

Bovine tuberculosis

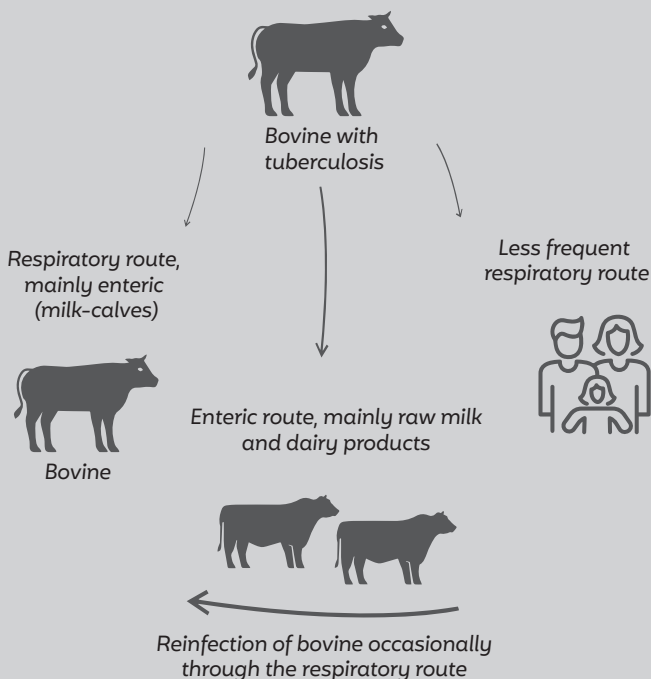
take good care of your herd
- stay alert



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Chain of transmission of bovine tuberculosis



Disseminator

Bovine tuberculosis is a chronic animal disease, caused by a bacterium named *Mycobacterium bovis*, which is closely related to the bacteria that cause human and avian tuberculosis. This disease can affect almost all mammals and cause general malaise, coughing, and even death.

Transmission of the disease

Transmission occurs from an infected animal to other animals and/or human beings through respiratory droplets or nasal discharge, raw milk, raw meat, feces, urine, vaginal/uterine secretions, and semen. Newly infected animals can transmit the disease even when they do not have any lesions or clinical signs.

How it occurs in bovines

The disease progresses slowly and the bacteria often remains in a latent state in the host, without manifesting the disease. Therefore, an infected animal may infect other animals in the herd before it shows the first clinical signs. These signs usually include tiredness, loss of appetite, weight loss, intermittent fever, intermittent dry cough, diarrhea and swollen, prominent lymph nodes.

Tuberculosis takes time to manifest its symptoms, therefore periodic tuberculin skin tests are required.

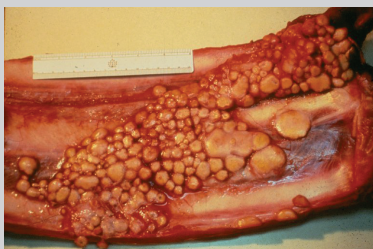
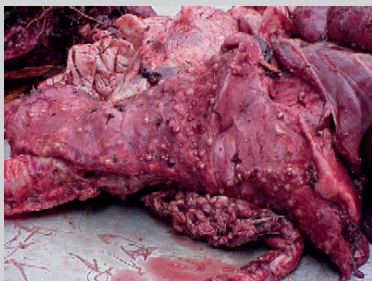
Organs affected: The lungs (main organ), liver, intestines, spleen, kidney, udder, genitals.

Care and prevention

Implementation of tuberculosis control and eradication programs:

Tuberculin tests; Certification of disease-free herds; Certification of "areas free of the disease"; Culling of reactive (positive) animals; Strict hygiene and sanitary measures; Isolation of animals with inconclusive diagnosis; Disinfection of facilities, such as troughs, drinkers and milking rooms, by removing all organic residue and disinfecting these areas preferably with 10% sodium hypochlorite; Clinically examining the herd and checking for the possibility of non-reactive animals, such as newly born, newly infected or those already sick, in an advanced stage of the disease; Intervals between tuberculinizations – at least 60 days between the screening test and the confirmatory test or 90 days during the entire sanitation of the herd; Performance of health examinations of the people involved;

Checking the possibility of contagion of other animals on the farm; Pasteurization of raw milk, that is, heating it at 62.8°C to 65.6°C for thirty minutes (slow pasteurization) or heating raw milk at 71.7°C for fifteen seconds (rapid pasteurization), which destroys the bacteria. ***For further information, seek your local Animal Health Department.***



Bovine lung with tuberculosis lesions