

## Preface

# Liver Abnormalities in Cattle: A Historical Challenge with Emerging Importance



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*Editors*

The liver functions to regulate immunologic, metabolic, and chemical processes essential to life. A healthy liver is required for beef and dairy cattle to metabolize nutrients into body tissue or milk at their maximal efficiency, and the different liver abnormalities threaten the productivity and health of cattle. Arguably, the most important liver abnormality in beef cattle is liver abscessation, and this disease typically requires antimicrobial administration for effective control. Expert contributors in this issue provide insight on classical and emerging theories on pathogenesis of liver abscessation, impacts of liver abscessation on cattle growth and productivity, including carcass characteristics, nutritional and dietary influence on liver abscess prevalence, microbial ecology of liver abscesses, and methods to control liver abscesses in the production setting. In addition, other liver abnormalities are characterized, including toxicologic factors and metabolic influences on liver disease, such as ketosis and fatty liver that affect the transition dairy cow. The prevalence and implications of liver abscessation and other liver abnormalities in cattle are increasing and require comprehensive evaluation using old and new theories to make progress. This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice* titled “Liver Abnormalities in Cattle” provides readers the latest research and insight on liver diseases from trusted sources

throughout academia and industry. Finally, a sincere THANK YOU to the authors for lending their time and knowledge toward this important topic!

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