

Todd, J.R. (Vet. Research Div., Stormont, Belfast, North Ireland): THE INCIDENCE OF LEAD POISONING IN CALVES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. Veterinary Record 76:845 (Aug. 1), 1964.

The author had earlier estimated the incidence of lead (Pb) poisoning in cattle in Northern Ireland to be 4.5% on the basis of finding concentrations greater than 25 ppm in the kidney cortex of lambs less than 300 lb., received in the year 1960 to 1961 at a large knackery, with a finding of 10 to 25 ppm being interpreted as abnormal but of doubtful significance. As other authors' estimates were lower (1.5%), the survey was repeated in the year 1963 to 1964 and at another knackery over a 2-yr. period of 1961 to 1963. Tabulation of the results together with those of the first survey showed levels of Pb of more than 25 ppm in 51 or 4.1% of a total of 1247 kidneys; 21 or 1.7% contained 10 to 25 ppm. Most of the 51 "positive" contained very high Pb concentrations and only 9 were from 25 to 50 ppm. Thus, using a figure of 50 ppm as criterion, as some authors have done, would reduce the percentage incidence of deaths from Pb poisoning only to 3.4%.