

Rift Valley fever

Rift Valley fever is a serious disease in livestock. It is transmitted by mosquitoes carrying the virus. The disease is named after the Rift Valley in Kenya. It is a zoonosis, which means that it can be transmitted between humans and animals. A farmer can lose his whole herd to the infection.

The infection is transmitted to humans through direct contact, for example by touching an aborted foetus that carries the virus. It can also be contracted by drinking unpasteurised milk.

The disease usually occurs in summer and during the rainy season, when warm and moist conditions lead to the hatching of mosquitoes. Livestock younger than two weeks of age are very susceptible and can become very ill within a day or two of becoming infected. Symptoms in young animals include fever, loss of appetite and lack of energy.

The symptoms in older animals include:

- Lack of energy and slow movement.
- High fever and rapid breathing.
- Stomach pain and refusal to eat.
- Vomiting and faeces containing blood.
- Abortion in pregnant animals.




The disease in humans

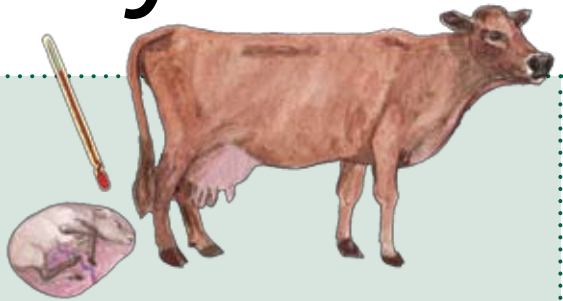
A human infected by the disease, may show signs of muscle ache, cold shivers, vomiting, bloody urine, dark stools (faeces), sensitivity to light and blurred vision, back pain, sore joints, headache and fever. Many people get well after a week or two and the death rate is low. Go to your clinic or doctor if you think you may have the disease.

Treatment and prevention

It is impossible to control all mosquitoes and vaccination is the most effective method of control. The vaccine is expensive, but is more affordable than losing your animals. Yearly vaccination must be done in spring and animals must receive a booster vaccination three weeks after the first injection. Consult your veterinarian or extension officer.

Protect yourself by wearing protective clothing when working with animals who might have the disease. Drink only pasteurised milk or heat your milk for 10 to 15 minutes. Try to control mosquitoes as best you can. Move your animals away from low-lying pasture areas near rivers, swamps and pans when mosquitoes are very active. 

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Symptoms in cattle

- Slow movement.
- Abortion.
- High fever or rapid breathing.
- Vomiting and bloody faeces.
- Lack of appetite.

Humans can contract RVF

- Drink only pasteurised milk by boiling it.
- Do not touch an aborted foetus.

Prevention

- Vaccinate cattle in spring.
- Wear protective clothing.

Slenkdalkoors

Simptome by beeste

- Stadige beweging.
- Aborsie.
- Hoë koors of vinnige asemhaling.
- Braaksel en bloederige mis.
- Swak eetlus.

Mense kan Slenkdalkoors kry

- Drink slegs gepasteuriseerde melk deur dit te kook.
- Moet nie aan 'n geaborteerde fetus vat nie.

Voorkoming

- Ent beeste in die lente in.
- Dra beskermende klere.

I-Rift Valley fever

Izimpawu ezinkomeni

- Ukuhamba kancane.
- Ukuphunza.
- Imfiva noma ukuphefumulela phezulu.
- Ukuhlanza kanye nobulongwe obunegazi.
- Ukungafuni ukudla.

Abantu bangayithola i-RVF

- Phuza kuphela ubisi olubulewe amagciwane ngokulubilisa.
- Ungalithinti inkonyane eliphunziwe.

Ukuyivimbela

- Goma izinkomo ebusika.
- Gqoka izingubo ezivikelayo.

