

# Calf Barn Protocols

## Newborn Calf Protocol

1. Get 1 gallon of colostrum out to thaw. Bull calves should get at least 60% and heifer calves at least 70%.
2. Take calf to calf barn using a clean solid-sided cart for this purpose.
3. Dip the navel generously with 7% iodine making sure to get good coverage.
4. Weigh the calf
5. Depending on the weather either put it in the warming pen\* or set up a pen in the barn. (Clean pen, hydrated lime on floor, sawdust with straw on top.)  
\*When the avg temperature is below 40 F the calves should remain in the warming pen until they are completely dry. Once dry they should also get a calf coat until they are 3 weeks old. Calf coats should be snug but not tight. Calves with coats need to be monitored daily because of PA temperature fluctuations. If calves are sweating during the day the coats need to be removed during this time. All coats should be laundered between uses.
6. Heifer calves should be given 1 tube of Tri-Shield orally and 1 dose of Enforce nasally. Bull calves do not get vaccinated.
7. Heifer calves should get the assigned white RFID tag placed in their ear. Please ensure that the ID number matches the calf and follow the placement instructions posted in the calf barn.
8. Feed one gallon of colostrum within 2 hours after birth. If the calf does not drink the colostrum it will need to be tube-fed.
9. Record all information in the record book in the parlor office.

## Daily Calf Barn Protocols

1. All calves are fed milk replacer at 12% of their body weight twice daily for 6 weeks. \*\*If a calf does not drink all of its milk replacer, please notify a full-time employee. Do not tube a calf milk replacer without checking with a supervisor first.
2. At 7 weeks of age, they are fed milk replacer once per day. They are fully weaned by 8 weeks of age. \*\*Calves that are pair housed will follow the weaning schedule of the younger calf.
3. Calves will be pair housed within 2 weeks of birth. Calves must be observed closely during milk feeding to reduce bullying/milk stealing. Alternatively, the divider panels can be inserted during milk feeding time and removed after. If a calf cannot be pair housed for any reason, we will need to contact Dr. Werner for an IACUC exemption.
4. Pens will be bedded with sawdust after the initial bedding of straw for newborns.
5. Calves will be dehorned by 8 weeks of age. See attached protocol.
6. Once calves are 8 weeks old and eating 4-5 lbs of grain per day, they can be moved to the group pens (Maximum of 5 calves per pen and must be at least 2 calves per pen at

any time.) Movements will be determined by the full-time employees of the PM shift and based on grain intake and health.

7. All pens are to be totally cleaned out, pressure-washed, and disinfected between calves. NO EXCEPTIONS.

## Calf Health

**Prevention**—Four key factors to prevent calf health troubles are:

- a. Adequate colostrum consumption
- b. Cleanliness, hygiene—calf pens between calves, and all feeding equipment
- c. Fresh air exchange at the level of the calf's nose and mouth
- d. Calf coats and nesting in deep bedding in colder weather.

**Treatment SOP's (Use calf health criteria and scoring chart below)**

### Diagnosis-Diarrhea or Scours

Fecal score 0 or 1 (formed or semi-formed and pasty) are considered normal and depends on the type and amount of milk or milk replacer being fed.

Fecal score 2 or 3 are abnormal and these calves will become dehydrated and need to be treated.

**Calf is normal except for diarrhea**-bright and alert, strong and active, eats well



### Treatment

Fecal Score=2 Feed milk replacer as normal plus 2 quarts of electrolytes, mixed with water, not milk, at 1pm for at least 3 days

Fecal Score=3 Feed milk replacer as normal plus 2 qts of electrolytes, mixed with water, not milk, at 1pm and 11pm for at least 3 days

**Calf appears sick and has diarrhea**...dull, off-feed, drinks slowly, stands with arched back, or has temperature over 103 F or less than 100 F



#### **Treatment**

1. Milk replacer and additional electrolytes as noted above
2. Naxcel (1cc per 100 lbs) for 3 days
3. Banamine (1cc per 100 lbs) IV, first day. If calf's condition does not improve (better appetite, lower fever), dose can be repeated in 24 hours.
4. **Down calves** with scours are severely dehydrated and acidotic, have a blood infection (septic) or both and need **immediate veterinary care.**

#### **Diagnosis-Bloody scours**

##### **If Temperature >103 F**

CALL VETERINARIAN

##### **If Temperature < 103 F**

Treat for presumptive Coccidia

Albon (Sulfadimethoxine): Follow dosing chart on label

OR

Corid (Amprolium): 10mg/2.2kg given for 5 consecutive days

If no improvement within 3 days of starting treatment or if condition worsens, a veterinarian should be contacted for consultation

## Diagnosis-Pneumonia

If Total Respiratory score is 4 or less, watch calf closely

If Respiratory score is 5 or more, Treat.

### Treatment (Use only 1 option)

#### Antibiotics- Multiple Day Treatment Options














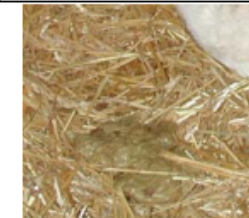


1. Naxcel or Excenel, (2cc per 100 lb) IM once daily for 3-5 days

#### Antibiotics-Single Day Treatment Options

1. Nuflor (6cc, SQ, per 100 lbs)  
OR
2. Draxxin (1.1cc SQ per 100 lbs)

- ❖ Banamine (1cc per 100 lb) IV may be given to calves with a temperature greater than 103 F or labored/difficult breathing or diarrhea.
- ❖ If calf's condition does not improve, the Banamine dose can be repeated in 24 hours.
- ❖ Call Centre Herd Health Services if calf is not improved within 3 days. Do not try another antibiotic. At the end of 6 days the calf should be re-scored. If calf has none or only one sign of respiratory disease, it is considered cured. If 2 or more signs remain, it should be examined by a veterinarian.



| Calf Health Scoring Criteria  |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 0   | 1   | 2  | 3   |
| <b>Rectal temperature</b>   |   |  |   |
| 100-100.9   | 101-101.9   | 102-102.9  | ≥103  |
| <b>Cough</b>  |   |  |   |
| None  | Induce single cough   | Induced repeated coughs or occasional spontaneous cough                              | Repeated spontaneous coughs   |
| <b>Nasal discharge</b>  |   |  |   |
| Normal serous discharge   | Small amount of unilateral cloudy discharge   | Bilateral, cloudy or excessive mucus discharge                                       | Copious bilateral mucopurulent discharge  |
|    |    |    |    |
| <b>Eye scores</b>   |   |  |   |
| Normal  | Small amount of ocular discharge  | Moderate amount of bilateral discharge   | Heavy ocular discharge  |
|   |   |   |   |
| <b>Ear scores</b>   |   |  |   |
| Normal  | Ear flick or head shake   | Slight unilateral droop  | Head tilt or bilateral droop  |
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Fecal scores</b>   |   |  |   |
| Normal  | Semi-formed, pasty  | Loose, but stays on top of bedding   | Watery, sifts through bedding   |
|  |  |  |  |



### Calf Health Scoring Chart

**Farm Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]