

OBJECTIVE

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is one of the most important causes of economic losses in the cattle industry¹. Pneumonia produced by bacterial pathogens is the most significant cause of mortality and morbidity associated with the BRD complex². The main objective of this trial was to evaluate the efficacy of HIPRABOVIS® SOMNI/Lkt in the control of a BRD outbreak in dairy calves, more specifically in reducing the number of animals treated and mortality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted on a 240-animal dairy farm with historical BRD outbreaks during the winter months with high morbidity and mortality. The farm had already implemented a vaccination protocol with a tetravalent vaccine against BVD, IBR, BRSV and PI-3 (HIPRABOVIS® 4) from 1 month of age. The cause of BRD cases was presumed to be bacterial. Seventy dairy calves of varying ages below 1 year were vaccinated subcutaneously with HIPRABOVIS® SOMNI/Lkt (2 doses, 3 weeks apart) before the main risk period for BRD on that farm (winter months). A comparison was carried out of the number of treatments and animal deaths due to BRD in the previous year and after vaccination with HIPRABOVIS® SOMNI/Lkt during the high-risk period for BRD on that farm. The same months were considered in each year: December, January, February and March.

RESULTS

1. *Number of treated animals:* The number of treated animals showed a reduction of 91% in the 4 months after vaccination compared with the same period in the previous year (4 versus 48 treated dairy calves).

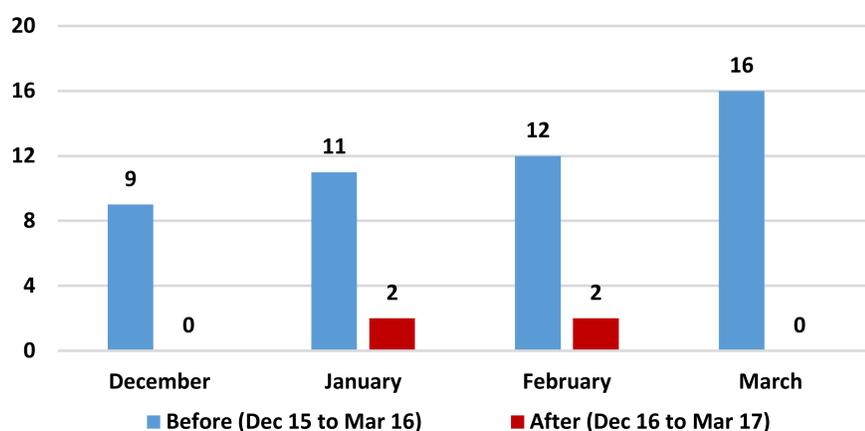


Figure 1. Number of treated animals before and after vaccination, respectively, December 2015 to March 2016 versus December 2016 to March 2017.

2. *Number of deaths due to BRD:* The number of deaths due to BRD decreased from 17 in the previous year to 0 in the year of vaccination.

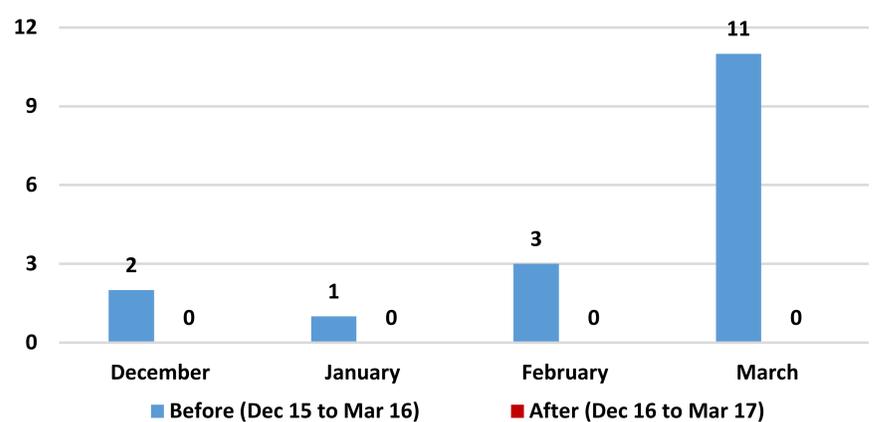


Figure 2. Total number of deaths due to BRD before and after vaccination, respectively, December 2015 to March 2016 versus December 2016 to March 2017.

CONCLUSIONS

Vaccination with HIPRABOVIS® SOMNI/Lkt has proved to be effective in reducing morbidity, mortality and the number of treatments due to BRD in dairy calves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

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