

DR. SCHNEPPER'S GUIDELINES FOR RAISING HEALTHY CALVES

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1. Do not allow the calf to nurse the cow. Tube with one gallon of quality colostrum as soon after birth as possible. (The calf may not be hungry the next feeding - but it doesn't need to be, it received two meals in one.)
2. Housing must be all in and all out in the facility, with a clean up in between.
3. The baby calf must be handled as an individual the first month of its life. A hutch, stall, pen, or tied up along the fence works.
4. Buy a calf that is less than a week or more than a month of age. (See #12)
5. Do everything to the calf day one into the facility that you plan to do the first week. The calf is already stressed - so don't prolong the stress.
6. Use Immunoboost on day of arrival and repeat in 8 days.
7. Inject a Modified Live Vaccine (Bovishield, Titanium, Express 5) on Day 8
8. Inject Selenium and Vitamin E (BoSe) Day 1 and Day 30.
9. Feed an all milk protein milk replacer at least the first three weeks. The fiber content should be a maximum of 0.15%. A higher fiber indicates an alternate protein.
10. Dip newborn calf navels with 7% tincture of iodine.
11. Control cryptosporidiosis by not allowing the calf to nurse the cow, and feed decoquinate at 50mg/feeding in the milk, including the colostrum, for the first 14 days.
12. Do not move or stress the calf in any way between the 8th and 28th day of age. The newborn calf has a functional adrenal gland, but it quits working at about day 8 and does not function well until day 28. During this time the calf can not adapt to stress as well as it should. (I call stress, any situation that causes adrenalin to flow - the run or fight hormone.)
13. Treat diarrhea with water and properly dosed electrolyte. Put fluids in the front end faster than it comes out the back to avoid dehydration. Antibiotics alone do not cure. Do not take the milk away or the calf starves. Continue to feed milk, and give the extra fluids in between meals.

14. The calf can be weaned off milk if it is consuming 1.5 pounds of a good grain mix daily for three consecutive days.

For further information contact Dr. Russell Schnepfer, DVM, at 608-348-6141, fax number: 608-348-6146 or email: drruss@calfdoctor.com. Visit www.calfdoctor.com for information and products for raising healthy calves.