BOVINE LEUKOSIS IN LITHUANIA

J. Glamba

Summary. Bovine leukemia (BL) was first registered in Lithuania in 1916. Isolated cases of the disease were diagnosed in the period from 1936 to 1962. Wider spread of the disease was detected on farms and at slaughterhouses after 1965.

7,6 thousand BL cases were registered in 1971-1980. In this period pathologoanatomic changes characteristic of BL were stated in approximately 85-130 carcasses out of 100 thousand at slaughterhouses of the republic.

Since 1987 serological blood test-agar-gel immunodiffusive test (AGIDt) has been used alongside haematological ones in leukemia diagnostics. In 1988, after having tested 852,9 thousand cattle on farms, 35,6% of this number carried leukemia virus, 43,2% of them being cows. The highest number of infected cattle was diagnosed in Šiauliai, Panevėžys, Vilnius regions, while the lowest one - on the farms of Klaipėda zone.

In the period of 1994-1996 the number of leukemia infected animals compared with the previous years decreased on Lithuania cattle farms. In 1997 only 3,6% of cattle was diagnosed as BL virus infected.

Keywords: Bovine leukemia, epizootology, haematological, serological, patomorphological diagnostics, slaughterhouses.

1998 06 05