

CATTLE — BOVINE ANAEMIA

1043. Hon RICK MAZZA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I take this moment to congratulate Hon Mark Lewis on his appointment to cabinet.

I refer to the increasing incidence of bovine anaemia caused by intracellular blood parasites and carried by ticks. This is a condition that can have devastating consequences for both dairy and meat cattle.

- (1) How many farmers' herds have been impacted by bovine anaemia?
- (2) How many cattle, including calves, have succumbed to this usually fatal condition?
- (3) What steps has the department taken to assist the growing number of farmers whose cattle are being affected?
- (4) What steps has the department taken to control or impede the spread of this condition?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Eight properties have been investigated for bovine anaemia *Theileria orientalis* this year. This total is down from 23 properties in 2015 and 11 in 2014.
- (2) This specific bovine anaemia is not usually fatal. Twenty cattle have been reported to have died this year.
- (3)–(4) Since detection of this parasite in Western Australia, the Department of Agriculture and Food has conducted research regarding its distribution and impact. The Department of Agriculture and Food provides technical advice to private veterinarians and affected producers and provides a subsidy to encourage investigation, and has a published web page on the disease.