

# Protect your cattle against **blackquarter**

**Blackquarter is a very dangerous disease in young cattle. It kills cattle rapidly by first causing an acute infection, then blood poisoning and finally death. The name “blackquarter” or “blackleg” comes from the fact that the infection is often in a leg muscle. The muscle becomes dark in colour when it is affected.**

The disease is caused by the *Clostridium chauvoei* bacteria. The bacteria can live and survive in soil for many years. It enters the calf's body when the spores are eaten in contaminated soil or feed. Blackleg is found in young cattle, usually between the ages of six months and two years. The cattle that are affected most, are usually in very good condition and receive an abundance of feed.

## **Disease signs**

The first signs of the disease include lameness, rapid breathing, loss of appetite (the animal stops grazing), depression and high fever. These signs do not last long and are often missed. Next comes swellings that appear in the hip, shoulder, chest, back and neck areas. The first swellings are usually hot and painful. Then the swelling gets larger and becomes spongy and gaseous (you can feel the gas when pressing the swelling).

The animal usually dies within 12 to 48 hours. Very often one will find a dead animal without even having observed any of the signs. Blackquarter kills very quickly and therefore treatment is often too late and not very effective. Sometimes, however, early treatment with antibiotics may save an animal's life, but often they are then deformed due to the destruction of the muscles infected with the bacterium.

## **Immunisation**

Blackquarter can be prevented by immunisation. There are vaccines which protect various types of *Clostridia* infections, which include blackquarter. Ask your veterinarian or extension officer for assistance to find the best vaccine for your area.

- Calves must receive two dosages of vaccine, one month apart, for best protection.
- Immunise calves when they are 6 months old.
- The vaccine will take 10 to 14 days before it provides immunity.
- A booster vaccination must be given one year later. This will provide lifelong immunity to blackquarter.

# Blackquarter

The bacteria causing blackquarter, lives and survives in the soil for many years.

## Symptoms

- Lameness.
- High fever.
- Depression.
- Rapid breathing.
- Loss of appetite.

## Prevention

- Immunise calves at age 6 months.
- Give a booster vaccine one year later.

---

## Sponssiekte

Die bakterie wat sponssiekte veroorsaak, leef in die grond en kan vir jare lank daar oorleef.

## Simptome

- Verlamming.
- Hoë koors.
- Depressie.
- Vinnige asemhaling.
- Verlies aan eetlus.

## Voorkoming

- Immuniseer kalfies wanneer hulle 6 maande oud is.
- Gee na een jaar 'n skraagdisos.

---

## Bolwetse ba blackquarter

Die bakterie wat sponssiekte veroorsaak, leef in die grond en kan vir jare lank daar oorleef.

## Matshwao a bolwetse bona

- Kgolofalo.
- Feberu e phahameng.
- Ho sithabela.
- Ho phefumoloha kapele.
- Ho fellwa ke takatso ya dijo.

## Thibelo

- Enta dinamane tse nang le dikgwedi tse 6 di hlahile.
- Di ente ka booster selemo se le seng hamorao.



## Isifo somgqeku

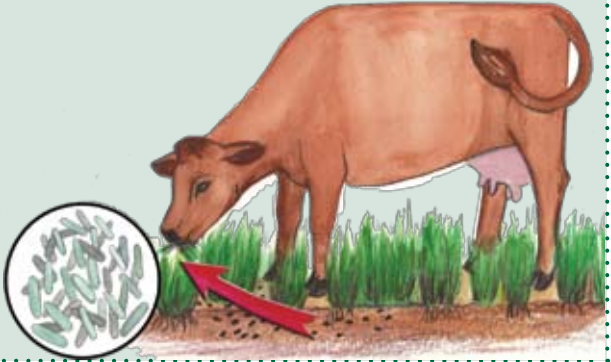
Intsholongwane ebangela isifo somgqeku, ihlala yaye iphila emhlabeni iminyaka emininzi.

### Iimpawu

- Ubuqhwala.
- Ifiva enkulu.
- Ukudakumba.
- Ukukhefuzela.
- Ukungacaceli kutya.

### Uthintelo

- Gonya amathole kubudala beenyanga ezi-6.
- Nikeza iyeza lokukhusela elomelezayo ethubeni emva konyaka omnye.



## I-blackquarter

Amagciwane abangela i-blackquarter, ahlala futhi aphile emhlabathini iminyaka eminingi.

### Izimpawu

- Ukuxhwala.
- Imfiva.
- Ukucindezeleka.
- Ukuphefumlela phezulu.
- Ukuba nenhliziyo emnyama.

### Ukukuvimbela

- Goma amankonyane lapho enezinyanga ezingu-6.
- Wajove ngomjovo wokugoma onika amandla esikhathini esiwunyaka kamuva. 