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# Observations of Tail Rot in a Northern Territory breeder herd

## Introduction:

- Tail Rot (necrosis) is believed to be the result of an injury to the tail, such as a break, dislocation or other trauma
- This injury disrupts the flow of blood to and from the tissue below, causing blood clots to form
- These blood clots lead to necrosis of the tissues, resulting in gangrene and eventually the tail breaks away
- Tail Rot is a common occurrence in northern Australian cattle herds. **But how common is common?**

## Method:

- The prevalence of tail rot was recorded in a herd of 294 Brahman cows and 247 F1 Senepol X Brahman cows in second round muster, September 2018
- Cows were of mixed ages and co-grazed two adjacent native pasture paddocks on Manbulloo Station, Northern Territory
- Cows were managed in two mobs based on age, with 7-8 year old cows in one paddock and 5-6 year old cows in another

## Results:

- The overall observed prevalence of tail rot was 3.6% (1.4-5.8%, CI 95%)
- The observed rates of tail rot in Brahman cows was higher (4.7%) than in F1 Senepol cows (2.1%), but this difference was not significant
- The prevalence of tail rot was however, positively associated with age ( $P=0.01$ ), with the prevalence generally increasing by 1.9% per year

Table 1. Prevalence of tail rot in Brahman (Bra) and F1Senepol (F1Sen) cows in September 2018

Age (yrs)	Bra		F1Sen		Combined Breed	
	Number of cows	Prevalence Tail rot	Number of cows	Prevalence Tail rot	Number of cows	Prevalence Tail rot
5	81	2.5%	80	0%	161	1.2%
6	74	2.7%	76	1.3%	150	2.0%
7	103	7.8%	61	1.6%	164	5.5%
8	36	5.6%	30	10.0%	66	7.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

