

Delayed Blindness – DB or CLN

What is it?

Delayed Blindness (DB) is caused by retinal degeneration within the eye. Cattle affected by DB are not born blind but vision loss is noticeable near or just after one year of age.

What does it look like?

Initial clinical signs may include the animal having difficulty navigating their surroundings, bumping into stationary objects, and slowly navigating unfamiliar terrain. These cattle will also lack a menace response (reaction to something being moved toward the eye). Cattle are remarkable at adapting; if in a stable environment vision loss may be severe when first noticed. Unless secondarily injured, the eye appears normal to the casual observer. A detailed ophthalmologic evaluation of the retina in the back of the eye can confirm retinal degeneration. Diagnosis can also be established by genetic testing.