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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

## **MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER**

### **Clinic Notes**

We have had requests to set up preauthorized bank withdrawals (PAD) for monthly invoice/statement payments. In response, we have set this up with the bank, and can send paperwork for anyone who would like us to do this for them. We would take the withdrawal 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of the month following the statement date. Let us know if this is an easy option for you, and we will get started!

**Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> the clinics will be closed for Good Friday.** Vet will be on call for emergencies.

### **All About Calf Scours – a “Crappy” Situation**

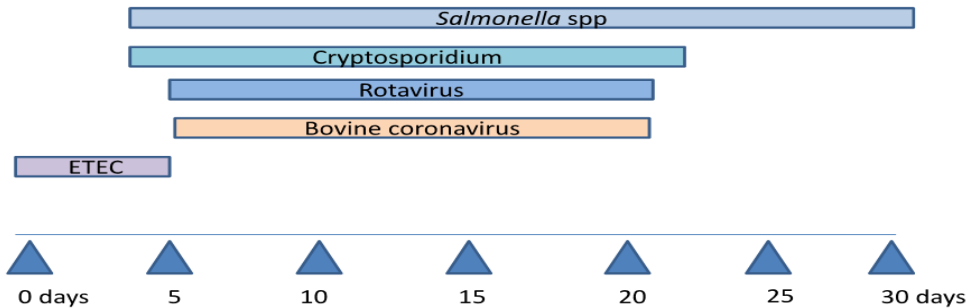
If you've been raising cattle for any length of time, you've probably had to deal with diarrhea in young calves. Calf scours is a widespread issue, especially in the first few weeks of life. In this newsletter, we explore some of the common causes of calf scours, what you can do to support these calves, and how to reduce the incidence of scours in your herd.

#### **What causes scours?**

The most common scour pathogens in calves <1 month old are enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), rotavirus, bovine coronavirus, and cryptosporidium, but *Salmonella* Dublin is becoming more common as well. The chart below is a timeline showing at what age the most common causes of calf scours tend to cause disease. You'll notice that a lot of these pathogens overlap, and around 1 week of age the cause of disease could be any one (or more) of the 5 pathogens listed! This is why if you are experiencing an outbreak of scours, fecal testing can be a great tool to figure out what pathogen(s) you are dealing with and how we can treat them.

\*note: there are other causes of diarrhea that are not on this chart; for example clostridial scours causes severe diarrhea in young calves that is often bloody and has high mortality rates.

## Bovine Neonatal Diarrhea



J.DeLay, AHL 2023

### How can I treat scours?

The cornerstones of treatment are **fluid therapy** and **pain/inflammation management**. This means giving the calf enough resources to allow their body to fight the infection successfully. Of the 5 pathogens above, only *E. coli* and *Salmonella* are bacteria and therefore are susceptible to antibiotics (Borgal is a good choice). Rotavirus and coronavirus are viruses, and cryptosporidium is a parasitic infection. None of these will respond to antibiotic therapy. In **mild cases**, feeding electrolytes between their regular milk feedings can be sufficient to keep the calf hydrated. Scouring calves are losing a lot of fluid, so it's important to replenish that lost fluid through additional feedings. Milk should still be given as normal, as the calf still needs the nutrients in the milk for nourishment and energy. Electrolyte powder should never be mixed in with milk or milk replacer, but should be mixed with warm water and fed separately. Metacam should also be given to help reduce pain and inflammation. There is some research showing that feeding colostrum to scouring calves can also help them fight the disease.

In **severe cases**, calves may be "flat", weak, and may be unable to rise. In these cases, IV fluids are needed to rehydrate the calf and a veterinarian should be called ASAP as this is considered an emergency. Be sure to monitor scouring calves, as mild cases can become severe in a short period of time.

### How can I prevent scours?

There are two big control points in scour prevention: **environment** and **immunity**. If the calf is being housed in an environment contaminated with scour-causing pathogens, they are much more likely to get sick. Similarly, if they do not have sufficient immunity (from the colostrum or products given after birth), they will be less able to fight off disease.

- **Environment:**
  - Regular cleaning and disinfection of calf hutches or calf pens with a product containing chlorine dioxide will effectively kill most of the pathogens causing scours
  - If housing calves in groups, sick calves should be separated from the rest of the group until they are healthy again
- **Immunity:**
  - A vaccination program for the cows with a scour vaccine will pass antibodies on to the calves through the colostrum
    - Fecal testing to determine which scour pathogens are on your farm can help guide your decision on which vaccine to use
    - For this to be effective, calves must consume colostrum from a vaccinated cow!
  - Oral products such as Resoltz Neonate Paste or First Defense can provide antibodies to calves whose dams were not vaccinated
    - These need to be given soon after birth to allow passive transfer of antibodies
    - Again, fecal testing can help guide your decision on which product would be most effective

Your herd health vet is an excellent resource for any questions about calf scours. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions or concerns!

**Important note:** Cryptosporidium is zoonotic (affects humans) and can cause severe diarrhea. If you are in contact with scouring calves, wear gloves and **always wash your hands thoroughly**. Young children are especially susceptible and should be kept away from scouring calves.