

Leptospirosis - a global disease but a local phenomenon

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RWNZ at Landcorp, Wellington

Wednesday, 23 October 2013

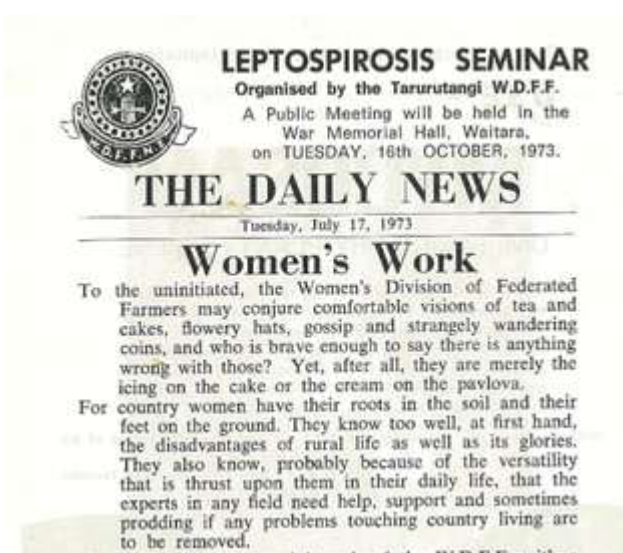
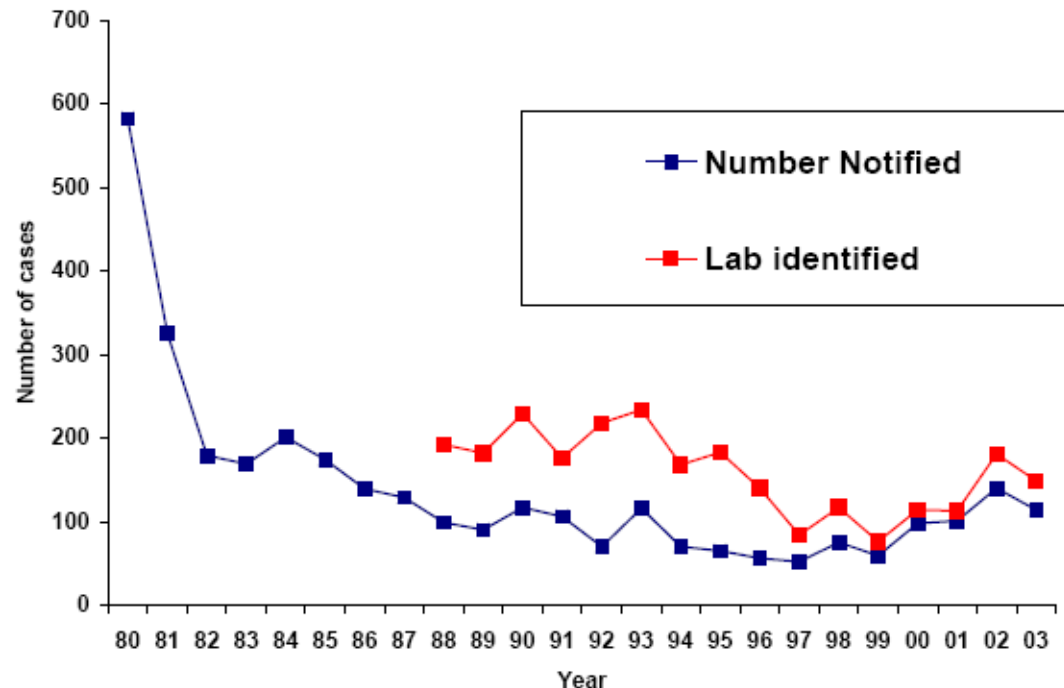


OIE Collaborating Centre for
Veterinary Epidemiology
and Public Health



Massey and Rural Women NZ

1970s.... “Members of the Women's' Division Federated Farmers saw the toll that was caused by leptospirosis in rural workers and raised a considerable amount of money to fund research into the problem at Massey University”



Massey and Rural Women NZ

2007 to date: Advocacy, fund-raising, media contact and advice, co-presentation, website, chair and financial management of FLAG, soirée

\$87,500 raised for Lepto!

Rural Women New Zealand presented a jumbo-sized cheque to the value of \$87,500 to Massey University at our national conference in Blenheim on 19 May for further research into Leptospirosis, New Zealand's most important occupationally-acquired disease.



Meat industry Story



Widow wants meat workers protected

5:00AM Thursday May 03, 2007

A Bay of Plenty meat worker is confirmed as the first New Zealander to die from leptospirosis – an animal-borne disease he caught at work.

Now Johnny Taewa's widow Cathy says steps must be taken so others do not suffer the "heart-breaking" tragedy she has.

Her husband of nearly 21 years Tehaena (Johnny) Cairns Taewa, died in January last year, aged 50.



Cathy Taewa - whose husband, Johnny, died from complications of the leptospirosis he caught at Affco Rangiuru - also contracted the disease while working at the plant. Photo / Bay Of Plenty Times



Assoc Prof Cord Heuer and Dr Jackie Benschop of Massey University with RWNZ national president Margaret Chapman

What do we do?

- Research

 - Human-animal interface

 - Diagnostics and strain typing

 - Economics and vaccine efficacy



- Extension

 - Publish, conference, meetings

 - Website, DVD

- Collaboration



Source: Young Country 2012

Leptospirosis- global disease local phenomenon

- Bacterial disease: all mammals
- Animals often “silent” shedders
- Infection through urine
- Different serovars and hosts
- Environment important



Leptospirosis can be easily spread by rodents.



AUG 20, 2013 SLIDESHOW

Heavy Rains Displace Thousands in the Philippines



People waded through floodwaters brought by monsoon rain and intensified by tropical storm Trami, in Las Pinas city, south of Manila. Reuters

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LARGELY UNKNOWN

Wild pig: ??



Wildlife

Rabbit: ??



Possum: Balcanica



Leptospirosis Transmission New Zealand

PARTIALLY KNOWN



Hedgehog:

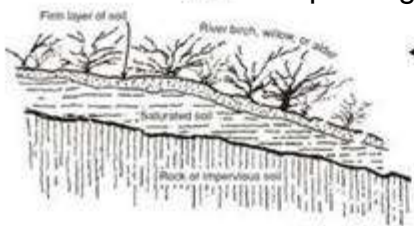
Ballum, Pomona

Rat/mouse: Ballum, Copenhageni

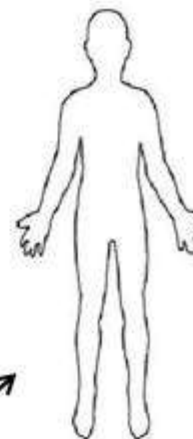


Hardjobovis 46%
Pomona 23%,
Ballum 18%,
Tarassovi 8%

Soil and water



Hardjobovis, Bratislava, (Ballum, Pomona, Tarassovi, Copenhageni, Canicola)



Hardjobovis, Pomona, (Copenhageni, Ballum, Arborea)



Hardjobovis, Pomona, (Copenhageni, Ballum)

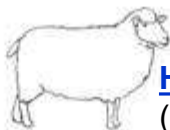


Copenhageni, Hardjobovis (Pomona, Ballum, Tarassovi, Canicola)

Livestock

LARGELY KNOWN

Hardjobovis, Pomona, (Copenhageni, Ballum)



Leptospirosis- global disease

local phenomenon

- Bacterial disease: all mammals
- Animals often “silent” shedders
- Infection through urine
- New Zealand ~110 notified human cases per year
 - livestock and rodents maintain serovars that cause human disease
 - an occupational disease

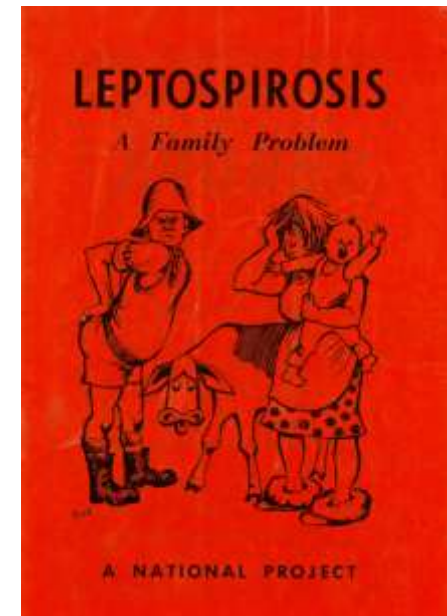


The wet surroundings of the milking shed are ideal conditions for leptospires. Boots, gloves, aprons and milking sleeves are good protection.

Source: DOL 2001

Leptospirosis: what it can do to you

- “the great mimic”
- flu-like illness – fever, headache, muscle pain, nausea
- progress to renal/ hepatic failure
 - 50% cases are hospitalised
- silent infection
- chronic infection and disease
 - fatigue, depression



Dr. John Kerr, occupational physician

