Leptospirosis Forum: Introduction

Peter Wilson
Emeritus Professor

Leptospirosis Research Group
Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences

WEBSITE: www.leptospirosis.org.nz
Purpose of this forum

• Address Leptospirosis among stakeholders
  • Review current situation
  • Present research results
    • Animal and human studies
    • Particularly the slaughterhouse study
  • Human clinical aspects: by guest contributors
  • Offer a platform for discussion and strategic thinking
    • Linking human and animal sectors
    • Industry/sector needs from here
      • Action plans???
Massey’s background with Leptospirosis:

- **Dairy leptospirosis**: late 70’s early 80’s
  - Epidemiology/vaccination
- **Microbiology research**: 80’s – 90’s (Dr Roger Marshall)
- **Pig Leptospirosis**: early 90’s
  - Epidemiology/vaccination
- **Deer leptospirosis** early 80’s and Mid 90’s
- ~ 2000 – present: > 35 studies in NZ
  - Epidemiology/vaccination/growth and reproductive effects/control in deer
  - Meatworker study
  - Prevalence in sheep and beef
  - Production effects in sheep and beef
  - Dairy cattle shedding and vaccination
  - Lepto in vets, vet students and farmers
  - Molecular biology
  - Economics and modelling
  - Wildlife
  - Dogs
  - Horses
Massey’s background with Leptospirosis:

- **International Profile**
  - Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Fiji, Africa
  - WHO GLEAN representation
  - ILS affiliation

- **Acknowledgements**
  - 12 PhD’s (2 current) and >4 Masters degrees
  - Significant industry and stakeholder support
  - Key funders
Welcome to Leptospirosis New Zealand.

Welcome to the Leptospirosis New Zealand website which brings together information and news on Leptospirosis. The website is aimed at anyone wanting to know about the disease for any reason, from those with a general interest to those with specific needs such as those in farming, rural industries, veterinary services, animal health agencies and research. The site is open to all and is aimed to allow users to easily find general information or be those wanting more specific details either on the site or through links to others sites.

**FLAG**

The Farmer Leptospirosis Action Group project team features representatives from Rural Women New Zealand, the Dairy Farmers Association, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Federated Farmers and the New Zealand Veterinary Association.

Massey University veterinary researchers have joined the action group FLAG with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of leptospirosis and its effect on the New Zealand agricultural industry.

With funding from the government’s Sustainable Farming Fund, Massey researchers have devised a Farmer Leptospirosis Action Group that hopes to find out if leptospirosis affects productivity.

**Leptospirosis**

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by bacteria known as Leptospira. It can affect almost all mammals, and is one of the most common diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

As New Zealand has only two native land mammals (both bats), Leptospira are thought to have come to New Zealand via imported stock animals and other introduced mammals such as rats, hedgeshogs and possums. This situation is unique and influences the management strategies and decisions around diagnosis in this country.
The 10th International Leptospirosis Society Meeting.
27th November - 1st December 2017.
Details at www.ILS2017.org.nz
Today’s Massey team:
A multidisciplinary (eclectic!) group

- Dr Julie Collins-Emerson: Diagnostics/molecular biology
- Prof Cord Heuer: Epidemiology
- Dr Jackie Benschop: Epidemiology/public health
- Dr Anou Dreyfus: Epidemiology (Switzerland)
- Dr David Wilkinson: Molecular biology/molecular genetics
- Dr Emilie Vallée: Epidemiology
- Dr Jenny Weston: Veterinary clinician
- Dr Dani Aberdein: Veterinary Pathologist
- Dr Ahmed Fayaz: Technology support
- Dr Shahista Nisa: Technical/admin support
- Neville Haack: Technical support
- Yuni Yupiana: PhD candidate
- Marie Monet: PhD candidate
- Wendy Maharey: Admin. support