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 dairynz.co.nz
New Zealand Veterinary Association nzva.org.nz
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) mpi.govt.nz
Biosecurity hotline (MPI) 0800 80 99 66

Theileria orientalis Ikeda – the tick disease

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

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.