

Infectious Diseases

An infectious disease is one which is transmitted from an infected animal to a non-infected animal. There are a variety of infectious organisms, including bacteria and viruses.

Some of the more common infectious diseases found in are listed in the table below.

Remember, that the best advice about any herd health issues is generally found with local cattle authorities, consultants and other property owners.

Metabolic disease	Effect(s) on cattle	Probable cause(s)	Preventive treatment
Vibriosis	Abortion and infertility.	Infection of the uterus, caused by the vibrio bacteria, which is sexually transmitted from the bull.	Antibiotic treatment and it must be administered by a vet.
Leptospirosis	Abortion in late pregnancy and low calf survival.	Caused by bacteria of the Leptospira family.	Vaccination programs.
Pinkeye (Infective Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis - IBK)	Irritation around the eye and temporary blindness, causing reduced growth. European breeds are more susceptible.	Caused by a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bacterial infection - dust - flies - strong sunlight. 	Usually not treated in large herds. Fly control and antibiotic treatment may be used.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Animals may show no effect for some years. This is a disease of the respiratory system.	Mycobacterium tuberculosis is spread from infected animals to susceptible animals, possibly via infected feed.	TB is very difficult to diagnose and is usually only found post-mortem. Any incidence must be reported to the government veterinarian for testing and slaughter.