WHAT IS NEOSPORA?
Neospora caninum, a protozoal (Apicomplexan) parasite, is a leading cause of abortion and neonatal morbidity in dairy cattle. The parasite, also found in sheep and dogs has been identified worldwide.

Dogs and other canids, such as wolves and coyotes have been pinpointed as the definitive source, hosting the parasite until it becomes mature and reproduces. The parasite passes through feces and can infect cattle feed and water supplies. Since clinical signs of illness due to Neospora are undetectable, testing for the parasite is the only means of identification. No treatment of any proven benefit has yet been identified for cattle.

Use of ELISA testing allows cattle owners and operators to assess infection information or exposure status while also monitoring immune status in Neospora caninum-vaccinated herds.

PREVENTION
All cattle with antibodies to Neospora are sources of infection to their calves, have a significantly increased risk of abortion, and, on average, produce less milk than antibody negative cows. Vertical transmission alone can maintain infection in a herd.

To eliminate Neospora you need to:
- Through testing, identify infected cattle and cull them
- Select only seronegative cattle for breeding
- Sell heifers with antibodies for meat, not breeding

Dogs are a potential source of disease. Prevention must also include:
- Keeping cattle food and water away from dogs and foxes
- High hygiene standards at calving. Dispose of placental membranes and aborted or dead calves before dogs can get them

SYMPTOMS OF NEOSPORA
- Asymptomatic mother
- Abortion, between the third and ninth month of pregnancy
- Still birth/premature calf
- Occasionally, brain disease seen at birth
- Repeated abortions in the same cow

DIAGNOSIS
- Characteristic heart and brain damage in aborted calf
- Identification of parasite in the calf tissue
- Antibodies in the mother’s blood

ABOUT US
Animal Profiling International, Inc. is an American company dedicated to the improvement of animal health management through risk-assessment technologies.

API’s industry experts provide the products and services that operators in the beef, dairy and food supply industries need to make their jobs more efficient and profitable.

The company has tested over 2.5 million head of cattle and dairy animals for BVD and currently services clients in over 40 U.S. states. In addition to BVD and Neospora testing, the company also provides diagnostic services for the detection of BLV, Johne’s Disease, Mastitis and pregnancy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT API CUSTOMER SERVICE:
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