

15. Prevalence and Distribution of Bovine Coccidia in the Northern Area of Miyagi Prefecture

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A coccidiosis, which is caused by parasitic protozoa *Eimeria* spp., is one of the most popular infectious diseases in various kinds of domestic animals including cattle. Bloody stool and diarrhea are typical symptom of coccidiosis, and infected animals are sometimes killed in severe cases. Moreover, in recent years, some cases observed drug resistant capability were appeared, and the toxicity of bovine coccidia has been increasing. Thus, the coccidiosis has been feared to decrease the productivity and to damage a vast economic loss in the world livestock industry. In this study, to clarify the infection state of bovine coccidia, we investigated four farms in the northern area of Miyagi prefecture. One hundred eighteen cattle from three dairy farms and 108 beef cattle from different one farm were analyzed by rectal examination. In three dairy farms, infection ratio of coccidia indicated 11.5% and low value, and the ratio tended to be high in young adult cattle. In contrast, very high infection ratio (76.7%) was obtained from beef cattle in one farm, but conspicuous symptom of coccidiosis was not observed from such cattle. From previous study performed in 1986, the ratio of coccidium infection was 19.3% in the same farm showing the highest ratio in this present study. This result indicates that subclinical infection with some bovine coccidia that possess low toxicity could be occurred easily, and that a risk of outbreaks might be expanded without our awareness.