

# Occupational lung disease on a farm

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## CASE REPORT

A 30-year-old male farmer with no tobacco or drug use and no significant past medical history was transferred from a local hospital to the intensive care unit of a university hospital due to hypoxia and worsening dyspnoea over the course of two days after working in a corn storage unit. Upon arrival at the local emergency department, a non-rebreather mask was required to raise the patient's oxygen saturation. Chest X-ray demonstrated bilateral ill-defined small opacities (*figure 1*). Computed tomography scan of the thorax showed diffuse ground glass central-lobular nodules (*figure 2*). The complete blood count revealed a white cell count of 23,100/mm<sup>3</sup> with 95% neutrophils and 2% lymphocytes. Overnight, the patient's respiratory condition deteriorated and warranted mechanical ventilation with high-dose steroids.

## WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 95 for the answer to this photo quiz.

**Figure 1.** Chest x-ray with bilateral ill-defined small opacities



**Figure 2.** Axial computed tomography showing diffuse ground glass central-lobular nodules

