

Chronic *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda infections

When cattle are first infected with *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda they develop an acute, moderate to severe regenerative anaemia which may lead to reduced milk production, decreased weight gain, and weakness or depression. Animals which recover from the acute phase become life-long carriers in which lower numbers of organisms are maintained on RBCs for the rest of the animal's life. These chronic carriers do not show clinical signs.

As a consequence, a positive result for *T. orientalis* Ikeda by PCR can occur in asymptomatic carriers. In the absence of a concurrent regenerative anaemia, it is highly unlikely that theileria found by PCR is the cause for pallor, weakness, and decreased production, and other disease processes should be investigated.

