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Dear Editor

Severe Summer Scour Syndrome in recently turned out dairy calves

The farm animal disease surveillance systems in the UK and Ireland have identified a syndrome of diarrhoea and rapid loss of condition affecting dairy calves, typically up to 12 months old, within a month of turnout to grass, which is unresponsive to treatment and in which the common bacterial, parasitic and viral causes have not been detected. Morbidity is generally high. Some of these cases feature oral and oesophageal ulceration and necrosis.

We wish to investigate this syndrome initially by building a case series. We will use an investigation protocol that includes a detailed case history with the collection of diagnostic clinical and pathology samples from both live affected animals and those that die. If you become aware of incidents that fit the case definition and wish to collaborate in this study please contact your local veterinary surveillance laboratory.

In England and Wales your nearest APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre or Partner Postmortem Provider can be found via the Vet Gateway at http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic/national-network.htm or using the postcode checker at http://apha.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp.

In Scotland your local SRUC Veterinary Services Disease Surveillance Centre may be found via https://www.sruc.ac.uk/directory/17/locations_directory/category/52.

In Ireland your nearest DAFM Regional Veterinary Laboratory may be found at

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/laboratoryservices/regionalveterinarylaboratories/#d.en.30410

Yours sincerely

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