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Occurrence of clinical and sub-clinical mastitis in dairy herds in the west littoral region in Uruguay

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Abstract

Twenty-nine dairy farms were selected to determine the incidence of clinical mastitis, prevalence of sub-clinical mastitis and bacterial aetiology in the West Littoral Region of Uruguay. In samples taken by the owner and frozen at -20°C during a week the incidence rate of clinical mastitis was determined as 1.2 cases per 100 cow-months at risk. *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most common isolated pathogen in 37.5% of 40 milk samples from clinical cases obtained in 1 month. No bacteria grew in the 32.5% of the total samples. A sub-sample including 1077 dairy cows from randomly selected farms was used to determine the prevalence of sub-clinical mastitis. These samples were taken on one visit to each farm. The prevalence was 52.4% on a cow basis and 26.7% on an udder quarter basis. In 55.1% of the quarters of the selected animals with more than 300 000 cells/ml there was no growth. The isolated pathogens from sub-clinical cases and their relative frequencies were: *Staphylococcus aureus* 62.8%, *Streptococcus agalactiae* 11.3%, *Enterococcus* sp. 8%, coagulase-negative staphylococci 7.4%, *Streptococcus uberis* 6.4%, *Streptococcus dysgalactiae* 1.8%, *Escherichia coli* 1.5% and *Staphylococcus hyicus* coagulase-positive 0.6%.

Author Keywords

Cows; Incidence; Mastitis; Prevalence; Uruguay

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