

CATTLE FACTS.

BEEF BIOS

Vaccination against Pulpy Kidney – Cattle

Pulpy Kidney (enterotoxaemia) is a disease that can cause sudden death in cattle. It often affects animals in good body condition and can be difficult to diagnose. Vaccination is an important tool in the prevention of deaths due to Pulpy Kidney disease.

What is Pulpy Kidney disease?

Pulpy Kidney disease generally presents as sudden death. Occasionally in-coordination and convulsions may be observed prior to death. Multiple animals may be affected, often the heaviest animals in a mob.

What causes the disease?

The disease is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* Type D and the toxin it produces. The bacteria and toxin can exist in small amounts in the gut of healthy animals. Normal movement of material through the intestine keeps the levels of bacteria and toxin very low so that no disease occurs.

Factors that alter the environment in the gut may allow these bacterial spores to germinate (or activate), multiply rapidly and produce high levels of toxin, resulting in disease and death.

What are the risk factors?

Sudden changes in the amount or quality of feed, such as introduction to lush pasture or grain-based diets, can alter the gut environment and allow the bacterial spores to germinate, multiply and release toxin. Pulpy Kidney is therefore most likely to occur during periods of rapid pasture growth and high feed availability, especially when animals are moved from a low-quality feed onto these pastures.



Managing the risk

There is no treatment for Pulpy Kidney disease so prevention is critical.

The first defence against Pulpy Kidney is to avoid those situations that can contribute to bacterial growth and toxin production within the animal, such as a sudden change in diet. In practice these situations may be difficult to avoid during normal farm management practices. Thus vaccination against Pulpy Kidney is an important, and practical, tool in the management of this disease.

Vaccination

Zoetis offers a range of vaccines for the prevention of pulpy kidney disease in cattle.

Ultravac[®] 5 in 1 Ultravac[®] 7 in 1

In previously unvaccinated animals, a primary course of two vaccinations, 4-6 weeks apart, is required. These two basic doses of Ultravac 5in1 or Ultravac 7in1 should provide effective immunity against pulpy kidney disease for three months. Booster doses, using Ultravac 5in1, are therefore necessary to maintain immunity against pulpy kidney disease in cattle and should be given at appropriate intervals according to local and seasonal conditions. At a minimum, annual booster doses of Ultravac 5in1 or 7in1 should be administered.

The risk of Pulpy Kidney disease will vary depending on farm management practices. Contact your local Zoetis Representative, Zoetis Technical Services or your local veterinarian for specific advice to suit your situation and level of risk.

Both Ultravac 5in1 and Ultravac 7in1 can be used for up to 30 days after opening (see label for storage instructions).

***For more information contact your local Zoetis Representative or call
Zoetis Technical Services on 1800 814 883.***

