

Integrated tick and tick-borne disease control trials in crossbred dairy cattle in Malawi - DTU Orbit (08/11/2017)

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Crossbred dairy heifers on a farm in an East Coast fever (ECF) endemic area in Malawi were immunised against *Theileria parva*, *Anaplasma* spp., *Babesia bigemina*, *Babesia bovis* and *Cowdria ruminantium*. They were treated at infrequent intervals with chlorfenvinphos to limit infestation with adult ticks, without providing complete tick control. In one trial, which tested a threshold dipping regimen, 20 heifers were dipped only once in 6 months to control a flush of *Boophilus microplus*. Unimmunised controls showed serological evidence of exposure to *T. parva* and *B. bigemina*, and one died of ECF, but there were no incidents of tick-borne disease in the immunised group. In a second trial, which tested a strategic dipping regimen, 107 animals were dipped 9 times over a 6 month period. Despite heavy challenge by *B. bovis* and moderate challenge by *B. bigemina* and *Anaplasma* spp, demonstrated serologically, there was only a single clinical case of babesiosis. The observations provide encouragement for the introduction of integrated tick and tick-borne disease control programmes in improved cattle in ECF endemic areas.

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