

Salmonellosis

CAUSE: Salmonellosis is caused by bacteria of the genus *Salmonella*. The most common types in cattle are *S. typhimurium*, *S. dublin*, and *S. newport*.

EFFECT: The bacteria infects the digestive tract leading to fever, diarrhea, dehydration, decreased milk production, and sometimes death

How is *Salmonella* spread? Salmonellosis is highly contagious, and is most commonly spread through contaminated feed and water. Manure from infected wildlife (birds, rodents, etc.) is a source of contamination. Young animals and animals with suppressed immune systems are at the highest risk.

How can *Salmonella* be prevented? Isolate new animals before adding them to the herd. Do not allow rendering trucks near live animals, their feed, or barn. Make sure that calving pens are clean and dry. Sanitize all equipment between uses. Restrict animal access to open water sources, and make your facility unattractive to wildlife.

Can *Salmonella* affect people? Yes. Salmonellosis results in fever, abdominal cramps, and other flu-like symptoms. The existence of antibiotic-resistant forms of the bacteria means treatment of even severe cases must be symptomatic (i.e., supportive therapy).

What if there is an outbreak? Consult your veterinarian to go over biosecurity procedures to limit the spread of the disease. Antibiotics are rarely effective against Salmonellosis, making supportive therapy (fluids, electrolytes, etc) the best option for individual cases.

For more information on Salmonellosis, see:

[Vermont Cattle Health Improvement Project brochure: What is Salmonellosis?](#)

[Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine: Bovine Herd Salmonellosis](#)

[The Merck Veterinary Manual: Salmonellosis](#)