

Impact of Leukosis in Canada



What is Leukosis?

Leukosis is a disease caused by the bovine leukemia virus which leads to:

Decreased **milk production** and **welfare**



Impaired **fertility** and **immune response**

Increased risk of **lymphocytosis** and **lymphoma**



Currently, there is no **treatment** or **vaccine**



OBJECTIVE:

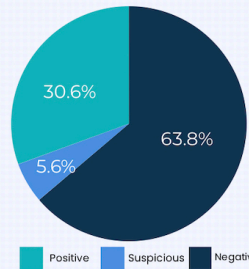
To understand the current extent and impact of leukosis on Canadian farms

DATA
123,021 leukosis test results:



Test interpretation

- **Positive** -> Infected
- **Suspicious** -> needs to be retested
- **Negative** -> Uninfected



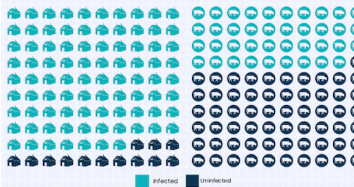
RESULTS

87%

OF HERDS
studied had at least one case of leukosis

39%

OF COWS
in infected herds were positive for leukosis



Per lactation infected cows produce up to:

257kg less milk

7.7kg less protein

17kg less fat

59,000 cells/mL higher somatic cell count

CONCLUSION

Leukosis is present at high levels in Canadian herds and causes a significant impact on their health, longevity, and production.

Not only does reducing Leukosis benefit the animals and producers, but it can have lasting benefits to society as a whole.



Environment

Cows without leukosis tend to produce more milk, requiring less cows for the same production level.



Antibiotic resistance

Leukosis leaves cows more susceptible to other diseases, some of which require antibiotics to treat.



Welfare

Healthy cows have better welfare and the consumer can feel good about their buying choices.