

A Serosurvey of the Prevalence of Enzootic Bovine Leukosis in the Mafikeng Area of the North West Province of South Africa

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ABSTRACT The objectives of this study were to determine the seroprevalence of enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL) and some possible factors influencing its occurrence in the Mafikeng area of the North West Province using the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. Three hundred and forty blood samples were collected from cattle aged 6-72 months. Structured interviews as well as clinical examinations were used to gather supplementary data. The overall seroprevalence was 12.6 percent while area prevalence ranged between 6 and 51 percent. Eighty percent of the studied areas tested positive to EBL, revealing the extent to which farmers could be losing out to the disease. Oral interviews revealed a paltry 20 percent awareness level among the farmers. Awareness campaigns and more seroprevalence surveys are obligatory if the actual extent of the disease and its effects are to be revealed.