

BOVINE LEUKOSIS IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. Bovine leukosis (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 slaughter houses after 1965.

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

Since 1987 serological blood test-agar-gel immunodiffusive test (AGIDt) has been used alongside haematological ones in leukosis diagnostics. In 1988, after having tested 852,9 thousand cattle on farms, 35,6% of this number carried leukosis 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 leukosis 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 leukosis, epizootology, haematological, serological, pathomorphological diagnostics, slaughterhouses.

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