



MSD FEEDLOT PATHOLOGY DAY – 22 May 2014

MSD Animal Health, as a leading partner of the South African feedlot industry, held a magnificent pathology information day during May 2014 at Onderstepoort - Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria.

The day was well attended with almost 60 feedlots represented from across South Africa. Many of the Feedlot Veterinary consultants were also present at the day, showing their support to MSD Animal Health and their clients.

MSD Animal Health saw the need in the feedlot industry for more information on certain animal health aspects. The aim of the information day was to support the SA feedlot industry in their daily operations, with special reference to two of the biggest problems seen in South African feedlots: the Clostridial Disease complex and the Bovine Respiratory Disease complex.

The day started off with practical sessions at the Pathology Department lead by Professor Leon Prozesky (Department Head: Pathology). The first part of the practical session focused on post mortem technique, correct sample taking and how to send samples to diagnostic laboratories (Fig.1). Examples of bacterial cultures and culture medium were shown and discussed by Johan Gouws from the bacteriology laboratory at Onderstepoort. Delegates were shown around the pathology hall where final year students demonstrated various lesions in carcasses, as well as post mortem technique. The second part of the practical session was held in the histopathology laboratory at the pathology department. Sample handling, processing and staining in order to produce final histopathology slides for examination was demonstrated in the lab (Fig. 2). The third practical session took place at the multi-head microscopes where post graduate pathology students demonstrated how to interpret these slides microscopically.

The theoretical session followed and talks were given by specialists in the fields of bacteriology and virology:

Dr Maryke Henton, a leading veterinary bacteriologist with extensive experience and knowledge in her field presented bacteriological profile data on trans-tracheal aspirate samples taken in feedlots across South Africa. She also spoke about resistance profiles of various antibiotics used and trends to expect in future.

The second speaker was Mrs Karen Nel, co-founder of Design Biologix – a leading vaccine producing company. Mrs Nel presented on virus profiles related to the Bovine Respiratory Disease complex in South Africa. She also spoke about vaccine handling which is a very important aspect in feedlots as most of the vaccines used are live.

Professor Leon Prozesky ended the day with a very important message of resilience. He emphasised the importance of holistic management and preventative medicine.

MSD Animal Health South Africa is proud to have been a sponsor of this day. One of our very important objectives is to support the SA feedlot industry, not only providing excellent products, but also supporting them through constant education and assistance.



Figure 1. Part 1 of the practical session - Post mortem lesions and technique



Figure 2. Part 2 of the practical session – Histopathology lab



Figure 3. Part 3 of the practical session - Microscopic evaluation