

may indicate that additional specimens should be submitted for ruling out other potential causes of the disease outbreak. It may also become necessary to examine or test neighbouring pens or farms as a comparison to check on the accuracy of the laboratory examinations.

The outbreak investigation is not completed until a written report is supplied to the farmer. All your findings and calculations should be documented in the report. All the unknowns or questions you have not been able to answer should also be noted. A discussion of the logic you used to reach your diagnosis of "best fit" should be part of the report which should conclude with a list of your recommendations (Table 5).⁶

Table 5. List of headings which should appear in the final report of findings from a disease outbreak investigation.

Location of the herd
The complaint
History of the herd
Description of the Facility
Production Procedures
Observations
Laboratory Results
Data Analysis
Discussion
Diagnosis of "best fit"
Recommendations or Action List

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Abstract

Investigation of osteochondrosis in grazing beef cattle

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Severe lameness attributed to osteochondrosis is described in an extensively managed Brahman herd grazing on improved native pasture. Clinical signs were observed in five animals, three of which were necropsied. The most prominent lesions were in the elbow and stifle joints. There was multiple fissuring and ulceration

of thickened articular cartilage with numerous osteochondral bodies present in the joint spaces. All affected animals were entire males sharing a common ancestral sire. Inheritance and gender were suspected to be contributing factors in the development of the disease.