

Rapid Advice 13-2012 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the risk of transmission of *Brucella abortus* via artificial insemination and embryo transfer

The Scientific Committee has assessed the risks of transmission of *Brucella abortus* via embryo transfer in the case that the embryos originate from a herd which afterwards has become a brucellosis outbreak herd and via artificial insemination in general.

On the condition that the embryo's, which originate from a brucellosis outbreak herd, were collected and treated correctly by a certified embryo transfer team applying the usual IETS protocol, the risk of transmission of *Brucella abortus* via embryo transfer is negligible.

Yet the Scientific Committee insists, that the embryos collected from a brucellosis outbreak herd, in application of the legislation, are not used for trade but are only used to repopulate the herd after its sanitation. To further reduce the risk the Scientific Committee recommends also to include, during transfer, supplementary washing steps of the embryo (10 times) with wash media containing appropriate antibiotics and to follow scrupulously the health of the recipient by repeated serum sampling for brucellosis between the embryo transfer and the calving. As a supplementary measure the Scientific Committee proposes to bacteriologically test the last wash medium for *Brucella*.

Because the semen of infected sires can be contaminated with *Brucella abortus*, the risk of transmission of *Brucella abortus* via artificial insemination is not negligible. The Scientific Committee recommends using only semen from registered insemination centers whose sires are regularly tested for brucellosis.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".