



**Short communication: Diagnostic accuracy of focused lung ultrasonography (FLUS) as a rapid method for the diagnosis of respiratory disease in dairy calves.**

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Complete List of Authors:	Pravettoni, Davide; Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria Buczinski, Sébastien; Centre hospitalier universitaire vétérinaire, Département de Sciences Cliniques Sala, Giulia; Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria Ferrulli, Vincenzo; Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria Bianchi, Francesco; Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria Boccardo, Antonio; Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria
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1 **Short communication: Diagnostic accuracy of focused lung ultrasonography (FLUS) as a rapid**  
2 **method for the diagnosis of respiratory disease in dairy calves.** D. Pravettoni

3 Bovine respiratory disease complex is a multifactorial disease that causes pneumonia in cattle  
4 worldwide. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for economic and welfare reasons and to reduce  
5 the use of antimicrobials. This study evaluated the performance of focused lung ultrasonography  
6 (FLUS) limited to two intercostal spaces per side to indicate lung lesions associated with bovine  
7 respiratory disease. The results showed that this technique has satisfactory accuracy in diagnosing  
8 pneumonia and can be easily applied to older calves where the forelimb musculature precludes access  
9 to the cranial thorax.

## 11 FOCUSED LUNG ULTRASONOGRAPHY METHOD IN DAIRY CALVES

13 **Short communication: Diagnostic accuracy of focused lung ultrasonography (FLUS) as a rapid**  
14 **method for the diagnosis of respiratory disease in dairy calves.**

15 D. Pravettoni<sup>1</sup>, S. Buczinski<sup>2</sup>, G. Sala<sup>1\*</sup>, V. Ferrulli<sup>1</sup>, F. Bianchi<sup>1</sup>, A. Boccardo<sup>1</sup>

16 <sup>1</sup>*Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via dell'Università 6,*  
17 *26900 Lodi, Italy*

18 <sup>2</sup>*Département de Sciences Cliniques, Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, 3200*  
19 *rue Sicotte, St-Hyacinthe, J2S 2M2, Québec, Canada*

21 \*Corresponding author:

22 Giulia Sala, DVM, PhD

23 Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan, Via dell'Università, 6, 26900 Lodi (Italy)

24 Tel: +39-02-50334149

25 e-mail: giulia.sala1@unimi.it

**26 ABSTRACT**

27 This study estimates the accuracy of the focused lung ultrasound (FLUS) compared to systematic  
28 thoracic ultrasonography (TUS) as the reference test for diagnosing pneumonia in pre- and post-  
29 weaned dairy calves. One hundred and thirty-five Holstein Friesian calves, aged between 1 to 6  
30 months were enrolled, which were kept in the same pen with 1 or more animals showing signs of  
31 bovine respiratory disease complex (BRDC). One operator performed FLUS on each calf, and then a  
32 second blinded operator performed TUS on the same calf. For the FLUS, we only scanned the lung  
33 lobes that are most frequently affected during BRDC and which are thus easier to detect, i.e., the  
34 caudal aspect of the cranial lobe of the left lung (fifth and fourth left intercostal spaces; ICS), the  
35 middle lobe of the right lung (fifth right ICS), and the caudal aspect of the cranial lobe of the right  
36 lung (fourth right ICS). Pneumonia was diagnosed when a calf had a minimum of 1 small lobular  
37 lung lesion which was at least 1 cm deep within a normally aerated lobe (TUS score of  $\geq 2$ ). Diagnostic  
38 accuracy indexes of the FLUS were calculated using TUS as the gold standard. The McNemar test  
39 was performed to evaluate the differences between the 2 techniques. In addition, an inter-test  
40 agreement was assessed using the weighted kappa test. A total of 76 out of 135 calves had a TUS  
41 score of  $\geq 2$  and were therefore considered to be affected by BRDC. FLUS had a sensitivity of 81.6%  
42 (95% confidence interval 71.0% to 89.5%), specificity=100% (95% confidence interval 93.9% to  
43 100%), positive predictive value=100%, negative predictive value=96.6% (95% confidence interval  
44 94.7% to 97.9%), and accuracy=97% (95% confidence interval 92.6% to 99.2%). The McNemar test  
45 highlighted a difference of 10.3% between the FLUS and TUS. The agreement between the TUS and  
46 FLUS was substantial (weighted kappa test 0.78). Although FLUS shows some limitations in  
47 diagnosing lung lesions associated with BRDC compared to the systematic approach, this study  
48 shows that the focused method could be used as an additional tool for evaluating consolidation,  
49 especially when examining a large number of post-weaned dairy calves.

50

51 **Key words:** Bovine respiratory disease; Calves; Focused ultrasonography; Thoracic ultrasonography

### Short communication

52  
53 Thoracic ultrasonography (**TUS**) is a useful calf-side diagnostic tool for detecting lung lesions  
54 associated with bovine respiratory disease complex (**BRDC**) (Ollivett et al., 2015). There are several  
55 techniques for performing TUS in dairy calves which vary in terms of the number of intercostal spaces  
56 (**ICS**) evaluated and the interpretation of the positivity of the test based on the depth and extension  
57 of the observed lesions (Teixeira et al., 2017; Ollivett and Buczinski, 2016; Buczinski et al., 2018a;  
58 Ollivett et al., 2015; Cramer and Ollivett, 2019). Ollivett and Buczinski (2016) described an  
59 ultrasonographic 6-point scoring system based on the portion of lung tissue involved in 3 types of  
60 ultrasonographic lung lesions (i.e., comet tails, lobular and lobar pneumonia), identified by scanning  
61 the right lung from the tenth to the first ICS and the left lung from the tenth to the second ICS, each  
62 ICS characterized by a specific intra-thoracic anatomical landmark (Ollivett et al., 2015). Assessing  
63 the entire lung field on both sides of the thorax has proven useful (Buczinski et al., 2014) and enables  
64 the extent of lung lesions to be evaluated, thus facilitating the prognostic evaluation of the affected  
65 subjects (Ollivett and Buczinski, 2016). Unfortunately, the forelimb musculature precludes access to  
66 the cranial thorax in older, heavily muscled calves, thus preventing a complete ultrasonographic  
67 examination (Ollivett and Buczinski, 2016). The hypothetical added value of assessing the cranial  
68 part of the lung compared to the extra time needed was recently investigated (Berman et al., 2019).  
69 Although the study was conducted in a low prevalence context of the disease that may have altered  
70 the power to estimate sensitivity (**Se**) accurately, these authors found that the presence of a lung  
71 consolidation caudal to the heart, with a depth of 3 cm or more, yielded an excellent Se and specificity  
72 (**Sp**) (89% and 95%, respectively) in diagnosing pneumonia in preweaned calves using a latent class  
73 model (Berman et al., 2019).  
74 Currently, there are no data on a simplified ultrasonographic technique that could both be used in  
75 preweaned and postweaned dairy calves with a mid to high prevalence of lung lesions. Our study  
76 therefore aimed to compare the results of focused lung ultrasonography (**FLUS**) for the diagnosis of  
77 lung lesions associated with BRDC in 1 to 6-month-old dairy calves to traditional systematic TUS

78 used in preweaned dairy calves. The FLUS was performed by rapidly evaluating the lung lobes that  
79 are frequently involved in pneumonia and which are also the easiest to reach ultrasonographically in  
80 older calves, i.e., the caudal aspect of the cranial left lung lobe (fifth and fourth left ICS), the middle  
81 right lung lobe and the caudal aspect of the right cranial lung lobe, (fifth and fourth right ICS). We  
82 hypothesized that FLUS could be a clinically appropriate method for diagnosing lung lesions  
83 associated with BRDC and that there would be a good level of agreement with systematic TUS.

84 A prospective diagnostic accuracy study was performed according to the relevant standards (Bossuyt  
85 et al., 2015), using a convenience sample selected from dairy farms that were regularly checked by  
86 our ambulatory clinic from September 2018 to April 2019. Criteria for the selection of the farms  
87 were: a recent history of BRDC in at least 1 calf pen detected by the herd practitioner, location of the  
88 farms (no further than a 1-hour drive from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital), willingness to capture  
89 calves, and milking cows per farm ranging from 180 to 230. We selected calves in pens on each farm  
90 only if at least 1 calf showed signs of BRDC. In brief, an experienced veterinarian (AB) examined  
91 the calves to see if any of them presented a **spontaneous** cough. Coughing calves were scored using  
92 the Wisconsin calf respiratory scoring chart (McGuirk, 2008). If 1 of the coughing calves reached a  
93 total respiratory score of 5 or more, it was considered as having BRDC. All calves within the pen  
94 were then considered eligible for the study, irrespective of their external clinical status. This selection  
95 was performed to ensure a minimum prevalence of lung lesions in the affected pen in order to  
96 optimize the sample size for both groups of calves (calves with and without lesions). The selected  
97 animals were both male and female Holstein Friesian calves aged between 1 and 6 months. A  
98 maximum of 10 calves were examined per pen. A randomization application (Randomizer, Darshan  
99 Institute of Engineering and Technology, Rajkot, India), run on an Android smartphone, was used  
100 when more than 10 calves were present. Calves were excluded if: they belonged to breeds other than  
101 Holstein Friesian, were older than 6 months, or had other concurrent diseases.

102 The publication of data was approved by the Ethical Committee of the University of Milan (approval  
103 number 47/2017, November 28, 2017).

104 Enrolled calves were submitted to thoracic ultrasonography using a portable unit (Ibex Pro, EI  
105 Medical) with a 7.5 MHz linear transducer designed for a transrectal purpose, set to a depth of 8 cm  
106 and gain of 16 dB. Vegetable oil was sprayed over the thoracic skin (Brethour, 1992). The thorax was  
107 not shaved to reflect the rapid use in a field setting (Ollivett and Buczinski, 2016). FLUS was  
108 performed by an experienced veterinarian (AB). The technique used was an abbreviation of the  
109 examination described in Ollivett and Buczinski 2016, based on the ventral landmarks described by  
110 Ollivett et al. (2015). Focused ultrasonography of the left lung was performed first. The probe was  
111 placed between the middle and dorsal third of the fifth ICS, immediately under the elbow.  
112 Ultrasonography scanning was performed by moving the probe ventrally to the costochondral  
113 junction (CCJ). The probe was then slipped cranially into the fourth ICS, starting between the middle  
114 and dorsal third and moving again ventrally to the CCJ and pleural deviation. Similarly, on the right  
115 site, the probe was placed over the fifth right ICS and then slipped cranially towards the fourth ICS  
116 to visualize the lung tissue until the heart was ventrally visualized.

117 After performing FLUS on all calves in the same selected pen, systematic TUS (ICS 10-1 on the  
118 right, and ICS 10-2 on the left) was performed by the first author (DP) following the procedures  
119 described by Ollivett and Buczinski (2016) by randomly re-catching all previously scanned calves.  
120 This procedure was used to ensure blinding between FLUS and TUS examinations. Lung lesions  
121 were scored directly on the farms. For both FLUS and TUS, we adopted the 6-point ultrasonographic  
122 scoring system described by Ollivett and Buczinski, (2016). A positive ultrasonographic examination  
123 test was defined when a calf had a TUS score of 2 or more (lobular pneumonia: consolidation  $\geq 1$  cm)  
124 (Ollivett and Buczinski, 2016). Since FLUS enables 3 lung lobes to be visualized (the caudal aspect  
125 of the cranial left lung lobe [fifth and fourth left ICS], the middle right lung lobe and the caudal aspect  
126 of the right cranial lung lobe, [fifth and fourth right ICS]), the whole 6-point scoring scale and the  
127 same cut-off point as the full technique were used.

128 IBM SPSS Statistics version 25.0 for Macintosh (IBM Corp, Armonk, USA) was used for data storage  
129 and analysis. Sex was reported as frequency and percentage of males and females. Age was not

130 normally distributed and reported with median, interquartile range (**IQR**) from the 25th percentile to  
131 the 75th percentile, minimum (**min**) and maximum (**max**) values. The TUS and FLUS scores were  
132 reported as frequencies and percentages. Since the initial aim was to quantify the significance of  
133 information loss due to FLUS vs. complete examination, we based our sample size calculation first  
134 on a minimal agreement beyond the chance of reaching agreement between the 2 tests. Specifically,  
135 we based our sample size calculation on an acceptable Kappa level of at least 0.80, with a minimal  
136 lower bound of 0.61. The 0.61 level was determined a priori as the lower bound of strong agreement  
137 between 2 different measures (Dohoo et al., 2009). Different scenarios were tested. Based on a sample  
138 size with more than 120 calves would fit in most of the scenarios using type 1 error 5%, type 2 error  
139 20%. The accuracy of FLUS, Se, Sp, positive predictive value (PPV), and negative predictive value  
140 (NPV) were calculated using TUS as the gold standard.

141 To investigate whether there was a systematic, significant difference in the number of cases resulting  
142 as positive between TUS and FLUS, the McNemar test was performed. In addition, the inter-test  
143 agreement between FLUS and TUS scores was assessed using the weighted kappa ( $\kappa_w$ ) (Dohoo et al.,  
144 2009). The clinical application of the differences between TUS and FLUS findings was further  
145 investigated, modelling various previous scenarios from 0 to 1 with 0.05 increment steps. The  
146 apparent disease prevalence based on FLUS findings was calculated based on the true prevalence of  
147 TUS positive cases and FLUS accuracy (Se and Sp). These were derived from the formula by Dohoo  
148 et al. (2009):

$$149 \quad \text{Apparent prevalence} = \text{Prev} * \text{Se} + (1 - \text{Sp}) * (1 - \text{Prev}).$$

150 The uncertainty around the estimates was obtained using low and high 95% confidence intervals  
151 limits of Se and Sp, respectively. A logistic regression model was also performed to underline the  
152 possible effect of age and the interaction between age and FLUS on TUS results. Specifically, in the  
153 logistic regression model, the outcome of interest was TUS (positive when a calf had a TUS score  $\geq$   
154 2, negative with a score of  $<2$ ), and the independent variables checked were the FLUS score, age, and  
155 the interaction between FLUS and age, using backward stepwise regression. Age was used as a

156 categorical variable and classified according to the median (i.e., lower than the median, and greater  
157 than or equal to the median).

158 Eleven male (8.1%) and 124 female calves (91.9%) belonging to 10 dairy farms were enrolled in the  
159 study with a total number of 135 calves. The median age of the calves was 84 (IQR 25% 54 days;  
160 IQR 75% 115 days; min 30 days; max 183 days). Sixty-two calves (45.9%) had a FLUS score of 2  
161 or more. Seventy-six calves (56.2%) had a TUS score of 2 or more and were therefore considered to  
162 have pneumonia. For each FLUS and TUS scoring class, Table 1 summarizes the number of animals  
163 and percentages, also split by the calf age. Using a TUS threshold score of  $\geq 2$ , FLUS had a Se of  
164 81.6% (95% confidence interval [CI] 71% to 89.5%), a Sp of 100% (95% CI 93.9% to 100%), a PPV  
165 of 100%, an NPV of 96.6% (95% CI 94.7% to 97.9%), and an accuracy of 97% (95% CI 92.6% to  
166 99.2%).

167 Figure 1 shows the impact of the simulated true prevalence of calves with TUS lesions on the apparent  
168 prevalence using FLUS. The impact of using FLUS for prevalence assessment vs. TUS as a gold  
169 standard revealed that the difference between the 2 methods was minimal in prevalence settings lower  
170 than 30 to 50%. A comparison between FLUS and TUS in the current setting revealed 10 false  
171 negatives with lesions detected by TUS. Of these false negatives, eight calves were affected by lobular  
172 consolidation in the cranial aspect of the right or left cranial lung lobes, while 2 calves showed a  
173 consolidation of the entire cranial aspect of the right cranial lung lobe. None of the 10 false-negative  
174 cases showed lesions in other lung lobes. There were no false positives when using FLUS. The  
175 McNemar test underlined a difference of 10.37% between FLUS and TUS ( $P=0.001$ ; 95% CI 5.23%  
176 to 15.51%). The agreement between FLUS and TUS, calculated using the  $\kappa_w$  test, was substantial ( $\kappa_w$   
177 0.778; 95% CI 0.718 to 0.837). The comparison between FLUS and TUS scores is shown in Table 2.  
178 According to the applied logistic regression model, age did not influence the relationship between  
179 FLUS and TUS ( $P=0.453$ ). Furthermore, the interaction between age and FLUS did not influence the  
180 TUS results ( $P=1.00$ ).



181 The results of this study were expected because the protocol chosen for FLUS was based on the  
182 literature that evaluated the topographical distribution of lung abnormalities in suppurative  
183 bronchopneumonia, which is the most common form of pneumonia in young dairy calves (Pancier  
184 and Confer, 2010). These results reflect those of Berman et al. (2019), who found that the diagnostic  
185 accuracy indexes obtained with the scan of the caudal part of the lung (eleventh – third ICS right and  
186 left) alone were satisfactory compared to those obtained by ultrasonographically scanning the full  
187 entire lung fields. Moreover, as Ollivett and Buczinski (2016) reported and confirmed by our results,  
188 the lung lobes caudal to the fifth ICS are only rarely involved in pneumonia, and when they are, they  
189 are associated with more substantial cranial lesions. Although the results mentioned above were  
190 satisfactory, a note of caution is warranted for at least 2 reasons. Eight out of 10 false-negative calves  
191 using FLUS had lobular lesions cranially to the fourth ICS on the left or the right side of the thorax.  
192 Lobular pneumonia can be associated with viral infections and bacteria such as *Pasteurella multocida*  
193 or *Mycoplasma bovis*, which are responsible for lobular necrotic pneumonia or bronchiole-centered  
194 lesions with a progressive spread along with the surrounding tissue (Pancier and Confer, 2010).  
195 In addition, 2 out of 10 false negatives had deep consolidation of the cranial lung lobes. Although  
196 consolidation in these areas may also be due to fibrosis and atelectasis not directly correlated with  
197 BRDC pathogens (Berman et al., 2019), pneumonia cannot be ruled out in these false-negative cases  
198 because typically, lung lesions generally start in the cranial aspect of the right cranial lung lobe  
199 (accessible by scanning first and second ICS) with a subsequent caudal progression (Dagleish et al.,  
200 2010). Furthermore, Ollivett et al. (2015) demonstrated that lobar lesions of the right cranial lobe are  
201 consistent with bacterial pneumonia based on histological examination of the lung tissue. In our  
202 opinion, these results illustrate the intrinsic limitation of focused ultrasound techniques, which are  
203 not 100% accurate and cannot fully replace systematic ultrasonography.

204 The McNemar test substantiated this observation and showed a significant discrepancy between cases  
205 testing positive/negative at FLUS and TUS, respectively. Another source of uncertainty is related to  
206 the variation in the FLUS accuracy based on the prevalence of the disease. As expected, in the

207 presence of a high Sp and imperfect Se, the FLUS examination could be used as a good alternative  
208 to TUS when the prevalence of lung lesion is not too high; e.g., <30-50%. However, this was based  
209 on simulations of different prevalence contexts, assuming a constant accuracy of FLUS across these  
210 ranges. In scenarios with a high prevalence of lung lesions, an underestimation associated with FLUS  
211 is likely to be clinically relevant, highlighting the need to add the right cranial part of the right cranial  
212 lung in the scanning, especially when it can be easily done (in calves less than 2 months old).

213 Although an in-depth evaluation of the impact of age on the diagnostic accuracy of FLUS was beyond  
214 the scope of the current study, we found that age did not influence the FLUS results in this case study  
215 group. This supports the hypothesis that the loss of information due to the FLUS technique did not  
216 depend on age but probably on the technique. The use of FLUS could thus be recommended in  
217 diagnosing pneumonia in larger calves, when reaching the cranial fields of the thorax is difficult due  
218 to the muscles of the thoracic limbs (i.e., when the calves are 4-6 months old). On the other hand,  
219 TUS should be preferred to FLUS in smaller calves in order to prevent the loss of valuable  
220 information (e.g., the early stage of the disease which commonly affects most cranial lobes). In  
221 addition, TUS should be preferred in high-risk herds, considering that the full technique does not  
222 present any limitation in these animals and highlights the extent of the consolidation, thus  
223 representing more useful information in terms of prognostic factors.

224 The main limitation of this study was that FLUS was compared to TUS, which itself is an imperfect  
225 gold standard. Although it is important to consider the possible bias of this technique, the detection  
226 of lobar or lobular lesions by systematic TUS is the most accurate in vivo diagnostic tool.  
227 Furthermore, because FLUS and TUS are conditionally dependent, the covariance between the 2 tests  
228 could lead to the same classification error. Nonetheless, FLUS can help the clinician and can be used  
229 for the early diagnosis of lung lesions associated with BRDC in older animals because it is reasonably  
230 accurate, easy and rapid to perform. Two different clinicians performed TUS and FLUS, respectively.  
231 This could be perceived as a limitation of the study. However, it was difficult to guarantee that a  
232 specific clinician performing the 2 tests would remain blind to the first examination results (therefore

233 inducing a risk of recall bias falsely inflating the test accuracy). We therefore preferred to use 2  
234 experienced clinicians to perform the examination. Including a gap between the 2 examinations  
235 performed by the same clinician could also have been a solution. However, there would have been a  
236 risk of lesion progression between the 2 examinations as previously reported (Ollivett and Buczinski,  
237 2016), which would also have introduced a risk of bias. Due to the high level of experience of both  
238 ultrasonographers, we are confident that using 2 clinicians was the best way to limit the current risk  
239 of bias.

240 A further potential limitation affecting the differences observed between the FLUS and TUS could  
241 have been a disagreement in interpreting the lung lesions between the 2 clinicians performing the  
242 examinations. Although the discrepancy could have been assessed using an agreement study between  
243 the 2 operators, inter-rater agreement for the lung ultrasonography is generally good for evaluating  
244 lung consolidation, comet tails, and pleural effusion (Buczinski et al., 2018b). Another limitation of  
245 the current study is the lack of investigations on the etiological agents involved. This information  
246 would have been very useful to correlate the lobular lesions to a specific etiological agent, especially  
247 in the FLUS false-negative calves. Further studies are therefore warranted to investigate this topic.  
248 The results of this study have various clinical implications. An important finding is that FLUS  
249 represents a practical method to diagnose lung lesions in field conditions and can be performed  
250 rapidly using a linear probe. Focused lung ultrasonography may help practitioners to recognize lung  
251 lesions in post-weaned calves. The easy recognition of sick animals would facilitate specific  
252 management vs. healthy subjects such as early separation, thereby preventing unnecessary  
253 antimicrobial treatments of healthy cohabitants and spreading pathogens among the groups. In  
254 conclusion, we believe that FLUS is a promising tool to improve the diagnosis of pneumonia in older  
255 calves where there is a limited access to the cranial part of the thorax.

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304 **Table 1**

305 Ultrasonography scores used to classify the severity of lung lesions associated with bovine respiratory  
 306 disease complex for 2 different methods of lung ultrasonography (Focused Lung Ultrasonography  
 307 [FLUS], and Thoracic Ultrasonography [TUS]) in 135 Holstein Friesian calves from 10 dairy herds  
 308 in Italy. Columns report animals grouped according to the TUS score and the binary interpretation of  
 309 the same score (i.e., animals testing positive vs. animal testing negative). Rows report total numbers  
 310 of animals as well as grouped according to age. For both FLUS and TUS, the 6-point ultrasonographic  
 311 scoring system described by Ollivett and Buczinski (2016) was applied: calves with a TUS score of  
 312 0 or 1 were considered healthy, while calves with a TUS score of 2 (lobular consolidation), 3  
 313 (consolidation of 1 lung lobe), 4 (consolidation of 2 lung lobes), or 5 (consolidation of 3 or more lung  
 314 lobes) were considered to be affected by bovine respiratory disease.

TUS Score		0	1	2	3	4	5	Tested negative	Tested positive
Total cases	FLUS	z	22 (16.3%)	19 (14.1%)	14 (10.4%)	13 (9.6%)	16 (11.9%)	73 (54.1%)	62 (45.9%)
	TUS	38 (28.1%)	21 (15.6%)	25 (18.5%)	11 (8.1%)	12 (8.9%)	28 (20.7%)	59 (43.7%)	76 (56.3%)
Calves 1-month-old (n. = 13)	FLUS	2 (15.4%)	4 (30.8%)	4 (30.8%)	/	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	6 (46.2%)	7 (53.8%)
	TUS	2 (15.4%)	3 (23.1%)	4 (30.8%)	1 (7.7%)	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)
Calves 2-months-old (n. = 48)	FLUS	17 (35.4%)	7 (14.6%)	6 (12.5%)	10 (20.8%)	4 (8.3%)	4 (8.3%)	24 (50.0%)	24 (50.0%)
	TUS	13 (27.1%)	5 (10.4%)	8 (16.7%)	6 (12.5%)	5 (10.4%)	11 (22.9%)	18 (37.5%)	30 (62.5%)
Calves 3-month-old (n. = 28)	FLUS	11 (39.3%)	5 (17.9%)	4 (14.3%)	3 (10.7%)	1 (3.6%)	4 (14.3%)	16 (57.1%)	12 (42.9%)
	TUS	7 (25.0%)	7 (25.0%)	5 (17.9%)	2 (7.1%)	3 (10.7%)	4 (14.3%)	14 (50.0%)	14 (50.0%)
Calves 4-month-old (n. = 26)	FLUS	11 (42.3%)	3 (11.5%)	3 (11.5%)	/	4 (15.4%)	5 (19.2%)	14 (53.8%)	12 (46.2%)
	TUS	7 (26.9%)	4 (15.4%)	5 (19.2%)	/	2 (7.7%)	8 (30.8%)	11 (42.3%)	15 (57.7%)
Calves 5-month-old (n. = 17)	FLUS	8 (47.1%)	2 (11.8%)	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.9%)	2 (11.8%)	2 (11.8%)	10 (58.8%)	7 (41.2%)
	TUS	7 (41.2%)	1 (5.9%)	3 (17.6%)	2 (11.8%)	/	4 (23.5%)	8 (47.1%)	9 (52.9%)
Calves 6-month-old (n. = 3)	FLUS	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	/	/	/	/	3 (100%)	/
	TUS	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	/	/	/	/	3 (100%)	/

316 **Table 2**

317 Contingency table and weighted kappa ( $\kappa_w$ ) value for the comparison between focused lung  
 318 ultrasonography (FLUS) scores and thoracic ultrasonography (TUS) scores.

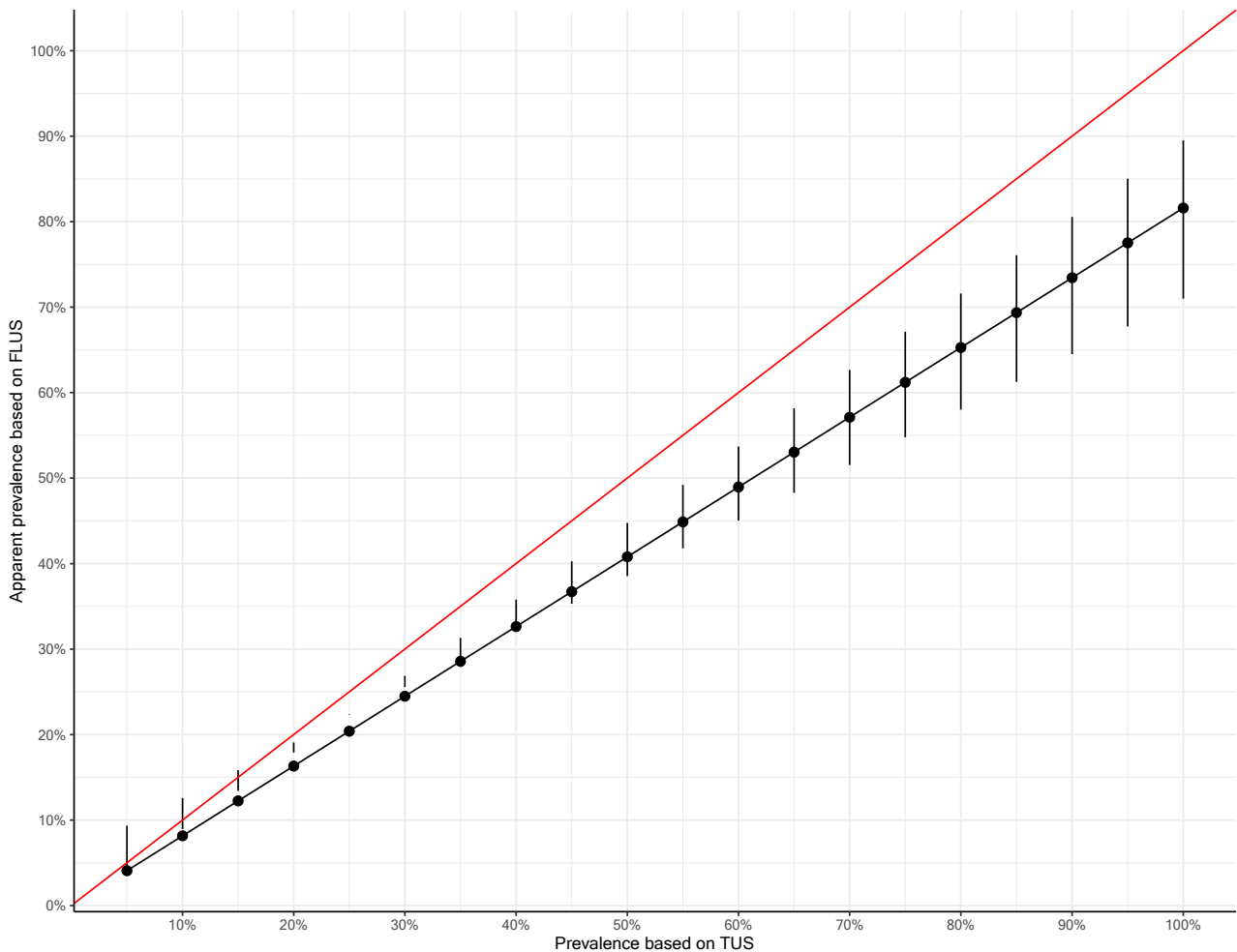
		FLUS								
		Scores <sup>a</sup>	0	1	2	3	4	5	Number of calves	$\kappa_w = 0.78$
TUS	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	38		
	1	8	13	0	0	0	0	21		
	2	4	6	15	0	0	0	25		
	3	0	3	2	5	1	0	11		
	4	1	0	2	6	2	1	12		
	5	0	0	0	3	10	15	28		
Number of calves		51	22	19	14	13	16	135		

319

320 The weighted Kappa coefficient was 0.78 (95% CI: 0.72 to 0.84) indicating a substantial agreement (Dohoo et al., 2009).

321 <sup>a</sup> For both FLUS and TUS, the 6-point ultrasonographic scoring system described by Ollivett and Buczinski (2016) was  
 322 applied: calves with a TUS score of 0 or 1 were considered healthy, while calves with a TUS score of 2 (lobular  
 323 consolidation), 3 (consolidation of 1 lung lobe), 4 (consolidation of 2 lung lobes) or 5 (consolidation of 3 or more lung  
 324 lobes) were considered to be affected by bovine respiratory disease.

325 **Figure 1.** Apparent prevalence of lung lesions using focused lung ultrasonography (FLUS) (with a  
 326 consolidation threshold of  $\geq 1$  cm within a normally aerated lung lobe; score 2) according to different  
 327 disease prevalence scenarios of lung lesions using thoracic ultrasonography (TUS) as a gold standard.  
 328



329  
 330 This figure depicts the relation between apparent prevalence based on FLUS vs. the true prevalence of lung lesions when  
 331 assessed by TUS using the observed FLUS sensitivity (81.6%, 95%CI (71.0-89.5)) and specificity 100% (93.9-100%)  
 332 based on various simulated ranges of lung lesion prevalence (from 0 to 1 by 0.05 increment steps). The black line and  
 333 associated dots represent the mean estimate. The upper and lower bounds around each specific dot are based on the  
 334 apparent prevalence calculation using low and high Se and Sp bounds, respectively. The identity line ( $y=x$ ) is indicated  
 335 in red. The green shaded area depicts the prevalence range where TUS and FLUS prevalence estimations are less than  
 336 5%. The red area depicts an underestimation by FLUS of 10% or less of the real prevalence ranges. The grey shaded area  
 337 depicts an underestimation by FLUS of between 5 and 10% of the true prevalence.



