

## Increases in cases of Yersiniosis in cattle

We have seen an increase in cases of bovine yersiniosis cause by *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* over the last few years. The proportion of diarrhoea cases with a diagnosis of Yersinia has grown from 3.86% in 2018 to 6.81% in 2019, 7.35% in 2020 and so far, 8.87% in 2021. Further, communication with MPI suggests this is consistent across the diagnostic laboratories with increases in Yersinia diagnoses occurring over the last 15 years. 2020 has had the highest incidence thus far.

*Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* can cause disease in multiple animal species and is a common cause of enteritis in cattle sheep and goats. In cattle, it is often sporadic, affecting single animals, but can also be associated with outbreaks of diarrhoea, and occasionally sudden deaths. Young animals between 6 to 12 months of age are typically affected, and infection is often seen after periods of stress or inclement weather.

In New Zealand cattle, most cases are seen in December and January, with another smaller peak in July and August. Intestinal villar damage from yersiniosis can subsequently cause chronic malabsorption and ill thrift. Diagnosis of yersiniosis is based on clinical signs and isolation of *Yersinia* from faecal samples. Culture requires selective enrichment media and may not identify all cases, therefore faecal samples from multiple affected animals should be submitted.

