

Anaplasmosis Testing

ABOUT: Anaplasmosis is a tick- and insect-borne disease in cattle caused by the blood parasite *Anaplasma marginale*. It destroys red blood cells, leading to anemia, abortion, weight loss, and death. Outbreaks in herds with no prior exposure can cause major losses.

SYMPTOMS: Loss of appetite, rapid weight loss, weakness, fever, and pale or yellow eyes. Pregnant cows may abort, and severe cases can result in sudden death. Cattle that survive infection carry the parasite for life and can pass it to others, even if they look healthy.

PREVENTION: Control ticks and biting insects, use clean needles and equipment, and quarantine/test new or returning cattle. Avoid mixing positive and negative animals to prevent outbreaks.

GETTING TESTED: Cattle can be tested with a simple blood test by collecting at least 2 ml of whole blood in a "red top" vacuum tube. Keep the sample refrigerated, ship it with an ice pack, and test within 2 weeks of collection.

Anaplasma samples are processed and results reported on Tuesday.

