

A multi-country epidemiological investigation of bovine neonatal pancytopenia (BNP)

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Since 2006, a syndrome called bovine neonatal pancytopenia (BNP) has been reported from several European countries and, more recently, from New Zealand. The incidence of BNP is low but the case fatality rate is high. A causal association with Pregsure BVD vaccination of the dam has been hypothesized and the vaccine was withdrawn from the market in August 2010. The current project funded by Pfizer Animal Health is designed to identify risk factors associated with BNP occurrence both at herd level and within affected herds at animal level. It consists of two nested study components. A case-control study was conducted to compare cattle farms that experienced BNP cases with those that did not. Amongst affected herds, a second case-control study was performed to compare characteristics of affected and unaffected calves. The study was conducted in Belgium, France, Germany and The Netherlands to maximise case recruitment and to allow an assessment of the potential impact of country-specific animal management practices. Data collection was completed in December 2011, yielding a total of 448 case and 757 control herds and, from the case herds, 538 cases and 1,511 control calves. Data have been reviewed to refine case definitions before proceeding to descriptive, univariable and multivariable analyses. Results from these analyses will be presented.