



# Deckerville Veterinary Clinic, P.C.

[www.deckervillevet.com](http://www.deckervillevet.com)

July 1, 2009

From the Dr's desk.....Dr. Leon Roggenbuck

I want to take this opportunity to talk specifically about cryptosporidium (Crypto) in baby calves. Crypto is an extremely common protozoal parasite that causes diarrhea in calves and people. Farm children seem to develop immunity to this organism at a young age but non-farm personnel visiting your farm may go home with a "flu like" illness.

Crypto is so common that we can pretty much forget about preventing infection. Our goal is to reduce the dose that the calf receives initially and the continued dosing of organism that the calf does to itself. A small dose with minimal continued exposure may result in a subclinical infection with lifelong immunity. A large dose with continued exposure can result in death. Transmission of crypto is a simple fecal oral process. Onset of diarrhea is usually between 7-21 days of age. Straining to defecate; loose & bloody stool may be seen. Calves may shed crypto by 10 or 12 days of age.

Reducing the initial dose of crypto starts in the maternity pen. Cows shed increased amount of crypto around calving time. Keep maternity pens clean and pluck the calf away as soon as possible. The calf will continue to re-infect itself with crypto so bedding hutches/pens 2-3 times per week with small amounts of straw will help to cover crypto ovcysts and reduce exposure.

We have often told people if you feed them well and bed them well crypto shouldn't be much of a problem. In recent years, however, crypto seems to be more and more of a problem. I shared this complaint with Dr. Don Sockett from the University of Wisconsin and he agreed. He also gave me some helpful information. He told me that crypto sticks very well to plastic & rubber and is almost impossible to wash off! We can however kill it with a very user friendly disinfectant call Oxine. Oxine can be used at 200ppm to spray or mist hutches & feeding utensils. Oxine can be used once a week or more to spray or mist inside hutches without removing the calf. Rinsing is not necessary and is in fact discouraged. Just spray it on or use a mister and walk away. The most important thing is that you figure out a quick and easy way to do this so that it can become a quick part of your routine. We are handling the Oxine now and can get information on misters that make coverage of the inside of calf hutches very easy. We will also supply very detailed instructions on how to use Oxine, and is easily emailed or mailed. Crypto will build up on your hutches all summer long and cause peak problems in fall and early winter. Hard freeze and thaw cycles will kill crypto. Now is a good time to start using Oxine.

Oxine can also be added to drinking water at 5ppm. I believe this is a really good idea if you are not washing milk buckets between feedings. It will reduce the bacterial scum that builds up on buckets and therefore reduce the load of bacteria and harmful bacterial by products that you are feeding your calves every day. I am convinced this will have positive health benefits for your calves. I am personally suspicious that there is a connection between this bacterial scum and the incidence of Type A Clostridial Abomasitis in calves. One \$32 gallon will treat 4000 gallons of drinking water, or make up 100 gallons of solution to disinfect hutches and feeding utensils.

Summarizing the past three months of calf discussion all include the basics of keeping calves well fed and well bedded. In addition to that key concept the following are a few highlights:

- 4 quarts of colostrum or 3 quarts bottle-fed in the first 6 hours of life.
- Feed more milk: a gallon twice a day or 2 quarts 3 times a day (\$50/hour for that additional feeding will pay for itself!)
- Daily washing of buckets
- Oxine use for Cryptosporidium control
- Diaque and Normosol-R for treatment of D-lactic acidosis in scouring calves

Past issues of our newsletter can be found on our website, or you can request a copy.

It is hard to believe that this year will be our 8th annual summer picnic.  
Please mark the date on your calendar and join us for lunch.

Thursday July 16, 2009

11-2pm

Wilson Park Deckerville, MI

**Wishing everyone a safe and happy 4th of July!**



**\*\*\*\* It's a Boy \*\*\*\***

*Our clinic family is growing. We are pleased to announce the arrival of-*



**Owen Michael Vogel**  
7 lb 11oz, 22"  
Friday  
June 26th

*Proud Parents -  
Dr. Chad & Leslie Vogel*