

Farm specific plan

Herd

- Communicate diagnosis and plan to all farm staff
- Individual cow treatments
- Observe daily/2 x daily with FANI card
- OAD or dry off
- Nutrition – good quality, high energy
- Shelter
- Trace elements
- Parasites (internal)
- Have a plan to manage stock movements onto and off the farm that accounts for the Theileria status of properties
- Pasture management.

Plan for other stock groups

Calves

Young stock

Bulls – tick treatment prior to coming on farm

Other stock – carry-overs, beefies

Your veterinarian will work with you to develop a farm specific plan to manage Theileria.

Contact your local veterinarian:

For further information:

DairyNZ
New Zealand Veterinary Association
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
Biosecurity hotline (MPI)

dairynz.co.nz
nzva.org.nz
mpi.govt.nz
0800 80 99 66

Theileria orientalis Ikeda – the tick disease

*A guide for farmers working with their veterinarian
in managing Theileria on dairy farms*



DNZ50-012



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The facts

- A parasite which causes destruction of the red blood cells in cattle and is spread by ticks
- Occasionally fatal (approx. 1%)
- Can cause significant productivity losses
- Usually seen in cows around calving, or beef calves 5-10 weeks old
- Majority of infected animals are subclinical
- Usually introduced by stock movement
- Tick treatments help keep tick numbers lower which may slow the spread of the disease in some circumstances
- Unclear if immunity develops and persists
- No vaccine available.

Signs and examination

1. Signs:

- Lethargy (tired, slow)
- Odd behaviour
- Off colour
- Down
- Jaundice (yellow mucous membranes)
- Pale udders.

2. No obvious cause

3. Contact your veterinarian

4. Differential diagnoses (*other causes of anaemia*)

- a. Metabolic disease
- b. Facial eczema
- c. Zinc toxicity
- d. Chronic liver disease eg kale/brassica poisoning, leptospirosis
- e. Copper toxicity
- f. Post-partum haemorrhage.

Diagnosis and treatment

1. Signs of anaemia

- Collect blood samples

Samples to collect:

- Preferably EDTA (purple top) for PCV and blood smear and Ikeda PCR
- Plain (red top) for Ikeda PCR

2. Rule out differential diagnoses.

3. Treat

- Consider euthanasia if severely affected depending on age, BCS, BV, other health issues
- Transfuse cows (PCV <12) with 5-6 litres blood from a healthy cow in the herd
- BPQ (buparvaquone) – if considering use note:
 - Very long milk/meat WHP
 - Need to tag and record
 - Restrictions on sale, movement and slaughter
 - Efficacy for Ikeda strain unproven in New Zealand at this time, as is oxytetracycline use.

4. Establish plan for on-going care.

Ongoing care

Theileria cows

- OAD
- Feed high quality supplements
- Rest/limited walking
- Sheltered paddock
- Minimise handling
- Deal with other concurrent disease.

Rest of the herd

- Observe daily especially springers and colostrums
- Suggest compare vulva colour using the FANI card.

