Prevalence of antileptospiral agglutinins and anti-*Neospora caninum* antibodies: a first step to economic evaluation of dairy herds in Minas Gerais, Brazil, 2010

Nicolino, R.R.¹, Lopes, L.B.², Rodrigues, R.O.³, Teixeira, J.F.B.¹ and Haddad, J.P.A.¹, ¹Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Department of Preventative Veterinary Medicine, Brazil, ²Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research – EMBRAPA, Brazil, ³Fepagro Animal Health – Veterinary Research Institute Desidério Finamor, Brazil; rafa_uenf@hotmail.com

The economic losses related leptospirosis and neoporosis are unknown in Brazil, the prevalence estimate is the first step to achieve a quantification of the lost value and thus what effects control measures should be propose with economically efficiency. The study aimed to evaluate the prevalence of anti-*Leptospira* agglutinins and anti-*Neospora caninum* antibodies in dairy cows, located in properties in the microregion of Sete Lagoas, Minas Gerais, in the year 2010. The state of Minas Gerais is the largest milk producer in Brazil, producing more than 5.6 billion liters of milk annually. A total of 2,915 serum samples were collected from the lactating cows of 151 properties in eleven municipalities. The technique used was the microscopic agglutination test (MAT) for leptospirosis agglutinins and a commercial ELISA kit for anti-*N. caninum* antibodies detection. As a result, 20.7% (CI 95% = 17.1-24.3%) at animal level and 80.8% (CI 95% = 73.8-87.7%) in herd level were positive to anti-*Leptospira* agglutinins. The most prevalent serovars were hardjoprajitno at 19.4%; hardjoprajitno strain Norma at 17.4%; and hardjo-bovis at 17.4%. The prevalence of anti-*N. caninum* antibodies were 21.9% (CI 95% = 18.9-24.9%) at animal level and 98.5% (IC 95% = 97.0-99.9%) at herd level. The agglutinins anti-*Leptospira* and antibodies anti-*N. caninum* are widely distributed in the properties of the microregion of Sete Lagoas, Minas Gerais. The next step of the project is to analyze the risk factors and estimate the economic losses by these two diseases in the dairy cattle. Thanks to CNPq, FAPEMIG and INCT-Pecuária for funding this project.