

Recent Outbreaks Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT): What have we learned?

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Antigenically Infectious laryngotracheitis virus (ILTV) strains exist as a single serotype; thus, differentiation of ILTV strains is based on genome differences (Genotyping). Knowledge of virus genotype allows veterinarians to determine whether the circulating virus is of vaccine (vaccinal LT) or field origin, which facilitates investigating events that potentiated virus introduction. Also, periodic genotyping of outbreak-related viruses from different companies within a state permits tracking changes in circulating viruses. We have collected genotype data from broiler and broiler breeder outbreaks from 2020 to 2023. These data show that the most prevalent viral genotype in the past three years belongs to Genotype VI. In this seminar, we will present the prevalence of this viral genotype through the years by region and show some pathotyping data of the more recent circulating genotype VI viruses. Finally, we will discuss potential ways to monitor and reduce viral load in the environment after recurrent disease cases.