

Prevalence of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infected US alpaca herds and factors associated with BVDV seropositive herd status.

C.L. Topliff¹, E.M. Becker¹, D.R. Smith¹, S.L. Clowser¹, D.J. Steffen¹, J.N. Henningson¹, B.W. Brodersen¹, D. Bedenice², R.J. Callan³, C. Reggiardo⁴, C.L. Kelling¹. ¹VBMS, UNL, Lincoln, NE. ²TCSVM, North Grafton, MA. ³CVMBS, CSU, Fort Collins, CO. ⁴VSM, UA, Tucson, AZ.

The objectives of this study were to determine the prevalence of BVDV infected US alpaca herds and factors associated with occurrence of BVDV seropositive herd status. Crias from 63 herds representing 26 states were tested for neutralizing antibodies, BVDV and BVDV RNA. Seventeen of the 63 herds (27%) had crias with BVDV neutralizing antibody. Four herds (6.3%) were identified as having persistently-infected (PI) crias. Twenty herds (31.7%) reported recent serious disease problems. Factors significantly associated with BVDV seropositive herd status were feeding bovine colostrum and abortions. Another factor implicated from case studies contributing to a BVDV seropositive herd status was ingestion of colostrum from dams previously exposed to BVDV in other herds. These findings confirm the importance of BVDV infections in US alpacas and underscore the merit of adhering to sound herd biosecurity practices to avoid exposure to BVDV infected animals. In addition, our study revealed that frequently a seropositive herd status is not attributable to the presence of infected animals within the herd and that other factors must be considered to determine the current BVDV infection status of a herd.