



From the Dr's desk.....Dr. Jarrett Gordon

We wanted to share some more notes from the calf symposium from April. We are still seeing plenty of sick calves. Hopefully some of this information will help you successfully treat those scouring calves. There was also some newer information about dehorning and castrating that should be of interest to every farmer.

As the warmer weather arrives, the calf environment becomes a bacterial "sludge." It doesn't take much contamination to lead to billions of bacteria in your colostrum or milk replacer. A great way to think about colostrum collection and storage is to consider colostrum an oral blood transfusion. Just as the Red Cross is extremely clean and cautious about collecting your blood, you should be very meticulous about collecting and storing colostrum. Don't leave the colostrum bucket sitting in the milkhouse all day. Get it into bottles and into the refrigerator as soon as possible. Cooling slows the bacterial reproduction dramatically. Once you're ready to feed the colostrum/milk replacer, you want it to be >95 degrees F as the last calf is receiving the milk. (so make sure it's warm enough to begin with and only mix enough milk so it can be fed before it cools too much) I'll say it again, as Dr. Vogel stated last month, get at least FOUR QUARTS of colostrum into the newborn within 6-12 hours. Feeding more milk will greatly reduce illness, giving the calf the ability to overcome other stresses. Dr. Vogel showed the chart demonstrating that it is actually cheaper (less \$/pound gain) to feed calves 2 Qts/3x/day or 3 Qts/2x/day using the 28:20 milk replacer. Again, "the way we've always done it" is a starvation diet for most calves! Finally, we need to be careful about the calf's contact surfaces. This includes well-bedded stalls, clean buckets and water, and proper ventilation. Daily or at least weekly cleaning of the buckets is a must in warm weather and fly season. Here is a cleaning protocol they gave us at the meeting:

1. Rinse at 90 to 110 degrees F.
2. Wash with hot water (120-130 degrees F) with scrubbing and detergent. (ie HC-10)
3. Rinse again. (90-110)
4. Use acid rinse as last step and let air dry.

This works for all buckets, bottles and nipples. The hutch walls may be harder to accomplish. Bleach works for those, and simply rinsing and letting the sun dry them out is fairly effective. Fly control is another big help in reducing calf illness. Don't ignore the simple things. The drier and cleaner and better-fed you keep the calves, the better health you'll experience in the herd.

Finally, I wanted to bring to your attention another public perception issue that the HSUS is pushing. Dehorning and castrating are coming under the gun. Australia already has age and size restrictions on these procedures. It will be coming to the US before long. We, as veterinarians, are just as guilty as producers on this issue. Here are the goals now "prescribed." Dehorning should be done by 14 days old using a hot iron and local anesthesia. Pain meds are recommended for three days afterwards, but right now there are no "labeled" drugs for this use. Banamine is one choice that could be used. Castration has much the same recommendations. The sooner the better. Cutting is the preferred method, then banding, and lastly clamping. We must begin to view these procedures from the general public's perspective. How do they do it in humans? How do we do it in companion animals? For some reason, farm animals have always received the "cowboy" methods. The time has come to change our thinking and make our practices more acceptable to the non-farming public. Perception is everything nowadays.

Happy planting and haying from the doctors and staff of Deckerville Veterinary Clinic/Sandusky Animal Clinic!
Summer will soon be here.

Just a quick update on products. Nasalgen is being discontinued in the single dose. We will be going back to TSV 2 in the singles and 10ds.

Clostridium Type A is a licensed product. On Monday June 8th that license expires and will not be able to be sold until renewal is complete. Manufacturer is recommending have a 60 day supply available to allow them time for the license renewal.

No new information on Spectam, obviously we are well past the first quarter and we are not seeing anything encouraging. We will keep you updated and have a considerable amount on back-order at this time.

With summer upon us it is time to think about flea and heartworm preventative for your pets. Right now Bayer has a nice special on Advantage, Advantix and Advantage Multi—buy 4 get 2 free. We are seeing heartworm positive dogs in our area. You can get more information on heartworm off our web page or call our small animal team. Research shows it is 4-6 times more expensive to treat fleas than to purchase preventative, not to mention the discomfort to your pet.



Meet the newest member of the DVC team. Hazel joined our team in May. Follow Hazel on our webpage and on Facebook. She is blogging her activities in and out of the clinic. You can find us on Facebook in groups, just search for Deckerville Veterinary Clinic.