Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

What is CBPP and what causes it?

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (plur-OH-new-MOAN-ya) is an easily spread respiratory disease of cattle caused by infection with the bacterium Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides (my-COplaz-MA my-COY-dees). Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides should not be confused with Mycoplasma bovis, the bacterium associated with mastitis and shipping fever in cattle. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia is still a problem in Africa, Asia and occasionally Europe.

What animals get CBPP?

Cattle and less commonly, domestic buffaloes, can get contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

How can my animal get CBPP?

Aerosol transmission occurs through breathing in infectious bacteria spread by the cough of infected cattle. Another route is direct contact with an infected animal’s saliva, urine or fetal tissues and fluid. The cow can also transmit the infection to the unborn calf.

How does CBPP affect my animal?

After cattle are exposed to the bacteria, signs of illness can appear 1 to 3 months later and include fever, cough, labored breathing, outstretched neck, wide stance of the front legs, loss of appetite, loss of body condition and decreased milk production. The disease can cause death in 10-70% of the cases.

Some animals may show no signs of disease yet are still infectious to other cattle (carrier animals).

Calves are more likely to show signs of arthritis and lameness than respiratory illness.

Can I get CBPP?

No. People cannot become infected with the bacteria that causes CBPP.

Who should I contact, if I suspect CBPP?

In Animals – Contact your veterinarian.

How can I protect my animal from CBPP?

CBPP is considered a foreign animal disease and has not been found in the United States since 1892. The best approach to prevention is surveillance.

Becoming aware of the clinical signs of the disease (severe respiratory disease in adults and lameness in youngstock) and the conditions resulting in the transmission of the disease (the introduction of infected animals into the herd) are the best ways to protect your animals.

In a CBPP outbreak, limit all contact with animals outside of your herd and quarantine all newly introduced animals for a period of time established with your herd veterinarian.

For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia at http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/


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