A review of Neospora caninum in dairy and beef cattle – A Canadian perspective.


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One of the most important causes of abortion in cows is Neospora caninum, its occurrence having been reported worldwide and in most provinces of Canada. The aim of this review was to summarize the present understanding of this agent in dairy and beef cattle for Canadian bovine practitioners. This review covers the life cycle of N. caninum, its mechanisms of transmission, clinical signs and available tests for diagnosis of the infection. Data are also presented in the review as regards the prevalence of N. caninum in Canada and these are briefly compared to estimates from other parts of the world. The authors also discuss the impact of this infection, risk factors for its occurrence and methods of control. This review, from a Canadian perspective, will make the culling decisions based on the interpretation of diagnostic tests more effective for the control of N. caninum associated disease.