

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month

Calf scours

Diarrhea in young calves has long been one of the most devastating causes of both economic loss and mortality. Probably for this reason, a lot of information is out there about it, but it bears repeating because it remains a huge problem in our industry.

One of the more fascinating aspects of this disease is that you can typically predict what is causing it by the age of the calf when it begins and that dictates the appropriate course of treatment.

Calves beginning to scour in the first week of life are usually suffering from *E. coli*. This can be acquired through a navel infection, manure ingestion, especially through dirty collection of colostrum or nursing a cow with dirty teats, or from a dirty calving environment. It is the only cause of calf scours that warrants treatment with an antibiotic.

Scours beginning at 7-14 days old are caused by rotavirus or coronavirus. Determining which of these viruses is the cause is not critical because **the mainstay of treatment for any calf scours is to restore hydration**. Antibiotics are not indicated because they have no effect on viruses.

Diarrhea around a month old is usually caused by *Cryptosporidium*, and also has no specific treatment.

Finally, diarrhea appearing at several months of age is likely related to a parasite or coccidiosis.

Calves that are unable to maintain their hydration will suffer from dangerous electrolyte imbalances in addition to the obvious dehydration. Treatment needs to focus on restoring fluid status, sanitation, and managing to prevent new infections.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of September 30, 2022

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Corn | \$6.77/bu |
| Soybean Meal (May) | \$403.20/ton |
| Milk (Class III) | \$21.75/cwt |
| Beef (Live cattle) | \$143.28/cwt |

Practice News

- The intramammary mastitis tube ToDay has had a major raw ingredient issue that will cause it to go out of stock in October. It is scheduled to be available again in June 2023 as a prescription drug.
- Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow and PennState Extension will host the Veterinary Science Exploration Experience on October 13. The free program is open to high school juniors and seniors with an interest in veterinary science. The day features lab sessions related to hoof health, calving management, physical exams, anatomy, and parasitology. The deadline for signup is early in October.

In the News

- The University of Idaho has advanced their plan to build the country's largest research dairy and experimental farm, according to the Associated Press. The state approved the university's plan to use roughly \$23 million to buy 640 acres of land in southcentral Idaho that will become the main location of the school's proposed Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE).
- According to an article in *The Jerusalem Post*, a global-tech conference held in Tel Aviv, Israel last month saw the rollout of three start-up companies with the goal of producing milk without cows. The companies were named Remilk, Imagindairy, and Wilk.