



## Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Q Fever Surveillance Program

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a Province of Saskatchewan Q Fever Surveillance project that will run January 2020 to March 31, 2023.

Q-fever, although primarily a disease of ruminant animals (cattle, sheep, goats), can cause serious disease in people, including miscarriage, stillbirth, and pre-term delivery in pregnant women. There have been two incidents in 2019 where people have been known to be infected with Q-fever; as a result of these infections, there has been a significant increase in requests for Q-fever testing within both the human and animal health fields; see Cdn Journal of Veterinary research

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1255503/>.

There is currently no information on the prevalence of Q-fever in Saskatchewan ruminant populations. This project will fill this information gap to help inform decisions regarding biosecurity and testing needs in both the animal and human health fields.

Prairie Diagnostic Services laboratory has changed protocols, now handling all submissions involving ruminant abortions as Risk Level 3 (equivalent to anthrax, for comparison). All Saskatchewan bovine /ovine/caprine placentas submitted to PDS will be tested for *Coxiella burnetii* (C burnetii) via PCR analysis. This is a **No Charge Test** for veterinarians and data collected will be included in an integrated animal-human surveillance system for a One Health approach.

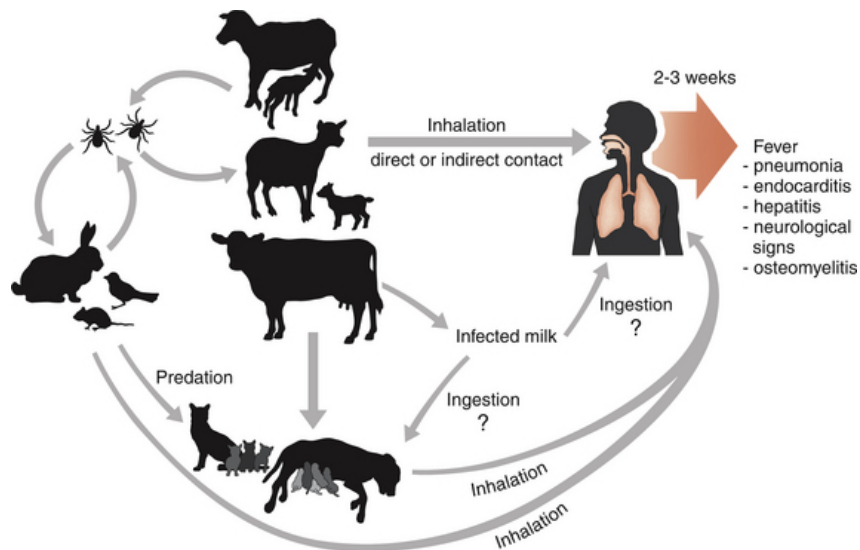


Image from: <https://veteriankey.com/coxiellosis-and-q-fever/>