

Emerging Kansas Cattle Disease

A new red blood cell parasite has been diagnosed in calves in Kansas. The parasite is *Theileria orientalis* ikeda and has been present in the eastern portion of the U.S., from Virginia to Missouri, for some time.

The calves in the one Kansas case were purchased on the east coast and imported into Kansas for feeding.

This disease is spread through multi-use needles and insect vectors. The primary insect vector is a tick that is somewhat new to the U.S., the Asian longhorned tick. This tick has NOT been found in Kansas but has been found in Missouri, Arkansas, and in Oklahoma most recently in the county adjacent to Labette County Kansas.

If you are witnessing any of these clinical signs **in cattle of all ages**: anorexia, lethargy, dyspnea, icterus, death, please consider this new pathogen.

Also, please be wary of importing cattle without testing for this disease. KSVDL has a PCR (MDL-7130) that identifies both *Anaplasma marginale* and *Theileria orientalis* ikeda. As with all PCR's, whole blood (purple top tube) is the appropriate antemortem sample. Fresh spleen is the appropriate postmortem sample.

KSVDL produced a webinar which is posted on our YouTube channel that goes into more detail about this disease. Please follow this link: [Theileria Review Video](#).

If you have any questions about this or any other topics, please contact KSVDL Client Care at 866-512-5650.