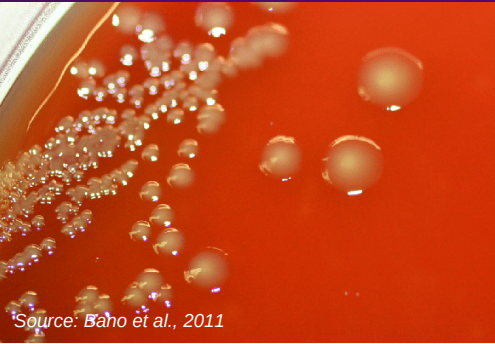


# HISTOPHILOSIS



## CAUSES

Histophilosis is caused by the bacteria, *Histophilus somni* (previously called *Hemophilus somnus*).

This bacteria can be found in the upper respiratory and reproductive tracts of healthy cattle. The bacteria is shed in nasal and vaginal secretions and urine. It can evade normal immune mechanisms that normally kill bacteria.

**HISTOPHILUS SOMNI BACTERIA ARE A SIGNIFICANT CAUSE OF RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN PRE-WEANED CALVES AND A SIGNIFICANT CAUSE OF MORTALITY IN FEEDLOT CALVES.**

## CLINICAL SIGNS

Histophilosis may appear with various symptoms, such as:

- **Pneumonia:** depression, off feed, nasal discharge, coughing, fever
- **Laryngitis (Wheezer):** snore when breathing in
- **Ear infections:** ear droop, head tilt, discharge from ear
- **Heart disease and pleuritis:** depressed, froth at mouth, mouth breathing, or sudden death
- **Nervous disease:** depressed and knuckle on back feet in early stages; typically found down in pen; may star gaze or are unable to get up, with involuntary circular movement of eyes
- **Joint infections:** lame, swellings over large joints (e.g., stifle, hock); usually affecting multiple joints; may also have respiratory signs.
- **Abortions:** possible but not common



**HISTOPHILUS SOMNI ARE CONSIDERED RISK-BASED VACCINES. DISCUSS WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT WHETHER YOUR HERD SHOULD BE VACCINATED AGAINST THIS DISEASE.**

## TREATMENT

Usually treated with antimicrobials and if given early, animals may respond. Heart disease is not easy to diagnose until after irreversible heart damage has occurred.

**Always consult your veterinarian about treatment strategies.**

## PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT

Reduce stress on cattle. Ensure good biosecurity. Use antimicrobials for metaphylaxis only when necessary. Prudent antimicrobial use is necessary to reduce antimicrobial resistance against *H. somni* in in-coming feeder cattle, so antimicrobials will be effective in these animals, which are at greatest risk of this serious fatal disease. In a Histophilosis outbreak, contact your veterinarian on how to control and reduce disease losses.

## VACCINATION

***Histophilus somni* is considered a risk-based vaccine.**

A few killed whole cell vaccines are available commercially in Canada. However, there is little evidence from controlled field trials to show that existing vaccines effectively reduce the multiple forms of Histophilosis in commercial beef herds.

**Discuss with your veterinarian whether to use existing vaccines and their potential cost:benefit in your herd.**

