

Ways to prevent Salmonellosis in Humans

1. Wash hands properly after handling cattle and before handling food.
2. Cook foods thoroughly.
3. Pasteurize milk and dairy products; avoid consumption of unpasteurized products.
4. Prevent cross-contamination of heat-treated foods.
5. Store heat-treated foods at < 4 C or > 60 C to prevent growth.
6. Prevent infected or individuals with a carrier status from handling food.
7. Reduce carriage of livestock by vaccinating or dosing with antibiotics or probiotics.
8. Control rodents and insects.
9. Dispose of sewage in a sanitary manner.



Raw milk is poured into a churn to be delivered to the processing plant for pasteurization.

Veterinary Services Division MANDATE

- Keeping exotic diseases out of Jamaica
- Safeguarding the Livestock Industry
- Facilitating Trade
- Improving Public Health
- Enhancing Food Safety
- Promoting Animal Welfare

Veterinary Epidemiology, Public Health & Food Safety (VEPHFS) Unit

“Committed to develop, provide and maintain effective and efficient scientific based programs for all stakeholders.”

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Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
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Salmonellosis in Cattle



**“ Ensuring Healthy Animals...
for a Healthy You”**

What is Salmonellosis?

Salmonellosis is an intestinal disease caused by a group of bacteria known as Salmonella (SAL-moh-NEL-uh).

There are many different types of the bacteria, but mainly *S. typhimurium*, ***S. dublin*** and ***S. newport*** can be found in the intestinal tract of cattle.

The bacteria are shed in the feces of infected cattle, which causes diarrhoea. The bacteria can live for months to years in warm, wet environments.



Salmonella bacteria

How can my cow get Salmonella?

Cattle get infected with salmonella by a fecal-oral route of spread. This occurs by:

- eating materials such as feed, water, pasture or grass contaminated with feces of an infected animal direct
- contact with an infected cows feces
- objects such as boots, coveralls that are contaminated by fecal material from infected cows

Fast Facts...

How does Salmonellosis affect my cattle?

Factors that cause clinical disease include poor nutrition, long transport times, calving and mixing and crowding in feedlots.

Calves affected with the disease show signs of:

- fever (40.5-41.50 C) and death occurs in 24-28 hours.

Affected cattle show these signs:

- fever (40.5-41.50 C), followed by severe watery diarrhea.
- drop in milk production in dairy cows.

How can I protect my cattle from Salmonellosis?

- Observe your herd for any signs of illness and isolate any animals that are showing any signs of illness.
- Purchase animals only from farms known to be free of the disease. Such animals must be isolated for more than one week while monitoring their health status.
- Ensure that feed is supplied from a reputable source, which is known to be free of salmonella.



Salmonella testing at the Veterinary Services Division Diagnostic Laboratory.

- Routine sampling of feed, milk and feces can be sent to the lab to check for salmonella.
- Contact a licensed veterinarian if your cattle have any symptoms that resemble salmonella or if there is fever 40-41.500 C.



Animal health personnel observing a herd of cattle at Bodles Field Station.