

Update of Bovine Cysticercosis in Catalonia (North East Spain)

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Introduction

In March 2005, the detection of a series of cases of Bovine Cysticercosis resulted in the establishment of a monitoring programme in Catalonia. From March 2005 to December 2007, 284 animals from 67 cattle farms affected by Bovine Cysticercosis were detected. The number of slaughterhouses reporting cases increased throughout time, from 4 in 2005 to 9 in 2007. Water supply for animals appeared to be the most frequent route of infection (Allepuz et al., 2008). The aim of this work is to update the results of the monitoring programme with data from 2008, and test the hypothesis of water supply as the most likely route of infection.

Animals, Material and Methods

Data on the affected farms and slaughterhouses were provided by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia. A case control study matched by slaughterhouse, type of farm and location was designed. Case farms were defined as those farms where water supply was the most likely route of infection and where infected animals were detected more than 1 time. The presence of *Taenia saginata* eggs in water is being tested by means of a Real-time PCR assay. To compare differences in water quality between case and control farms, water samples are also being analyzed by microbiological methods.

Results

During 2008, a total of 59 animals from 16 different farms (2 dairy and 14 beef) were detected. Three of these farms were detected in previous years, but 13 are new affected farms. The number of slaughterhouses that reported cases has increased from 9 in 2007 to 14 in 2008. The update of the questionnaire gave similar results to those previously reported, being water supply for animals the route with the highest score in 31.6% of the cases (25 farms). Sampling and analysis of water supply of farms is being carried out and preliminary results will be presented during the meeting.

Conclusions

The presence of new affected farms during 2008 and the increase in the number of slaughterhouses reporting infected animals, suggest a continuous exposure to *T. saginata* eggs. Water supply for animals continues to appear as the most frequent route of infection.

References

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