

## Science and Research Projects

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### Investigation of an emerging syndrome of bovine neonatal pancytopenia in calves. - SE0534

#### Description

The objectives of this proposal are as follows:

1. To provide an accurate case definition of this new syndrome. This will be based on the results of the clinical examination of live, affected calves and the pathological examination of calves that have succumbed to disease. This objective will be accomplished after collaboration with colleagues from other European countries to ensure that we are all describing and investigating the same condition.
2. To identify, describe and characterise the case population. This will be achieved by identifying and describing temporal and geographic patterns of emergence of the condition. A survey of private veterinary surgeons (PVSs) from the VLA and SAC client-base will be conducted to gather this information and also to raise awareness amongst this sector of the veterinary profession.
3. To establish risk factors related to calves with IHD. A case-control study will be designed and 56 herds where clinical disease has occurred will be enrolled. Farmers will be interviewed using comprehensive and detailed questionnaires. The case population will be compared to a control population comprising 56 farms chosen at random.
4. The ultimate goal of this project, having defined a typical case, described the case population and risk factors related to its incidence, is to establish a definite cause. This will involve a detailed search for infectious agents, including novel viruses, and the possible role of colostrum uptake. In addition there will be a detailed analysis of all the epidemiological data to highlight other possible causes unrelated to exposure to an infectious agent.
5. To raise awareness of this new and emerging condition by communicating with, and transferring knowledge to, PVSs, farmers, the wider scientific community and risk managers. Results will be disseminated widely via the agricultural and scientific press and at meetings of both the scientific and lay community.
6. Finally, a vital objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach to the investigation of a new syndrome of unknown cause that appears in our livestock population. This will encompass an evaluation of the efficiency of the investigation with respect to its timeliness, efficient use of resources, ability to generate meaningful data and the effectiveness of the collaborative effort of a number of organisations both within the UK and across other EU countries.

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### Project Documents

• **FRP - Final Report** : [Investigation of an Emerging Syndrome of Bovine Neonatal Pancytopenia in Calves](#) (1220k)

### Time-Scale and Cost

**From:** 2009

**To:** 2011

**Cost:** £401,684

### Contractor / Funded Organisations

[Veterinary Laboratories Agency](#)

### Keywords

[Animal Diseases](#)  
[Animal Health](#)  
[Bovine](#)  
[Disease Prevention](#)  
[Plants and Animals](#)

### Fields of Study

[Animal Health](#)