Morbidity and mortality from bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in newly weaned/received cattle continue to be the most significant health problems facing the US beef cattle industry. In a recent survey of Kansas feedlots, there seemed to be a trend for increased death losses in feedlot cattle over the last decade (Babcock et al., 2006), and BRD was the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in a cross-sectional survey sent to 561 feedlots in 21 states (Woolums et al., 2005). Mortality from BRD and the expense of medicine and labor to treat BRD contribute to its negative economic and animal welfare costs, but feedlot performance and carcass merit also are affected negatively by BRD (Gardner et al., 1999), magnifying its economic consequences.

Sources:


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