Bovine neonatal pancytopenia (BNP) in young calves in Germany on high and low incidence farms
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BNP is a new emerging calf disease, characterized by multiple haemorrhages, thrombocytopenia and leucocytopenia as a result of bone marrow depletion. It occurred sporadically before 2006, but an increase in incidence was observed in 2006 in Bavaria, Germany, and the disease has been seen in many European countries thereafter. Several studies reported an interaction between colostral-derived alloantibodies affecting neonatal blood cells. However, some farms have multiple cases, even in one year, while others only have one or two cases over several years. The present study compared farms (n=40) with high and farms (n=40) with low incidence of BNP in their calves in Germany. All farms have been randomly selected from the database containing over 250 farms with BNP in Germany. All 250 farms had been asked by telephone interview about the number of BNP cases they had experienced since 2006. The farms were then categorized as ‘high’ or ‘low’ incidence farms and study farms selected randomly of these. An extensive questionnaire was used to collect data about hypothesized risk factors, such as colostrum management and vaccinations, including different schemes of vaccinations against BVDV. In total 1,178 BNP cases had been mentioned by the farmers of the 250 case farms. Only about 60% of the cases were confirmed. Due to the bad prognosis of the cases, many farmers did only report the first one or two cases. Incidence on farms ranged between 0.3% and 20% of cows affected within the years, in which BNP was observed on the farm. Data collection using the questionnaire is finished, and analysis comparing the frequency of risk factor occurrence between the two groups of farms will focus on colostrum management and vaccinations. Results of this analysis will be presented at the conference.