

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month

Calf Scours

One of the more common things that I still get called about pretty frequently is scouring calves. It stands to reason. Calf pneumonia and calf diarrhea are the two most common diseases affecting dairy calves.

Calves with diarrhea can certainly be tricky to manage, but they usually give you a few hints along the way. From the time I was in school, it was ingrained in my head that you can typically predict the cause of a calf's scouring by the age at which it started, and in my experience, that has held true.

In most cases, calves in the first week of life scour from *E. coli*. This is a bacterial infection, and as such, it is one of the only causes of scouring where an antibiotic is indicated. Between 1-3 weeks old, scouring is typically caused by rotavirus or coronavirus. In these cases, supportive care and electrolytes are the treatment of choice. Around a month, calves often suffer from *Cryptosporidium*. This is another agent that does not call for a specific treatment. Usually after about 2 months, calf scouring is related to parasites or nutritional issues. Of course there are odd cases of *Salmonella* that may arise. But even in cases where antibiotics are indicated or necessary, supportive care will go a long way towards saving sick calves.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of April 30, 2021

Corn	\$7.40/bu
Soybean Meal	\$426.00/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$19.18/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$116.00/cwt

Practice News

- We are pleased to welcome Curtis Patton, an intern who will be with us starting this month through the end of the summer. Curtis is from Waynesburg and will be working for us part-time after completing his master's degree in parasitology. His goal is to eventually enter veterinary school. Please join us in making him feel welcome here.
- Farm Vitality Planning Grants are available through the Center for Dairy Excellence. These grants provide \$7,500 that can be used for an expansion or to plan a management or ownership transfer for current or prospective farmers. The application period is now open and will continue until funding runs out.
- Zoetis is running a rebate program on purchases of Draxxin. The program is retroactive to 1/1/2021 and extends until 12/31/2021. Producers can earn a rebate of \$50 on 50mL size and \$100 on 100mL size bottles of Draxxin. Call the office for details on the program.

Social Media

- A group called American DairyENGAGED was recently created on Facebook and Instagram platforms. The group is a resource designed to help dairy farmers engage with consumers to share the dairy story by giving tips, tricks, and hacks to help make that interaction successful. For more information, contact Kelsey O'Shea at koshea@milk4u.org or find the group on social media.