



The staff team prepare to hit the greens.
Winners of Best Dressed



Everyone appreciated having
Phil Tataurangi on course for the day



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JULY 2013

Another spring looms just around the corner & once again we ask “where has the year gone?” Unless you’re Robbie Deans in which case you might ask “where has my career gone?”

Given it’s nearly spring the same old issues & reminders come up so if this newsletter looks suspiciously like previous spring newsletters, forgive me, but it is because we all need to be reminded of much the same things each year (in my case each week).



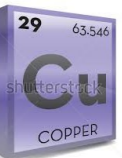
Teresa & Polly are launching a ‘Calf Rearing WOF’ this season. We can come & look at your set-up, offer suggestions & provide a written report.

Golf day was great. It’s not every day that you get a former PGA professional playing alongside you & offering tips & advice. Phil Tataurangi was brilliant & in association with the “Voice of Taranaki”, Phil Quinney, gave us a memorable after dinner presentation. I must

say actually playing with Phil for 3 holes was one of the most traumatic experiences of my life; I haven’t felt that inadequate since I found myself alone & naked at the Stratford pools (in the dressing sheds I hasten to add) alongside then All Black prop Bull Allen - but that’s another story ... Feedback in the last couple of years has suggested that we look at going to an Ambrose format for future golf days. We’ve listened & next year with help from the knowledgeable crew at Eltham Golf Club we intend doing just that. I’ve only played Ambrose once before & it was a lot of fun so I think you will find our golf day just as enjoyable if not more enjoyable next year.

I’ve been to a few conferences this month & one thing of particular interest at the Dairy Cattle Conference was the on-going concern about potential copper toxicity if you feed PKE plus additional trace element/copper supplements. The consensus continues to be that if you feed PKE then you really don’t need to add any extra copper and in fact if you do so you could be pushing your cows towards a dangerous cliff. At the very least know what your copper status is when feeding PKE before you start offering extra supplements - that’s why the people who make Multimin offer a version without copper. If your feed consultant is pushing extra copper just check to see if he is an agent for the brand of supplement he is pushing ...

Anyway, you’ve got lots to do in preparation for the spring & we’ve got to get all our kit together so we’re ready when the phone starts ringing so I’ll leave you to read the rest of this publication.
Good luck for spring & the new season ahead.



Veterinarians

Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO
Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS
Andrew Weir BVSc, PGDip (Epi)
Jim Robins BVSc, BSc, DipPharm
Polly Otterson BVSc, MSc,
Teresa Carr BVSc
Adrian Clark BVSc
Linley Gilling BVSc
Lindsay Lash BVSc
James Bruce BVSc
Leon Christensen BVSc

Office

Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS
Jill Watson Sue Morresey
Nicola Childs Frank Suter

See John for
pre-lamb
requirements



Purchases of Ex-
odus LA &
Bionic Capsules
will go in the draw
to win an
Amphibian Jacket
(worth \$500)

NEW PRODUCT



Vetsan Super Concentrate
A concentrated virucide, biocide
and deodoriser for all surfaces on
farm.
**Ideal for use in farm sheds and
animal housing such as
calf pens.**
**Only product we stock which
claims to kill Crypto**

Toilet conversation

He was barely sitting down when he heard a voice from the other stall saying: 'Hi, how are you?'

He wasn't the type to start a conversation in the men's restroom, but answered, somewhat embarrassed, 'Doin' just fine.'

And the other guy says: 'So what are you up to?'

What kind of question is that? At that point, he's thinking this is too bizarre so he says: 'Uhhh, I'm like you, just traveling.'

At this point he's just trying to get out as fast as he can when he hears another question. 'Can I come over?'

Ok, this question is just too weird for him but he figures he should be polite but firm and end the conversation. He replies, 'No.....I'm a little busy right now!!!'

Then he hears the guy say nervously...

'Listen, I'll have to call you back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps answering all my questions.'



IT students

An IT student is walking along with his bike when another IT student walks up to him and goes “Nice bike. Where did you get it?”

The first student says, “The other day, this beautiful woman ran up to me with this bike, threw it on the ground, ripped off all her clothes and said ‘Take anything you want!’”

The first student says, “So I took the bike”.

The second student says, “Good choice. The clothes probably wouldn't have fit”.



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3 x 5 litre +1 x 5 litre FREE
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Promotion ends 31 August



**OR chat to John about other
pre-calving treatment options**

Changes to Metabolic packaging

I’m not sure I’m a fan and I’m not sure you will be either but for some reason Bayer/Bomac have changed the design of their metabolic flexipacks. On a cold frosty morning with clumsy fingers you may not like the change when you reach for a pack of Glucalmax so they have produced dummy packets for all of us to practice with. It would be worth your while getting to grips with the changes now before that cold, finger-numbing morning when you use one for the first time.

**Next time you’re in the clinic
take a look and have a go!**



Screening replacement calves for BVD is one of the best ways to keep BVD out of your herd. It’s cheaper than vaccinating the whole herd every year, and nearly all herds should either be vaccinating the milkers each year, or screening calves each year. Screening your calves each year guards the health and growth rate of your calves, the reproductive performance of your heifers and herd and the production of your cows. It also provides a lifetime “not PI” animal status in the MINDA database.

You can do it yourself using ear notch kits direct from LIC. The downside is calves need to be at least 35 days old before using ear notches. There is a new testing option now that means you can test calves younger than 35 days old for the same test price as the skin test (+ collection costs) using blood samples. We can do the blood sampling for you at the same time as our premium calf disbudding, or at another time that suits. Make sure you book it in this season so you don’t forget when things get spring crazy!

BASIC APPROACH TO DOWNER COWS

I don't know about the rest of the people who work here, but I'm a pretty basic kind of guy who likes to keep things simple. When I am called to a downer cow, the first thing I do is try and stop the cockie who is revving his bike wanting to tear off down the farm with me behind him.

If I can stop him I ask a few questions before we set off:

1. How long has she been down?
2. How old is she?
3. Has she calved?
4. Have you given her anything?

Once I have established whether we are dealing with a cow that

has or hasn't calved and has been down for a few hours rather than 3 days I then request about 1/3 of a bucket of piping hot water from the vat or house, into which I deposit 3 bags of metabolic solution - Glucalpos, Mag Sulphate and Calcium 25%. Other vets have different preferences but these happen to be my favourite three.

The vast majority of downer cows we see these days are what I call 'mixed metabolic' cows. They have a bit of milk fever, a bit of staggers and reasonable degree of ketosis/low blood sugar. Sometimes I might be lucky and it's an obvious milk fever (down with head around seemingly asleep or flat out on side not moving with barely discernable heart beat) or a classic staggers (on side thrashing legs, watch out you don't get kicked kind of a cow).

If it's a classic milk fever then a Calcium or Glucalpos in the vein and calcium under the skin will do the trick (followed up perhaps by a Calol or something similar when you get her back to the shed).

If it's staggers then hopefully the farmer's description before we left the shed will have enticed me to warm up a Glucalmag (mostly Calcium with about 8% Magnesium), which I will attempt to get into the vein without killing the cow or getting knocked out, followed by a Magnesium under the skin – in your case try and get a magnesium under the skin and stand back and wait! In extreme cases I might need to actually knock the cow out to stop the convulsions killing her before the Magnesium has done its thing. Moremag drench helps as a followup to prevent recurrence.

However, as I said the vast majority are a 'combo' metabolic where to be honest it's bloody hard to work out which one it is, when its probably a bit of all three. Those cows get Glucalpos in the vein (mostly calcium and glucose for energy plus a tiny bit of magnesium, but not enough to kill) and calcium under the skin on one side and magnesium on the other. Once she's sitting up we might then give her a **Starter Plus** or **Headstart** down the throat for the extra energy she will need to get up.

Why the bucket of hot water? That's to warm the fluids up to body temperature by the time we get to the cow. They go in a heck of a lot easier if warm and are less likely to cause abscesses under the skin because they will be absorbed a lot quicker as well. A cold bottle of calcium in the vein can take so long to get in there that you wonder if it will do any good by the time it is delivered. That's why I always try and stop the farmer from taking off as soon as he sees my Ute turning up his track. An extra 5 minutes at the start can save 30 minutes or more at the other end waiting for ice cold solutions to go in a vein.



JOHNES DISEASE

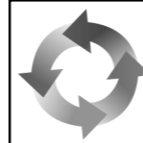
Johnes disease is a bacterial disease usually contracted early in life. The bacteria block cells lining the gut meaning cattle cannot absorb nutrients. The result is loss of weight and usually a scour. There is no treatment and affected animals never recover. This disease is common on Taranaki dairy farms.

Spread is normally by ingestion of faecal matter, but the bacteria can also be picked up when calves drink colostrum from infected cows. Calves born to infected cows may also become infected in the uterus. In fact figures suggest up to 25% of all infected calves are born with it.

Johnes is present in effluent where farms have or have had Johnes cows. Effluent spreading is due to increase dramatically due to new effluent regulations about to be implemented. This is a concern as spreading effluent on pasture is the perfect way to spread Johnes disease to stock. Once spread in effluent, Johnes is present in paddocks and can persist for up to 6 months in places exposed to sun and wind, and up to 18 months in wet, shady areas of a paddock.

What measures can you take to decrease the chances of your stock becoming infected?

- Concentrate on your calves as these are the most vulnerable animals on your farm.
- Avoid effluent spreading on calf paddocks or paddocks cows regularly calve in.
- Don't keep Johnes cows, don't pool colostrum from these cows, or keep their calves.
- Don't put scouring, sick cows in paddocks calves are reared in.
- Keep calves away from effluent areas for 1st 6 months of life.



WOULD YOU LIKE FEWER NON CYCLERS?

Metrichecking cows between calving and mating is a routine practice for many dairy farmers these days. It is a good way to pick up cows with subclinical uterine infections (endometritis) which are not discharging much pus and would not otherwise be detected. A gadget called a metrichecker is inserted into the vagina and some fluid is scooped out. If the fluid has pus in it antibiotics are infused into the uterus to clear up the infection. Recently I went to a talk about risk factors for uterine infections. All the usual suspects were quoted: retained membranes, assisted calvings, a dead calf, twins, milk fever, etc. But one of the biggest risk factors is actually low body condition. I've known for years that most of the dirty cows I am called to are skinny but I thought they were skinny because they were dirty. It turns out to be more likely that they were dirty because they were skinny before they calved. **Skinny cows are more likely to suffer uterine infections after calving** than cows which calve at or near BCS 5. Something else which may be obvious to you, but wasn't to me, is that **detecting and curing uterine infections sooner rather than later after calving reduces the number of non cyclers** at planned start of mating (PSM). When cows were metrichecked and treated in three batches at about 5, 8 and 11 weeks after planned start of calving there were fewer non cyclers than if cows were metrichecked all together about 10 weeks after PSC when most of the herd had calved. This is because changes leading up to a cow's first heat begin more than a month before the actual heat and uterine infection slows down these changes. Early treatment of a dirty cow allows these changes to progress so she has more chance of cycling before PSM. Late treatment makes no difference to her chance of being a non cyclist. There's another drawback to late metrichecking. If you delay metrichecking until 10 weeks after PSC many of the dirty cows will have cleaned up by themselves and you will have fewer to treat. But some of the cows which look clean at metrichecking will still have inflammation in their uterus and that inflammation makes them less likely to conceive. Checking them earlier, when they were still obviously dirty on metrichecking, means they get treated and have a better chance of conceiving earlier. Metrichecking cows late is a false economy! You will save some money on dirty cow treatments but you will lose more on noncyclers treatments and lower conception rates. So, if you are treating more non cyclers than you think you should be, consider metrichecking your herd in batches this year.



Premium Calf Disbudding

Following the successful continuation of our premium calf disbudding service last season we will be running the same system again this year. We will be de-horning in teams of two - usually one of the vets (Adrian, Lindsay, Jimmy or Leon) with the help of our large animal technician/nurse Jill. We will come and do all your calves between the ages of 2-6 weeks in one go. *This age range is important to ensure an efficient, quality service.* As part of the service we check for and remove extra teats. If you wish we can also give the first blackleg vaccination. Remember, this is a premium service and isn't designed to compete on price. If you want your calves sedated and dehorned in a stress and painfree way, this is the method for you. There are plenty of people out there offering cheaper alternatives. The cost will be a visit fee + \$9.50 (incl.GST) per calf. Phone the clinic to book calves in early.



Avoid Early Season Grades - No Short Cuts!!

If you've ever been unfortunate enough to be hit with an IS grade at the start of a new season or know someone who has, it is a pretty sure bet that you don't want to be in that position ever again. With that unpleasant thought in mind here are some reminders of things that can increase the risk of getting an IS grade this season:

Risky practices:

- * Treating cows with DCT during dry period eg. for dry cow mastitis
- * Very low volume supplied at first pick up
- * Cows on once-a-day milking
- * Bought in cows with unclear DCT treatment history
- * Re-using filter socks
- * Cold washing the plant

Things you can do to reduce the risk:

- Remember that cows need to be withheld for the first 8 milkings after calving and heifers the first 10. Don't take short cuts such as sneaking cows in after 3 days or 6 milkings or heifers a day early - it isn't worth it.
- *You should note that the pre-collection tests are notoriously temperamental and even more so in the presence of colostrum so by sneaking a few cows in early you could be putting yourself at unnecessary risk.*
- Change your filter sock after every milking, especially if you have had problems with IS grades before. I know it seems like a hassle, but re-using the filter sock, even with a low number of cows, will increase your risk
- Hot wash after every milking at the start of the season, especially if you have had problems before.

Milk volume is very important!! In Farmlink Fonterra says "to ensure the highest quality milk, **the first milking into the vat must be agitated.** Depending on your vat size, as much as 400 litres may be required to achieve full agitation, so you should be aiming to supply at **least 1000 litres of milk** at the first collection of the season. Supplying this volume will significantly reduce the chance of grading for bacteria, SCC and added water. It will also reduce the chance of grading due to the presence of DCT residues."

Prevention & Treatment of Cryptosporidiosis

Cryptosporidiosis is often thought of as being a less severe cause of scours than the other major causes (rotavirus, coronavirus & *E. coli*) but many of those who have had a major outbreak would tell you otherwise. Cryptosporidiosis appears to be a growing problem with more cases than usual seen last season. The problem is, when cryptosporidia strikes, a high proportion of calves can be infected and often for a long time. Treatment can be difficult, as electrolytes may be needed for so long that calves can become weak. So even though a lower proportion of calves usually die, the hassle and stress involved is often just as bad as it is for other outbreaks. When you add that cryptosporidia is often tied in with rotavirus, which can make a bad outbreak of scours worse, it makes sense to reduce the effects before it gets out of control.

Halocur is a recent arrival to the New Zealand market, and is the only pharmaceutical treatment available for crypto. It can be used as both a prevention and treatment, and in combination with good management practices, will reduce the severity of scours. Importantly, it will also reduce contamination of the environment, helping to break the cycle of infection of other calves. For the prevention of diarrhoea caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum* in at risk calves, treatment should start within 24 hours of birth. Halocur comes in a 490 ml container with a special bottle mounted applicator. Treatment is given orally at a dose of 2mL/10kg, once daily for 7 days, directly after feeding. Halocur is expensive (around \$10 - \$15 per calf treatment, depending on weight). There are other non-pharmaceutical products with claims to assist treatment, in particular Kryptade (electrolyte replacer), Exogen (preventative added to milk) and a new product from the makers of Rotagen Combo (also expensive) so before you rush in to buy some for your scouring calves make sure you get faecal samples tested to see what the cause actually is. If you are concerned about cryptosporidiosis in your calves, please contact us to discuss how Halocur may help you to control this disease. Halocur is only available from your veterinarian.

Coccidiosis in milk fed dairy calves

Many of you will be familiar with coccidiosis in dairy calves - calves over 4 weeks old straining to pass bloody scours little and often. They hold their tails up and strain with the anus clenching repeatedly and a pained expression on their faces but little stool being passed. The backs of their hind legs are often stained with faeces and blood. The calves themselves are often surprisingly bright and will still feed but look very unhappy and hunched up. Sound familiar? With coccidiosis, the calves which get bloody scour are only the tip of the iceberg. Most of the rest of the mob are infected although some will only show watery diarrhoea for a few days with little or no blood. However, all infected calves will suffer damage to the lining of their gut. Repairing this damage takes weeks and it is actually this period of reduced feed intake and weight gain that costs you the most. Calves become infected by the faeco - oral route - which is a polite way of saying by eating shit. All good calf meals have a coccidiostat added to prevent this disease but calves need to be eating 1 kg each per day to get a full prevention dose. So there is a gap between the time when calves reach 4 weeks of age and the time they are eating 1kg meal/day and this is when we see coccidiosis. Coccidia can survive for 2 years in calf pens and the dirtier and more overcrowded your calf pens, the more chance of disease. Another time that we see coccidiosis is after meal feeding stops but by that time the calves are often spread out over the farm and their environment is cleaner so it is not as common then. We seem to be seeing more clinical coccidiosis each year, maybe because calf mobs are getting bigger? Last year we had big outbreaks on 11 farms and another 10 farms had one or two sick calves. I suspect other farms had mild outbreaks which got better without treatment but the calves didn't grow and bloom as they should have done. A convenient way to prevent coccidiosis in milk fed calves is to add Deccox Premix to their milk once daily for 4 weeks, beginning at about 3 weeks of age. The total cost is about \$2.50 per calf but should be more than repaid in improved growth rates.

Don't add Deccox if you are feeding milk powder, all good milk powders have a coccidiostat added to them.

Bobby Calf Best Practice Guidelines

Fit for transport

Four days old/dry navel/hard hooves/no disease
Active and alert/no injuries/food and watered



On the Farm

Feed colostrum to all calves
Give calves access to good quality water at all times
Protect calves from the wind, rain and cold at all times
Handle calves gently and with care at all times
Only select fit and healthy calves for transport

Why care about your bobby calves?

They aren't replacements; they aren't worth much and they aren't going to be around for long, so why care about them? Well, for a start, the Animal Welfare Act 1999 places a 'duty of care' on all those involved with livestock. Failure to meet the needs of a bobby calf may lead to prosecution. At the very least, calves require a warm, sheltered environment & regular feeding in order to meet their welfare needs while in your care. Meat processing Inspectors take an active interest in bobby calf welfare and follow up on all cases where problems are identified. This year MAF welfare group will be taking a particular interest in bobby calf welfare as well. While it's possible that you won't get caught if you don't look after your bobby calves, is it really worth it not to care about them?

ASSISTING AT CALVING

You should provide assistance to calving heifers and cows when any of the following occur:

- Heifers not making progress within 2 hours after the first signs of abdominal straining
- Cows not calved within 2 hours after the first signs of abdominal straining
- Calving has not occurred within 3-4 hours after membranes have ruptured
- Delivery has commenced; the calf's legs or head are (just) visible externally and it is obvious the presentation is abnormal
- Delivery has commenced; the calf's legs or head are (just) visible externally and the calf is not delivered within 30 minutes for cows, 1 hour for heifers
- If you see the calf's tongue hanging out



If you think that a cow may have calved (e.g. she may have placenta hanging from the vulva) but have not found the calf, perform a vaginal exam to ensure that she has in fact calved.

If you assist too early, the cervix and vagina may not be fully dilated and by pulling you risk severe damage to the cow and more difficulty in removing the calf. If you cannot feel the calf's head, do not presume that the two legs presented are hind limbs. They may in fact be front legs and the head is twisted back (our most common presentation when called out). Check to make sure you can positively identify the hocks of both back legs and the calf's tail before attempting to pull a backwards calf.



If a cow shows signs of discomfort during the course of the day (e.g. getting up and down, licking or kicking flanks, etc) bring her in and examine her. If the cervix feels closed but things are 'tight' and 'not right' she may have a twisted uterus and needs immediate veterinary attention. If you cannot bring the calf into the correct position within 10 minutes, or if you are not sure what you are feeling or how to proceed, stop and seek immediate assistance.

Make sure you keep things as clean as possible by using plenty of hot water, disinfectant and soap plus plenty of lubricant. Always have a clean bucket available to use when calving cows - a quick rinse of a bucket that has been used to carry milk or colostrum is not suitable.

Calving Period Mastitis - Control Activities

As we head into spring again here is a revision of the important bits from the SAMM plan in regards to helping reduce the likelihood of mastitis.

Calve cows in a clean environment

- Reduce exposure to environmental mastitis
- Calve onto clean pasture
- Do not calve cows on standoff areas

Minimise Mastitis

- Remove the calf from the cow as soon as possible after it has had a good drink of colostrum (within 12 hours of calving). It is a very good idea to stomach tube all new arrivals with 2L of warmed colostrum even if you have seen them drink.
- Completely milk the cow out by machine. Milk twice daily from first milking onwards.
Be aware that this milking out practice may increase the risk of milk fever in high-conditioned, older cows and any others with a previous history of milk fever

Teat Sanitation

- Post-milking teat spraying throughout the entire lactation is proven to reduce the incidence of new mastitis by up to 50%



Minimise Teat Damage

- Minimise damage to teats as this is a major cause of new infections
- Make sure the machine is functioning correctly with a full machine test

Newly Calved Cows

- Run as a separate colostrum mob
- Withhold milk for 8 milkings (cows) or 10 milkings (heifers)
- Extend this period if cows do not milk out properly

Fast Efficient Milking

- Ensure milk letdown, especially in heifers
- Milk out all quarters of all cows twice a day
- Avoid over-milking and under-milking

Leaking Cows

- Milk prior to calving to ease pressure
- Teat spray every time through the shed at spring concentration
- Do not put milk into bulk tank

Teat Spray

- Spray teats with an effective sanitiser after every milking throughout the entire lactation
- Maintain teat condition - up to 15% emollient in cold muddy conditions
- If teat condition is a problem consider teat spraying with added emollient for a week before calving
- Ensure whole surface of teat is sprayed
Use at least 10ml/cow/milking
- Use a teat spray which has "Passed Protocol A 1997"
- Use according to label instructions including mixing at higher concentrations during periods of high challenge (muddy conditions)

Would you like a Calf Rearing W.O.F.?

We are offering a 'calf rearing audit' service this year. One of our vets will visit your farm to check out the facilities and equipment and talk to you and/or your staff about how you rear your calves. This will be followed by a written report with advice on things you can do to make your life easier in spring by having fewer sick calves. The cost of the audit will be \$200 per farm.



TIPS FOR GOOD CALF REARING

- The same person should be responsible for feeding & caring for the calves every day (ideally she should be female; sorry lads but it's a fact).
- Pick a good candidate to rear - no induced calves, no small, weak or sick calves.
- Pick up calves, ideally twice daily, in a clean, regularly disinfected trailer.
- Colostrum is vitally important - 5% of the calf's bodyweight in the 1st 6 hours of life then another 5% in the 1st 24 hours.
- Feed 1st milking colostrum to new calves as this milk is highest in antibodies and nutrients.
- Don't assume the calf has had enough colostrum if it won't feed when it first comes in. Feed warm 1st milk and if the calf won't suckle feed via stomach tube.
- Spray calves' navels with iodine to prevent navel infections. Ideally spray before putting the calf in the trailer and again once the calf is put into the shed. If having problems with navel infections also spray twice daily until the navel is dry.
- Start the calf off in the pen it will remain in. Don't use a "starter" pen as these pens have so much calf traffic through them they become contaminated with disease causing bugs even if they look clean.
- Ideally have 10-20 calves per pen with space for 1.5m² per calf.
- Have clean fresh water, meal and fibre available from day 1.
- Have suitable bedding that drains well and remains dry. Top it up as necessary.
- Calves in pens should remain dry. Ventilation is important. Calves with weepy eyes or a strong ammonia smell in the pens means ventilation is poor. Too much draft means calves are cold and not growing as well as they could be.
- Feed warm milk especially when calves are small. Cold milk means calves need to use their own energy & reserves to warm the milk.
- Take milk to the calves not calves to the milk. Taking them out of their nice warm dry pens twice a day to a yard which may or may not be cold & wet & windy depending on the day adds unnecessary stress.
- Feed colostrum for as long as possible, a minimum of 4 days. Gradually change to whole milk. Get advice if using a CMR.
- Stir stored colostrum at least twice daily. Never add bloody or antibiotic milk to colostrum. Natural fermentation is an excellent way to store colostrum. It must be handled in clean containers with lids (remember bloat oil is lethal for calves). If stored below 20°C, natural fermentation will make the colostrum acid, stopping spoilage for up to 12 weeks. The fermentation process can be sped up by adding non-pasteurised yoghurt. Fresh colostrum should be cooled before being added. Calves will continue to drink stored colostrum long after you can't bear to get too close to it.
- Have a separate pen for bobby calves away from the keeper calves.
- Sick pens should be away from other calf pens. Have separate equipment used only in this pen which is disinfected daily.
- Use disinfectants that kill Rotavirus and/or Crypto, e.g. Virkon or Vetsan. Ideally disinfect pens twice weekly until calves are 2-3 weeks old. Calves can remain in the pens when using these disinfectants.



Temperature at Which Calves Shiver:

| | Friesian Calves | Jersey Calves |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Dry coat, calm | 3°C | 9°C |
| Dry coat, wind | 8°C | 13°C |
| Wet coat, wind | 13°C | 17°C |

Leaving recently born calves out in cold, windy, wet weather for any longer than necessary is basically a death sentence. Worth bearing in mind.

CALF SCOUR REMINDERS

I can't help but notice a few of you take big shortcuts when it comes to dealing with scouring calves. While it's tempting to think that addition of a tablet, powder or injection will sort your problem out there are a few basics that really should be non-negotiable when dealing with calf scours and calf rearing in general:

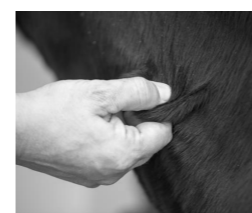


- ◆ **Isolate scouring calves from healthy ones**
I note that an article in the paper recently suggested taking infected calves out of pens causes problems with socialisation later on. Personally I would rather you isolated infected calves whenever possible not only to make individual care & treatment easier for the poor person who has to nurse them but also to lessen the chance of spread to more calves. In a big pen this becomes even more important. I'm sure they will all get to know each other later on.
- ◆ Don't add new born calves to an infected mob (it happens).
- ◆ Treat scouring calves with electrolytes to replace lost fluids & salts
 - * If it's nutritional scours often removal of milk for one feed & replacement with electrolytes will be enough
 - * If it's an infectious cause you can't withdraw milk for too long because of the lost energy that results. If the calf is really sick withdraw milk & feed electrolytes only then either add electrolytes to subsequent milk feeds (making sure fresh water is always available) or alternate during the day between milk/milk replacer and electrolytes
- ◆ **Always make fresh water available to all calves.** We are constantly amazed to find calves with no access to fresh water. A dehydrated calf will actively seek water (if it's able to stand) so make sure it's always available.

REHYDRATION OF CALVES

Calves that are scouring are losing body water, body salts (electrolytes) and energy. Weight loss can be dramatic and fatal. These ingredients must all be replaced as quickly as possible. Irrespective of the cause of the diarrhoea (nutritional or infectious) the treatment is the same. That is to replace the lost fluids and assist and to maintain the energy of the calf. This is best done by giving electrolytes during the period of diarrhoea and the recovery period. However oral electrolytes by themselves are lower in energy than milk, so milk feeding during the scouring period should be continued as much as possible. Milk should never be withheld for longer than 24 hours - Revive and Kryptade can be given with milk.

| CALF SYMPTOMS | % DEHYDRATION |
|--|---------------|
| Diarrhoea only | 5% |
| Eyes slightly sunken, skin slow to flatten if pinched, gums sticky, calf depressed | 7% |
| Eyes sunken, skin slow to flatten if pinched, gums sticky, calf depressed | 9%** |
| Eyes very sunken, skin won't flatten out if pinched, calf cannot stand | 12%** |



** These calves will need additional intravenous fluids administered by a vet.

Note: Any calf that has scoured for one day is at least 5% dehydrated.



| Degree of dehydration % | Maintenance water required litres/day | Amount of extra fluid needed to restore body water litres/day | Total fluids required litres/day |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 2% | 4.5 | 1 | 5.5 |
| 5% | 4.5 | 2.3 | 6.8 |
| 10% | 4.5 | 4.5 | 9 |

Give no more than 2 litres per feed. So the calf needs to be fed 3-4 times per day.