

Diseases Causing Abortions in Cattle (Cont.)

Disease	Organism	How spread	Stage of gestation at abortion	Samples needed for diagnosis	Vaccination	Remarks
Virus diarrhea (BVD)	Viral	Contagious from cow to cow.	Variable, usually early in gestation	Two blood samples, 3 weeks apart.	Live vaccine. Vaccinate animal after 8 months of age.	Calves born with disease (loss of hair, and brain damage).
Vibriosis	Bacterial (Vibrio fetus venerealis)	Venereal disease spread by infected bulls.	Early abortion, repeat breeding	Vaginal mucus from infected cow; cervical mucus tampons; fetus; preputial washings from bull	Two injections of killed vaccine the first year, 30-60 days before breeding.	More often causes infertility as evidenced by high percentage of open cows. Also causes abortions. Bulls can be carriers for several years if not treated.
	(Vibrio fetus intestinalis)	Ingested	± 6 months	Fetus	None	Sporadic abortions.
Trichomoniasis	Protozoan	Venereal disease spread by infected bulls.	2-4 months	Preputial washings from infected bulls; uterus from cull cow	None	Treatment consists of sexual rest of cows for 60-90 days; artificial insemination; cull infected bulls.
Listeriosis	Bacterial	Carried by rodents and other animals; moldy roughage	Variable	Fetus; placenta; blood from cow.	None	Uterine infection; illness in cattle (circling disease).

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