had a 30% increased culling risk. The presence of any lesion significantly increased culling risk by 22%. However, this was mainly due to the effect of non-infectious lesions such as white line abscess, solar hemorrhage, white line separation and sole ulcers, as they increased culling risk by 46%, 32%, 69% and 34%, respectively. None of the infectious lesions had a significant association with culling risk. Addition of a housing variable to the model did not significantly change culling risks.

Significance

These results highlight the importance the dairy industry should place on lameness and hoof lesion prevention. Dairy producers cannot afford to ignore a problem that increases the culling risk of high-producing cows by 20-70%. Since the majority of these lesions were found at a routine hoof trimming, there appears to be a need for earlier detection and more effective therapy in addition to ensuring proper housing and feeding.

Determination of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis (PDD) Prevalence in the U.S. Feedlot Industry through Practitioner Survey

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Introduction

Papillomatous digital dermatitis has been recognized and studied within the dairy industry for nearly 30 years. Published literature describing the incidence, risk factors, treatment and probable etiology within dairies is readily available. Far less information is available concerning papillomatous digital dermatitis and its effects on the US feedlot industry. Although papillomatous digital dermatitis is rarely reported in feedlot cattle, there have been at least three confirmed cases in feedlots in Kansas and Iowa.

Materials and Methods

Following a short presentation on papillomatous digital dermatitis in feedlot cattle, practitioners were surveyed on their experiences with this disease in their clients feedyards. Results were tabulated and analyzed by the production medicine faculty at Kansas State University.

Results

Twenty-nine veterinarians completed the survey. Six surevys were excluded from the final results due to type of practice indicated by the veterinarian. Of the 23 veterinarians included in the survey, 10 veterinarians indicated that they had seen lesions consistent with papillomatous digital dermititis in their clients' feedyards, but only one veterinarian had diagnosed the disease through culture and/or histopathology.

These 23 veterinarians estimated that their clients' feedyards fed approximeately 4.9 million cattle a year. Of the ten veterinarians reporting this disease, six estimated the number of cases of papillomatous digital dermatitis seen in the past 2 years to be 935. Based on these data, we estimated an approximate papillomatous digital dermatitis yearly prevalence of 0.01% of cattle fed.

Significance

Results of this survey indicate that papillomatous digital dermatitis may be an emerging disease with the United States feeder cattle industry. The prevalence of papillomatous digital dermatitis repoted underestimates the true prevalence in these feedyards due to the fact that 4 out of 10 beterinarians reporting the disease did not estimate number of cases seen.

Our experience with papillomatous digital dermatitis in feedyards is that it often goes unrecognized until it becomes emdeic. This may further contribute to an underestimate of the disease prevalence.