

Dairy News

November 2015

www.dairylandvet.net



Critical Control Points for Newborn Calves

It has been said that the best businesses have the best systems. If your business is feeding calves, that means doing the right things (especially sanitation) consistently to keep your calves healthy. To insure this happens, I suggest that one of your systems is putting in critical control points. Critical control points are tests that would be done on a routine basis to insure that you are doing the right things.

There are 3 critical control points that I recommend for all calf raising operations:

1. Taking **colostrum samples** out of the feeder and testing them monthly for bacteria and colostrum quality.
2. **Blood sample** every calf from 1 to 7 day old calves to check the serum protein level for failure of passive transfer.
3. Taking **milk samples** out of their feeding container (bottles or pails) monthly and testing them for bacteria and total solids.

Each of these tests look at different parts of your systems for feeding calves.

- Monthly testing about 4-6 samples **colostrum samples** tells you if the colostrum collection and storage and feeding equipment for colostrum is clean enough to prevent disease. This sample should be taken out of the tube feeder or bottle that you use to feed the calf. The sample should be frozen until it can be delivered to our lab.
- **Blood samples** tell you if each calf was fed and handled properly to give them a good start in your system. Many things affect the calf's ability to absorb the antibodies in the colostrum. How soon the colostrum is fed, the temperature, the amount, colostrum quality, how the calf is handled, and how difficult the calving process was all affects absorption.
- **Monthly milk or milk replacer samples** check the cleanliness and the mixing procedures of the calf diet. Like the colostrum samples, collecting 4-6 samples of milk and freezing them for testing each month will tell you how clean your feeding systems are. All plastics need to eventually be replaced when they no longer can be sanitized and monthly testing will tell when to do this.

These tests are part of good systems that can prevent problems from happening to your calves.

The doctors at Dairyland Veterinary Service will be discussing calf care critical control points with you as we approach the colder weather of winter. By discussing the results of these critical control points we can help you reduce your treatment costs and help you grow healthy, productive calves.

Dr. Bill Koffman

Dairy Calf Goals and Benchmarks

Stillbirth Rate < 6%

- 1st lactation < 8%
- 2nd lactation & greater < 4%

Calves dying in the 1st 24-48 hours < 2%

Calves dying 24 hours to weaning < 5%

Health Events

- Diarrhea < 25%
- Respiratory Disease < 10%
- Umbilical Infections < 5%



Double birth weight by 60 days of age

- Growth rate of 1.6#’s / day

- Dr. Sheila McGuirk, UW-Madison Veterinary School

How is your farm doing? If you are not meeting these goals, talk to a Doctor at Dairyland Veterinary Service on what you can do to reach or exceed these goals.

-Dr. Scott Wiley

DROPSHIP SPECIALS

Vaccine Special – November & December
Please see the catalog for a full listing of vaccines available



Dairyland Veterinary Service
Casco, WI



Phone: 920-837-7766
Email: dvs@centurytel.net
www.dairylandvet.net