



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### How are dairy cows affected by bovine anaplasmosis?

#### Correlation with milk production explored in a new article in *Applied Animal Science*

Champaign, IL, April 5, 2021—Bovine anaplasmosis, caused by the hemobacterium *Anaplasma marginale*, is the most widespread tick-transmitted disease of cattle globally and is linked to significant production losses in cattle in the United States. Clinical signs of the disease may include anemia, icterus, fever, weight loss, abortion, lethargy, and lack of appetite, and it can be fatal. Anaplasmosis can be spread through ticks, horseflies, and blood-contaminated objects, as well as through the placenta from cow to calf during pregnancy. In a recent [article](#) in *Applied Animal Science*, researchers from Kansas State University examined the within-herd seroprevalence of antibodies against the hemobacterium that causes anaplasmosis and the correlation between disease status and milk production after an anaplasmosis outbreak in a northern Iowa dairy herd.

“This study demonstrates the need for careful monitoring for anaplasmosis infection across various geographic regions and especially in open herds not having rigorous diagnostic testing protocols,” said David K. Beede, PhD, editor in chief of *Applied Animal Science*. “Poor biosecurity practices, such as failure to quarantine just-purchased animals or re-using hypodermic needles among animals for routine treatments, are risk factors,” he added.

The researchers found that 38% of the animals in the herd tested positive for bovine anaplasmosis. Cows that tested positive for the antibodies produced significantly less milk than cows that tested negative. The authors concluded that by managing risks connected with new additions to a herd and by eliminating circumstances that may support disease transmission, production and herd health at the facility could have been safeguarded.

“This is an important finding, as it demonstrates the need for further study of the effects of *Anaplasma marginale* in dairy settings,” said corresponding author Hans Coetzee, PhD, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA. He added, “In addition, the survey results indicate that freedom from bovine anaplasmosis cannot be assumed for an entire geographic region.”

The article appears in the April issue of *Applied Animal Science*.

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Notes for Editors

“Assessment of within-herd seroprevalence of *Anaplasma marginale* antibodies and association with decreased milk production in an Iowa dairy herd” by Andrew W. Curtis and Johann F. Coetzee (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15232/aas.2020-02110>), *Applied Animal Science*, Volume 37, Issue 2 (April 2021), published by FASS Inc. and Elsevier Inc.

Full text of the article is available to credentialed journalists upon request; contact Brittany Morstatter at +1-217-356-3182 ext. 143 or [arpas@assoqh.org](mailto:arpas@assoqh.org) to obtain copies. To schedule an interview with the authors, please contact Hans F. Coetzee at [jcoetzee@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:jcoetzee@vet.k-state.edu).

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