

of labor efficiency, reproductive efficiency, and feed or growth efficiency must be evaluated and implemented to maintain profitability in the heifer rearing enterprise.

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Abstracts

Congenital anomalies in calves.

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Obiettivi e Documenti Veterinari, (1991) 5, 37-41.

The AA. report the results of an investigation performed during a 30 year period on 1085 necropsied calves. The aim of the research was to estimate the frequency of congenital malformations in this species. 99 congenital anomalies were found and their frequency was 6.54% of the examined animals. The organ systems more commonly affected were the urogenital system (34 malformations) and digestive system (30 malformations). The most common defect found was intestinal atresia (7 cases).

The results of the investigation showed that congenital defects consistently increased during the period considered. These findings highlight the necessity to characterize the defects and to apply basic epidemiological methods in order to control congenital anomalies in feedlot, to ascertain the etiology and to prevent the economic losses and the spreading of heredity diseases.

Comparison of ultrasonographic and radiographic findings in cows with traumatic reticuloperitonitis

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The radiographic and ultrasonographic findings in 26 cows with traumatic reticuloperitonitis were compared. The cows were divided into three groups based on the radiographic findings; the first group consisted of 12 cows in which the principal radiographic finding was a foreign body penetrating the reticulum; the second group contained four cows in which the principal radiographic finding was gas shadows or a gas-fluid interface, the third group consisted of 10 cows that had no reliable radiographic evidence of traumatic reticuloperitonitis, such as an abnormal contour, posi-

tion or shape of the reticulum. In no case could the foreign bodies be visualized by ultrasonography. In all the cows except one with radiographic evidence of abnormal gas inclusions and gas-fluid interfaces, ultrasonography revealed echogenic, partitioned and capsulated structures with central hypoechogenic cavities. In addition, in some of the cows with no radiographic evidence of the condition, severe changes indicative of inflammatory processes were visible by ultrasonography.