

# Risk factors associated with *Mycoplasma bovis* disease in Danish dairy herds 2010-2014



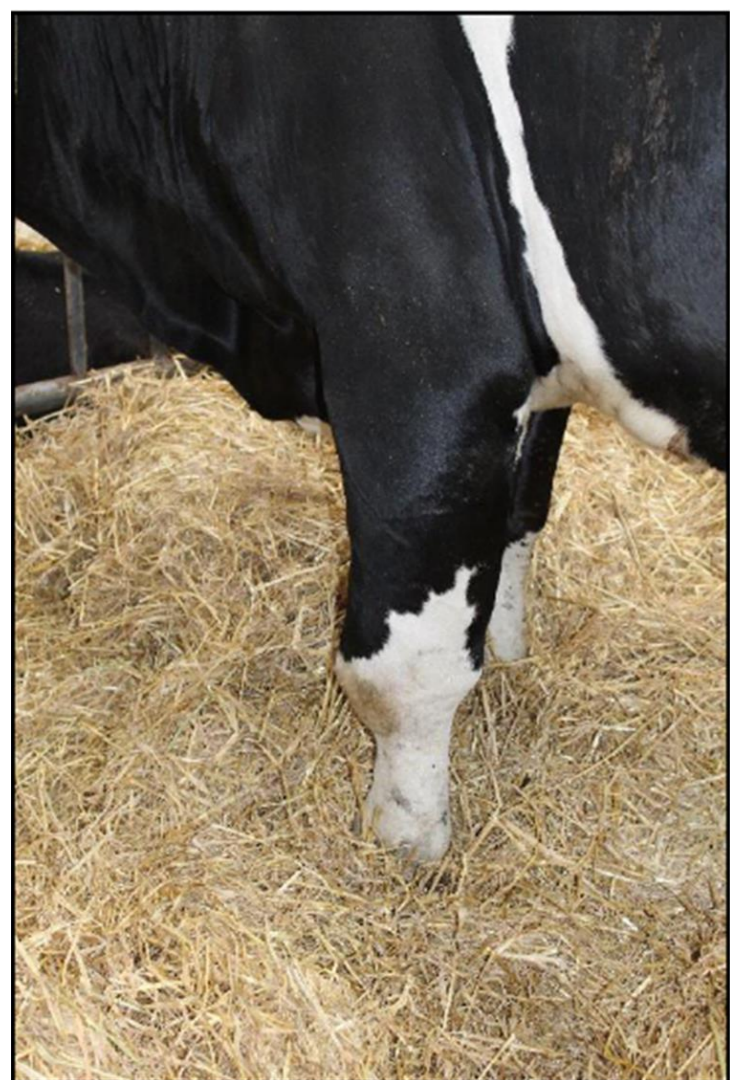
\*mbp@sund.ku.dk

Lene Jensen<sup>1,2</sup>, Mette Bisgaard Petersen<sup>1\*</sup>, Mikkel Bruun Svendsen<sup>1</sup>, Kaspar Krogh<sup>3</sup>, Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Large Animal Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

<sup>2</sup> Skovbjerg DyrlægeTeam, Glejbjerg, Denmark

<sup>3</sup> Veterinary Cattle Specialist, Kolind, Denmark



## Background

- Increased focus on *Mycoplasma bovis* in the Danish cattle sector due to many atypical outbreaks since 2011
- Arthritis, pneumonia and mastitis in cows
- Arthritis, pneumonia and otitis media in calves
- Difficult to treat so culling or euthanasia often needed to control the infection → financial and welfare losses
- Little available knowledge about prevention and control

## Study objective

To identify **risk factors** associated with clinical outbreaks of *Mycoplasma bovis* related disease in Danish dairy herds

## Materials & Methods

- **504 dairy herds** identified to contact based on:
  - test-positive in bulk tank milk ELISA or PCR
  - knowledge about clinical disease
  - previous or current project herds



- **Online questionnaire + telephone interviews:**
  - Questions on farmers' perception of outbreaks
  - Outbreak characteristics and management



## First question to the 324 dairy herds reached

Has there been an outbreak of *Mycoplasma bovis* in your cattle herd within the last 3 years?

- **No**, I have not had any sick animals with clinical signs of *Mycoplasma bovis* or **No**, I have not had an outbreak, but there have been sick animals that could have been infected with *Mycoplasma bovis* (**n = 201**)
- **Yes**, I have had a few sick animals with diagnosed *Mycoplasma bovis* or **Yes**, I have had an outbreak (sudden or large increase in disease occurrence) that could be caused by *Mycoplasma bovis* (**n = 123**)

- **Logistic regression** of 21 risk factors for clinical disease outbreak



## Results

### Clear risk factors for disease outbreaks

- **Herd size:** OR = 2.7-11.3 for 450 vs. 300 cattle<sup>a</sup>
- **Calving area:** OR = 1.4-4.9 for >2 cows vs. 1 cow<sup>b</sup>
- **Calves contact** to other age groups: OR = 1.3-6.3<sup>b</sup>
- **Sectioning** OR = 0.1-0.6<sup>b</sup> for >5 movements vs. <4
- **Use of cow sick pen:** OR = 1.3-4.1<sup>b</sup> for No vs. yes

<sup>a</sup>P<0.001, <sup>b</sup>P<0.01

### Other factors associated with disease outbreaks

- **Young stock on pasture** increased the risk
- **Number of employees** increased the risk
- **Increased cow group size** increased the risk
- **Cleaning facilities at entrance** increased the risk\*
- **Cleaning of calf hutches/pens** increased the risk\*

\*Might be due to actions done as part of limiting the outbreak

## Conclusions

- Focus on contact between animals (sectioning)
- Protect the calves (contact and milk)
- Use sick pens for cows
- Increased prevention and monitoring in large herds
- Good internal biosecurity! Isolate the sick!