

Bovine Abortion Season

As we enter autumn, you will undoubtedly be called out to work up abortion cases. Abortion diagnosis can be challenging, with the main goal to rule out common infectious causes. However, without the proper samples an abortion work-up will likely remain unrewarding.

The two most important samples are (1) the placenta and (2) the fetus. Unfortunately, the placenta is often not submitted.

You may submit samples to the lab for a fetal postmortem or perform the postmortem yourself and collect tissues to be tested as listed below.

Tissue/Sample	Fresh	Fixed
Placenta	✓	✓
Fetal stomach fluid	✓	
Lung	✓	✓
Brain	✓	✓
Liver	✓	✓
Kidney	✓	✓
Heart		✓
Skeletal muscle		✓
Spleen		✓
Thyroid glands		✓
Gross lesions*	✓	✓

*Don't forget to look for skin lesions which can be seen in some fungal infections

Remember to check for congenital lesions such as Bulldog (or Dexter) calves.

For a downloadable PDF on Bovine Abortion Investigations visit:

<http://svslabs.nz/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Bovine-Abortion-Investigation-1.pdf>

