between groups.

Results of the study did not confirm positive effects of PEG-gCSF onthe occurrence of clinical and subclinical mastitis as well as on bacteriological findings in milk in dairy cows.

Keywords: COW, PEGYLATED GRANULOCYTE COLONY-STIMULATING FACTOR, MASTITIS

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BILE-SYNTHESIZING FUNCTION OF LIVER ON ENTROPATHOLOGY OF NEWBORN CALVES

V. Tomchuk, V. Gryshchenko
tomchuk_viktor@ukr.net

National University of life and environmental sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

The presence of a close anatomical and functional connection between the liver and the intestine causes the possibility of simultaneous destruction of these organs caused by the development of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract of newborn calves, which reduces the clinical effect of traditional therapy and leads to complications. The issue of bile-synthesizing function of liver on enteropathology of newborn calves is still insufficiently studied. The purpose of this work was to investigate changes in the bile-acid spectrum of bile and liver in calves caused by the development of neonatal enteropathology.

Experiments were carried out at the Velikosnitynske Training and Research Farm in the Fastovsky District of the Kyiv Region. Black-and-white calves of 2-day age were assigned to two groups: control and experimental, 5 animals in each. The control group included clinically healthy animals. The experimental group included the calves with acute digestive disorders of non-contagious etiology. On the fifth day of life, calves were sampled with bile and liver. The bile acids in the biological material were investigated by thin-layer chromatography (Veselsky S. P., 1991). The content of individual bile acids was determined using a refractometer DO-1 densitometer (λ 620 nm) and calibration graphs. The results of the research were subject to statistical analysis (Kucherenko M. E. et al., 1985).

Due to the chromatographic analysis of extracts from bile and liver tissues of newborn calves, 7 fractions of conjugated and free bile acids were identified. In the bile of diseased calves there are deviations both in the ratio of individual bile acids, and in a significant decrease in their overall content. In particular, the total content of cholates in cystic bile of the calves with enteropathology decreased to 1353.4±88.1 mg%. The concentration of TCA in bile decreased by 38.4 %, TChDxCA + TDxCA by 36.7 %, GCA by 62.7 %, and GChDxCA + GDxCA by 67.6 %. At the same time, the level of free bile acids in bile significantly increased. Thus, the CA content increased by 70.1 %, ChDxCA + DxCA by 69.2 %, and LiCA by 10 times. Increasing the level of free bile acids, together with a significant decrease in concentrations of conjugated taurine and glycine bile acids, caused a significant decrease in the conjugation rate compared to control, indicating inhibition of the biosynthesis and conjugative liver function of sick calves. In the analysis of extracts from liver tissues in calves, there is a significant decrease in the total content of bile acids (by 35.4 %), and in all fractions of conjugated bile acids compared with the control. Among the free bile acids, only the concentration of LHC significantly increased 4 times compared with the control.

In the bile of sick calves, compared to healthy ones, there are differences both in the ratio of individual bile acids, and in a significant decrease in their total content. However, against this backdrop of a decrease in bile acid concentrations conjugated to taurine and glycine, the level of free representatives increased significantly, indicating a decrease in the synthesis and conjugative liver function of diseased calves. In the liver of sick calves, the content of all fractions of conjugated bile acids was significantly lower than control values. Attention is drawn to the fact that the level of free bile acids decreases, but the concentration of toxic LHC increases. The established facts are important to consider when designing therapeutic schemes.

Keywords: NEWBORN CALVES, BILE ACIDS, BILE, LIVER, ENTEROPATHOLOGY

EFFECT OF DIETARY PROPYLENE GLYCOL, VITAMIN E, METHIONINE AND CARNITINE SEPARATELY AND AS COMPLEX SUPPLEMENT ON PERFORMANCE OF TRANSITION DAIRY COWS

V. Vlizlo[1], *O. Hultyayeva*[1], *I. Vudmaska*[1], *A. Petruk*[2]
vasyl.vlizlo@inenbiol.com.ua

[1]Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine
[2]Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies named after Stepan Gzhytsky, Lviv, Ukraine

Despite the significant range of drugs and supplements regulating rumen metabolism, glucose synthesis and fatty acids utilization in the liver, approximately 40 % of high-yielding cows exhibit subclinical form of ketosis and fatty liver syndrome. Propylene glycol is widely used as glucose precursor for the prevention and treatment of ketosis. Inadequate intake of methionine reduces the synthesis of phospholipids and lipoproteins in the liver. As a result, the elimination from the liver to the bloodstream of triacylglycerols by the very low-density lipoproteins slowed down. The addition of high-dose vitamins E to the diets of transition cows reduces the somatic cells count in milk, lower the frequency occurrence of mastitis and placenta retention. Furthermore, some researchers suggest increasing the content of vitamin E in diets of cows, since rumen bacteria respond positively to high doses of this vitamin. Carnitine transports fatty acids into the mitochondria for oxidation, and therefore contributes to less accumulation of lipids in the liver. The purpose of our work was to investigate the effect of adding to the diet of cows at the end of the dry period and after calving, the complex feed supplement to prevent ketosis and steatosis and stimulate next milk yielding.

Six groups of cows were used for the experiment, 5 animals each. The 1st group received a standard balanced diet. To the diet of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th groups cows added (per animal per day): dry propylene glycol — 200 g, 50 % vitamin E (*Rovimix-50*) — 5 g, of rumen protected methionine (MHA 86 %) — 20 g, rumen protected carnitine — 1.0 g (5 g of *Carnipass*), and all these additives in the complex. The trial lasted three weeks before and the three weeks after calving. The milk yields of cows were monitored during the first three months of lactation.

Propylene glycol increased amylolytic, vitamin E — cellulosolitic, and methionine — proteolytic activities in the rumen. As a result, in the rumen of cows receiving propylene glycol the concentration of propionate and lactate, and in rumen of cows receiving vitamin E the total volatile fatty acids concentration were higher ($P<0.05$). Propylene glycol, vitamin E and methionine reduced the blood concentration of acetoacetate and beta-hydroxybutyrate. The total amount of ketone bodies in the cows received propylene glycol, vitamin E or methionine were 2.49; 1.64 and 1.23 times less than in control group ($P<0.01$). The addition of propylene glycol increased glucose concentration ($P<0.05$) and reduced the concentration of triacylglycerols ($P<0.01$); methionine increased urea concentration ($P<0.05$); higher amount of vitamin E reduced the concentration of lipid peroxidation products ($P<0.01$) in blood plasma of cows.

All studied feed additives have reduced the concentration of un-esterified fatty acids in plasma, what is important for the prevention of ketosis. Propylene glycol and complex feed supplement with the same effectiveness reduce the concentration of ketone bodies in the blood of cows. Propylene glycol increased milk yield, but decreased milk fat content. Vitamin E did not increase milk yields, but elevated the fat content in milk. Methionine and carnitine did not affect milk productivity. Adding to the diet of cows the complex supplement did not affect milk yield, but increased milk fat.

Keywords: COWS, PROPYLENE GLYCOL, VITAMIN E, METHIONINE, CARNITINE

THE INTENSITY OF PROTEIN EXCHANGE AND THE CONTENT OF GLUCOPROTEINS IN THE BLOOD OF COWS UNDER THE CONDITION OF FEEDING IODINE CITRATE

V. V. Vlizlo, I. I. Kovalchuk, O. I. Koleshchuk, M. M. Tsap, M. I. Khrabko
okolechuk@ukr.net

Institute of Animal Biology NAAS, Lviv, Ukraine

A balanced and complete feeding of cows during the dry period is an important condition for their preservation and health, as well as the growth of dairy productivity in the period of the future lactation. The purpose of the work was to study the parameters of protein metabolism and the content of glycoproteins in the blood of cows after calving under the condition of feeding iodine citrate in various doses.

The research was conducted on the 15 full-age cows of Ukrainian black-and-white milk breed, analogues by age (3–5 lactation), body weight, lactation period (1st month after calving) in the winter-stool period under the condition of anchoring the cows. The cows of I (control) group received the basic diet (BD), which was normalized according to the physiological state, productivity and body weight. The animals of the II experimental group from 18 to 78 days of lactation received iodine citrate in the feed daily at a rate of 0.6 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet and the animals of the III experimental group received BD and iodine citrate at the rate of 0.06 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet. For biochemical studies, the selected samples of venous blood were used in the preparatory and experimental (60 days of feeding of iodine supplements) periods. The state of protein exchange was estimated by the content of urea, total protein, albumin, the activity of AlAT and AsAT sialic acids, and hexose-bound proteins in the blood serum.

It has been found that the level of total proteins increased by 13.5 % ($P<0.05$) in the blood serum of animals of group III, which fed iodine citrate in the amount of 0.06 mg/kg of dry matter of the diet. The feeding of animals with iodine citrate contributed to 16.7 % increase in albumin content in these animals and 16.6 % decrease in the activity of AsAT ($P<0.05$). Increasing the total protein and albumin in the blood of animals in the III experimental group may indicate a stimulating effect of iodine citrate in this concentration, on the intensity of protein synthesis in the liver of the cows. In the blood of cows of the II experimental group, which received 0.6 mg I/kg of dry matter of the diet, the content of albumin was not increased to be 15.1 % and the total protein to 2.43 % and the activity of AsAT was decreased by 16.6 % ($P<0.05$). AlAT did not undergo significant differences in the cows of experimental groups. It is worth noting that the probable changes in the activity of AlAT due to the activity of iodine citrate in cows of experimental groups were not detected. Obviously, the feeding of iodine in the form of citrate increases the protein exchange rate and activates the processes of transamination in the liver. In the blood of cows of experimental groups, no probable differences were found between the main final protein metabolism product — urea and creatinine. Obviously, the use of these doses of iodine citrate did not affect the course of the protein exchange and the energy processes in the myocytes and it did not cause the functional and structural changes in the muscle and excretory systems of the organism.

Studies of the level of glycoproteins in the blood of control and experimental cows indicate the corrective effects of iodine citrate on the immunobiological reactivity of their organism. This is evidenced by the higher level of glycoproteins and individual monocycles of their carbohydrate components in the blood of animals in experimental groups compared with the control that remained within the physiological norm. However, there is a more pronounced effect of adding 0.6 mg I/kg of dry matter of iodine citrate to the animal diet, used in the II group and was accompanied by a probable increase in the concentration of ceruloplasmin by 10,2 % ($P<0,01$), hexose bound to proteins by 15 % ($P<0,01$), sialic acids — by 24 % ($P<0.01$). Whereas in the blood of animals of the III group, the tendency to increase the concentration of ceruloplasmin and hexose bound to proteins and the probable increase in the content of sialic acids was maintained by 11.4 % ($P<0.05$). Thus, the biological effect of iodine citrate is more pronounced in cows of group II, which received a higher concentration of mineral additive.

Keywords: COWS, IODINE, GLYCOPROTEINS, PROTEIN, TRANSAMINASES

DESIGN, SYNTHESIS AND ACTIVITY EVALUATION OF NOVEL HOMOSERINE LACTONES DERIVATIVES WITH PHENYLUREA GROUPS AS BACTERIAL QUORUM SENSING INHIBITORS

C. Wu, K. Xiaoyan, L. Haoyue, L. Yongxi
kedi2009@126.com

Zhengzhou University, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Key Laboratory of Technology of Drug Preparation, Ministry of Education, Zhengzhou, China

We design, synthesis and activity evaluation of novel homoserine lactones derivatives with phenylurea groups as bacterial quorum sensing inhibitors.

We designed and synthesized a series of novel quorum sensing inhibitors 2a~i. Through *chromobacterium* CV026 instruction strains and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa las* system quorum sensing detection model, extracellular virulence factors (pyocyanin, elastase, rhamnolipid), swarming motility and biofilm formation regulated by QS system of PAO1 compared with brominated furanone C-30. And we used Autodock molecular simulation software to simulate the combination of the active compounds to the receptor protein LasR.

AHLs linked different phenylurea groups expressed more outstanding anti-QS activity than brominated furanone C-30. Compound 2f significantly reduced extracellular virulence factors (pyocyanin, elastase, rhamnolipid), swarming motility and biofilm formation regulated by QS system of PAO1 in a lower concentration and formed two hydrogen bonds by interacting with Arg-61 to exert more outstanding anti-QS activity than C-30. So, Arg-61 is very important in QSI than other amino acid residues.

It is possible that this work could be a precursor compound for further study of novel QSIs based on structural modification and introduce new methods for developing anti-QS active products.

Keywords: QSI, PHENYLUREA, BACTERIOSTATS, AHLS

THE INFLUENCE OF RUMINAL BOLUS WITH SHORT-DISSOLVING TIME ON SELECTED BLOOD PARAMETERS IN HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN COWS AFTER PARTURITION — PRELIMINARY RESULTS

D. Wysocka
dominika.wysocka@uwm.edu.pl

University of Warmia and Mazury, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department and Clinic of Internal Diseases, Olsztyn, Poland

The aim of this preliminary study was to determine the influence of ruminal bolus with short-dissolving time on selected blood parameters in Holstein-Friesian cows after parturition.

Group of 6 healthy Holstein-Friesian cows during third pregnancy was chosen to participate in the study. The cows included in the experiment had to meet the following criteria: no record of hypocalcemia, single pregnancy and physiological parturition without human assistance before bolus administration. Cows received 2 ruminal boluses: first — up to 2 hours after parturition, second — 24 hours after the first. Blood samples were taken 5 times. First sampling occurred just before first bolus administration (0), second after 5 hours (5th hour), third during second bolus administration (24th hour), fourth 10 hours after second bolus administration (34th hour) and fifth 48 hours after first bolus administration (48th hour). Blood was collected from the tail vein using 1,2 mm needle into *Vacutainer* test-tubes with clot activator. The blood was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes to obtain the serum. The following parameters were determined: ASPAT, ALP, glucose, Na^{+}, K^{+}, Cl^{-}, vitamin D_3 (25-OH), Ca, Mg, P. Obtained results were analyzed with *Statistica* software using Student's *t*-test to compare results of first to other samplings and ANOVA to determine the differences between all samplings.

Ruminal bolus administration appeared to significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) affect several analyzed parameters. It increased ($P \leq 0.05$) Ca and P concentrations, the activity of ASPAT — from 1,40 to 1,95 mmol/l, from 1,14 to 1,50 mmol/l and from 81,17 to 129,83 u/l during 48 hours respectively, and decreased ($P \leq 0.05$) the glucose concentration and the ALP activity — from 7,61 to 3,98 mmol/l and from 68 to 60,67 u/l during 48 hours respectively, even though all the obtained results oscillated around reference values for cattle. No statistically significant changes were observed in the concentration of electrolytes and vitamin D_3 (25-OH).

Fluctuations in the levels of determined blood parameters oscillating around the reference values may indicate the existence of interactions between the components of the bolus at the stage of absorption in the gastrointestinal tract and interactions between the components of the bolus and environment of the rumen itself. Ruminal boluses with short-dissolving time, due to their beneficial influence on some blood parameters including calcium concentration in serum, might be considered as a preventative measure for hypocalcemia in dairy cows after parturition. However, a more detailed study will be conducted in order to determine the most effective bolus administration protocol which will enable to make the most of the potential of such products.

Keywords: DAIRY COW, HYPOCALCEMIA, RUMINAL BOLUS

THE EFFECT OF EXOGENOUS MELATONIN ON ANTIOXIDATIVE ENZYMATIC ACTIVITY OF FRENCH ALPINE BUCKS SEMINAL PLASMA AND SPERMATOZOA DURING THE NON-BREEDING SEASON

I. Žura Žaja[1], V. Berta[2], H. Valpotić[1], M. Samardžija[1], S. Milinković-Tur[1], M. Vilić[1], D. Đuričić[3], B. Špoljarić[1], J. Šuran[1], S. Čipčić[1], S. Vince[1]
smarko@vef.hr

[1]University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
[2]Veterinary practice, Varaždin, Croatia
[3]Veterinary practice, Đurđevac, Croatia

The aim of this study was to determine the effect of exogenous melatonin on antioxidative protection of bucks ejaculate during the non-breeding season by monitoring of antioxidative enzymatic activity, the ratios of antioxidative enzymes and the concentration of malondialdehyde (MDA) in seminal plasma and spermatozoa.

Twelve clinically healthy bucks of the French alpine breed aged from 1.5 to 4 years were randomly assigned into melatonin (MG) and control (CG) groups, with 6 bucks in each. The experimental period 3 months (March-May) was divided into six periods of 15 days each. The bucks in the MG group received four melatonin implants subcutaneously in the ear basis at the end of March. Two semen samples were taken from the bucks by artificial vagina once per week. The activities of glutathione-reductase (GR), glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px), superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and concentration of malondialdehyde (MDA) were determined in seminal plasma and spermatozoa.

The MG bucks had significantly lower values of GR in the spermatozoa and the seminal plasma during almost all periods of the experiment. In addition, significantly lower activity of GSH-Px in the spermatozoa and higher in the seminal plasma were observed in the last period of the experiment as well as significantly lower value of SOD in spermatozoa during the last 3 periods of the experiment. The MG bucks had significantly higher values of the ratios: CAT/SOD, GSH-Px/SOD in the seminal plasma and spermatozoa during 6th period of the experiment. In addition, the same group of bucks had significantly lower values of the ratio: GR/GSH-px in the spermatozoa during 6th period and in the seminal plasma during 5th period of the experiment.

According to the obtained results it could be concluded that the exogenous melatonin changed the value of particular antioxidative enzyme activities in certain periods of the experiment, especially of GR and GSH-Px in the seminal plasma and the spermatozoa and SOD in spermatozoa. Also, the exogenous melatonin had an influence on the ratios of antioxidative enzymes in the seminal plasma and the spermatozoa, and thus, the precise determination of these ratios in the future could be considered as a better indicator of oxidative stress which may provide a better insight into adaptation and antioxidative status of the semen in regard to activities of single antioxidative enzymes. In this study the antioxidative status in French Alpine buck spermatozoa was established for the first time.

Keywords: EXOGENOUS MELATONIN, SEMINAL PLASMA, SPERMATOZOA, RATIOS OF ANTIOXIDATIVE ENZYMES, BUCKS