



## Welcome to our first NABSnet newsletter

This will be a regular email focused on the practicalities of doing NABS SDIs, for all of us in the network - private cattle vets, govt field vets, lab pathologists and the program team.

Since the Masterclass in Townsville 13 practices have signed into the NABS SDI package. The plan is to do 85 SDIs across the network.

**Don't wait for the perfect case - getting started is 50% of the job.**

Let me know if there is anything you'd like covered in following newsletters, or resources you want on the supporting website.

Cheers Kev

Newsletter #1 (4 July 2018)



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## 18 calves die in a dairy herd

In March and April 2018 eighteen calves between 2 weeks and 6 months of age died in a 300-cow dairy herd on the Atherton Tableland.

Diseases in dairy calves are commonly diarrhoea in the first month of life and Enzootic Calf Pneumonia, but the unusual features of this disease outbreak were:

- Very few signs of diarrhoea or respiratory disease
- Very high mortality. Most calves that became ill died.
- Some calves showed nervous signs typical of meningitis
- Most cases occurred in calves 3-6 months of age. It is rare to experience acute disease at this age.

[Find out more](#)

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## Tips and tricks

Tristan has a heap of tips for the key steps in doing SDIs: 'catching, killing, cutting up and collecting, consigning and considering'. Each issue we'll ask him to share one or two.

### How to kill a cow without damaging the brain

Saturated solutions of Epsom salts ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) were once commonly used as euthanasiates by veterinarians when an undamaged brain was required or shooting was not an option. Then along came barbiturates, but with them, came the hazards to animals scavenging the carcass. There is a real role for use of  $\text{MgSO}_4$  solutions as a cheap, effective, safe and humane means of euthanasia of farm animals.

[More info on using  \$\text{MgSO}\_4\$](#)

## From SDI Field Guide - Collect brain when investigating syndromes with:

- Neurological signs
- Sudden death



## Reaching all of the network

Please invite others in your practice or lab who are involved with NABS SDI cases to subscribe to this email too [Subscribe here](#)  
[Contact details for network members](#)

[Events coming up](#) Let us know if there are other events to add.

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## Happy to help

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or visit [www.nabsnet.com.au](http://www.nabsnet.com.au)

Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group