



Saturday calls:

Please limit Saturday calls to cows that really need veterinary assistance. We only have two veterinarians working and they have surgeries, emergencies, and sick cows to attend to. They are unable to attend to sore feet and lame cows with their other commitments, and it is especially a problem when people save up several lame cows to have them all looked at with one call.

Drench formula changes:

We are changing the formula for fresh cow drench, and adding another electrolyte product for pumping cows.

Rumen restore is being redesigned for primarily fresh cows and should only be used once a day for a maximum of two days. It is going to be high in Calcium, high in Magnesium, and high in an energy source called propionate. We do not want this overused.

Our cow electrolyte mix will be our go-to product for pumping cows. It will be high in electrolytes with no magnesium. One packet will be designed for a four to five gallon pumping. If the cow needs

an energy source or has associated ketosis, then propylene glycol can be added to the mix. If the cow needs extra fluids, another five gallons or more can be pumped of only water. Alfalfa meal can be added to any of the combinations.

Both yeast and probiotics are added to both products for rumen health, which is part of the added weight of the product.

Induced Calving:

Dexamethasone is the traditional drug used to induce calving in cattle. A dose of 15ml to 30ml is the common dose. We added an injection of 5mls of Lutalyse along with the dexamethasone to our induction recommendation. When Lutalyse became inexpensive and because it was felt that a dose of Lutalyse would be beneficial in reducing the number of retained placentas. However, recent research shows an increase in the number of uterine infections and delayed uterine involution when the Lutalyse is added. So just use dexamethasone alone to induce calving.

Colostrum!

The more it's studied, the more amazing it is. It is truly worth the little bit of time it takes you to give it to your calves. It's not just about better immunity. It's not just about healthier calves. It's about more milk from those calves two years later when they freshen. I know you all get sick of 'return on investment' and hearing about stuff that will make you more money in a few years. Colostrum feeding to calves is like keeping the old man down the road happy so he sells you his farm instead of the idiot on the other side of him. It's a lot of work keeping him happy, but you have to do it every day, without fail. Same with colostrum, every calf without fail.

Neospora and dogs;

Neospora is diagnosed as the cause in 10% of cattle abortions. Cows are infected in one of two ways. The first and worst way is that a pregnant cow eats feed contaminated with the Neospora cysts. The cysts are shed by dogs or coyotes in their feces. The dogs or coyotes shed Neospora shortly after they are first exposed, (usually as young dogs), after the young dog has consumed an aborted fetus, infected placenta, or tissue from infected cows. A cow infected from dog feces usually aborts the calf she is carrying, but the cow is subsequently infected for life.

Once a cow has her lifetime infection, she may continue to abort future pregnancies, but only about 10% more frequently than a non-infected cow. About half of the infected cow's calves will be infected, (again for life), so the cycle continues through the next generation. The second way a cow gets infected is from her mother. The control measure for the farmer is to prevent the initial infection from the dog feces. If you have dogs, they should never feast on aborted fetuses or placentas and they should never be allowed to defecate where feed can be contaminated.

Floating Cows:

Study reported in the Journal of Dairy Science, March 2016, looked at the results of floating cows and the stress to the cow involved with both being down and the floating process. As you would predict, the floating process, (which is new to the cow), and the draining process are the most stressful. More importantly the study found that the sooner cows were floated, the better the results were. If you wait to float, it probably won't work out well, and it will make you wait longer the next time, so decide within a couple hours of a cow being recumbent if you are going to float her. Tomorrow is too late.

Calf Scour Considerations

1. Fluids and electrolytes are what most calves need for scours treatment, not antibiotics, but in most cases producers reach for antibiotics first.
2. Baytril (enrofloxin) is the most effective antibiotic for salmonella that we have and should not be used routinely for calf scours. Due to the ability of different bacteria to share genetic material and cause antibiotic resistance, using Baytril in your herd risks that when you get salmonella the Baytril will not work.
3. Antibiotics given to young calves will reduce lifetime milk production because of changes to the gut bacteria.
4. If you want our assistance with individual scouring calves we will need to hang fluid bags somewhere near the calf. Think about how this is going to work. We may need to either move the calf, or get some wire or a hammer and a couple nails. **It would be helpful if the calf is already in a clean dry place where we can hang fluids before we arrive.**

Looking to get rid of a few extra animals, keep the following statistics in mind:

Calves treated for pneumonia before three months of age:

1. Are 2.4 times more likely to die by 2.5 years of age
2. Have 2.5 times more calving problems

Calves treated with antibiotics for calf diarrhea will produce 1000 less pounds of milk during their lifetime.