

New vaccine for Rift Valley fever

A candidate vaccine for the Rift Valley fever virus is safe and effective in pregnant sheep, according to research by Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR) in partnership with vaccine developer BunyaVax and pharma company Ceva Animal Health.

The Rift Valley fever virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and can infect ruminants and humans. Sheep are particularly susceptible to the virus. The candidate vaccine uses an active but greatly attenuated version of the virus. Such vaccines are usually highly effective after just one dose. The vaccines currently available for Rift Valley fever can be transmitted to the foetus, which can lead to stillbirths, congenital abnormalities and spontaneous abortions. The new vaccine appears to be perfectly safe for pregnant animals, even in high doses. The study also shows that just one dose gives full protection. The vaccine was developed by WBVR.

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