



Lepto – hitting the headlines

as a true risk for

cattle producers.

It's well known that lepto can damage the reproductive performance of beef and dairy herds.

Warning on leptospirosis

"Infected cattle may present with fever, abortions or the birth of weak or stillborn calves."

Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton VIC 19 Jul 2012

Infected cows can suffer abortions after about five months gestation, often in large numbers (an abortion "storm") when the disease spreads through a herd.

Country Leader 7 May 2012 News Page 9

But

Did you know that lepto can also make people extremely ill as well?

'Lepto' can hit humans too'

By Ian Poe, Senior District Veterinarian
Mid Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority

Lepto is an occupational hazard in farmers and can be a debilitating disease. People can become infected if infected urine splashes onto the conjunctiva or membranes of the mouth and nose. Infection may also enter through cuts or abrasions in the skin when handling an aborted foetus or afterbirth.

North Coast Town & Country 18 Jun 2012

Contracting leptospirosis as a teenager, a sheep and cattle disease that he most likely got from his family's dairy farm, Mr Wait started having kidney problems in the 1980s.

Bundaberg Guardian, Bundaberg
30 May 2012, by Carolyn Archer

Lepto could put you out of action for months with severe flu-like symptoms that often develop into a chronic fatigue-like illness.

Don't let 'lepto' in - vaccinate

Former vet and large-scale Victorian beef producer Rod Manning routinely vaccinates his Angus cows against leptospirosis, a disease he contracted himself many years ago.

He operates Davilak Pastoral Company which runs a 1500 head cow herd near Mansfield where heifers are given two

7-in-1 vaccinations to protect them against leptospirosis and the major clostridial diseases before joining. And all the cows receive an annual booster shot.

Mr Manning says "lepto" made him "very crook" and, if left untreated, could lead to other life threatening illnesses.



The Land 16 May 2012

Taken from ABC Radio AM with Tony Eastley 21st March 2012

Charles Wooley: I was in intensive care for about three or four days. My liver function, despite the fact I'm a journo I've always had good liver function, my liver function was technically speaking ratshit.

Rachel Carbonell: Charles Wooley recovered well but not everyone who gets the disease is so fortunate.

Former ABC producer Chris Ghent got leptospirosis in the mid 90s.

Chris Ghent: I was off work for 11 months in total. I remember one of the doctors saying to me 'you're going to have to expect this is going to be a very slow recuperation' and it was. In fact in some ways it's never- hasn't stopped. I'm still recuperating.



Disease alert for farmers

"Lepto is a nasty one, a few farmers around here have had it," Ms Schaefer said.

"But there is a very good vaccine available, so the big message is to get your herd vaccinated - if people are not vaccinating, it's just irresponsible."

Bega District News, Bega NSW
25 May 2012, by Derek Schwarz

Farmers warned of deadly cow disease

Australian Veterinary Association president and rural vet Ben Gardiner said farmers needed to take preventative measures. "Vaccination of their herd is the safest and most cost effective way of protecting livestock and themselves against this disease," Dr Gardiner said. "Farmers should also take precaution to protect themselves and their staff."

Bega District News, Bega NSW
25 May 2012, by Derek Schwarz

**Protect your herd, your family, employees and yourself.
Vaccinate with Ultravac® 7 in 1.**

