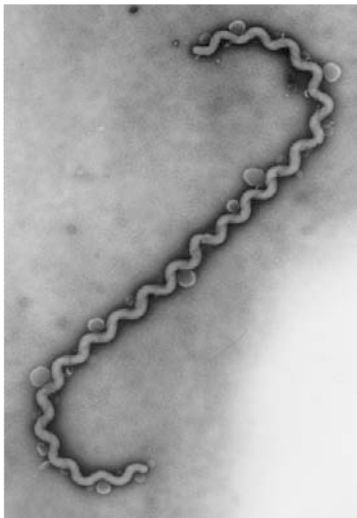


# Leptospirosis

**Leptospirosis** is now widespread in UK cattle herds. Recent surveys found it in 79% of dairy herds and 63% of beef herds.



Leptospirosis is caused by the bacteria pictured above.

## How do you become infected?

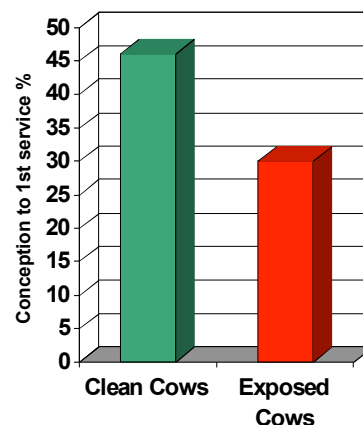
The following factors increase the risk of herds becoming infected:

- Buying in infected stock
- Co-grazing with sheep
- Drinking from natural watercourses
- From bulls

## What are the signs of infection?

Leptospirosis will cause abortions, infertility, weak calves, retained cleansings and milk drop.

The fertility losses from Leptospirosis can be particularly costly as the graph shows.

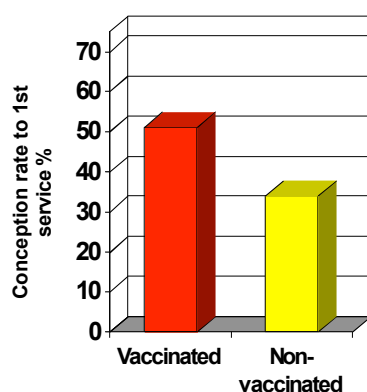


Leptospirosis will also cause a severe flu like illness in humans. A herdsman recently died in New Zealand from the disease!

## Diagnosis and control:

Leptospirosis can be readily diagnosed by bulk milk screening of dairy herds and blood tests for beef herds. These lab tests are available free and we would urge you to take advantage of them to find out your herd status before problems develop. If Leptospirosis is diagnosed then vaccination provides good control of the disease.

A trial was conducted in three dairy herds where Leptospirosis had been diagnosed as a cause of fertility problems. Half of the herd were vaccinated with our recommended vaccine **Leptavoid H** and the other half left unvaccinated. The following graph illustrates the benefits of vaccination.



A vaccination programme involves a primary course of two injections 4-6 weeks apart for all breeding females and bulls. Annual boosters need to be given every spring as this is the peak time for transmission of the disease.

#### Farm Phone Line:

We have had several episodes where the farm phone line has had gremlins out of hours, and callers find that the call never gets answered or an automated answer phone takes the call. We are working hard to understand and resolve this problem.

In the meantime please could we ask that you **never** leave an answer-phone message? Instead try the following:

Main Surgery: 01889 562164  
 Stuart Brown: 07736 101015  
 John Cammack: 07736 101016  
 John Kirk: 07736 101017  
 Steve McKeon: 07736 101018  
 Orianne West: 07968 424307

#### Farm Office Staff Vacancy:

We are rather sad to announce that Jane Weston will be leaving the farm office at the end of January, as work at home has started to place more demands upon her.

Her departure will leave a vacancy for a part time position on the farm office staff. Obviously this would suit someone from the farming community with a working knowledge of farmers needs.

Should you or a family member be interested, please contact Stuart Brown or Julia Smith at the Uttoxeter surgery on 01889 562164