

## BEEF/PORK

### PRESENCE OF *NEOSPORA CANINUM* SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES ISOLATED FROM DAIRY FARMS IN GEORGIA AND TEXAS (Y.R. Ortega, M.P. Torres, and K.D. Mena)

Bovine neosporosis is a parasitic disease produced by *Neospora caninum* which induces abortion in cows, and consequently has a negative impact on the herd's reproductive efficiency. This study demonstrated the presence of specific IgG to *Neospora* in milk and serum samples obtained from three dairy farms in Georgia and two in Texas. Using a western blot assay, samples from four hundred fourteen dairy cows were examined of which 362 were milk and 87 were serum. Samples with antibodies to *Neospora* were identified in 32.1% (105/327) of the examined animals in Georgia, whereas in Texas it was identified in 10.3% (9/87). Positive Georgia samples were found in 24% from farm A (28/115), 21.6% from farm B (30/139), and 64.4% from farm C (47/73). In Texas, 13.5% (7/52) of animals in farm D and 5.71% (2/35) from farm E also had specific antibodies to *Neospora*. The number of animals from Georgia dairy farms with antibodies to *Neospora* was significantly higher than the Texas dairy farms. This may be related to the age of the animals examined in this study (more than 2 years old). Antibodies present in sera had excellent agreement with the antibodies present in milk. Collection of milk samples for serological testing is easier and less invasive than obtaining bovine sera, therefore offering an alternative for testing of animals.

