

# Veterinary

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## Economic impact due to theileriosis in dairy cattle

Pankaj Gaonkar, Chandrashekhar Mote and Shiyamala S  
Krantisinh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science, India

Tropical theileriosis caused by *Theileria annulata* is an important haemoprotozoan disease reported in Western part of Maharashtra and has emerged as a major threat to dairy industry in last decade. It is a major haemoprotozoan disease of crossbred cattle which occurs in two forms viz., clinical piroplasmiasis as Erythrocytic form and subclinical form with presence of Koch's blue bodies in lymphocytes. Theileriosis is a tick borne disease of cattle characterized by pyrexia, progressive anemia, swelling of lymph nodes and respiratory distress. The disease is now reported more frequently and the incidence of theileriosis in India over the last four decades gives a varied range from 3.5-15 % in cattle in field and farm conditions. Irrational tick control methods on field predispose dairy animals to theileriosis. The aim of the present study was to assess the economic losses incurred due to theileriosis in dairy animals and was based on the blood samples processed at Clinical Pathology Laboratory of this institute for a period of three and half years (2012-2015). Of the 2450 blood samples examined, 644 samples were found positive for clinical and subclinical theileriosis (26.28%). The overall economic losses were calculated considering the expenditure for treatment and prevention of disease, vector control, reduced milk yield and decreased fertility. The overall cost for treatment of a cow suffering with clinical theileriosis for 5 days is approximately Rs. 3500/- of which Rs. 2000/- are contributed by drug of choice (Inj. Buparvaquone and Inj. Oxytetracycline). The supportive treatment including supplementation of Iron, vitamins and liver tonic account for Rs. 1200/- apart from fees of veterinarian. The losses due to 50% reduced milk production for 7 days adds the loss of Rs. 1400/- approximately for a cow producing 20 liters of milk per day. The tick control costs about Rs. 200/-. Considering the overall factors, the economic losses due to theileriosis could be up to Rs. 7000/-.

### Biography

Pankaj Gaonkar is currently pursuing his BVSc & AH in Krantisinh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science, Shirwal, Maharashtra; India and he is research enthusiast.

[pankajgaonkar12993@gmail.com](mailto:pankajgaonkar12993@gmail.com)

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