

~Dairy Details~

Produced by Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center

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Tips for Calf Resuscitation

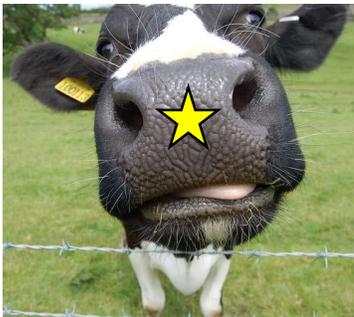
Being prepared is very important when it comes to keeping newborn calves alive. Having the proper equipment and skills can prepare you to save newborn calves and put dollars in your pocket.

The following should be readily available near the calving area:

- Clean, dry towels
- Clean straw bedding or drinking straws
- Ice
- +/- Manual calf resuscitator



Sit the calf upright on its chest and vigorously rub the calf with towels, starting at the calf's tail head and moving towards its head as the cow would. This stimulates the calf to arch its back, stretch out its chest, and help it breath. Rubbing the head and ears vigorously also stimulates the calf. As colder temperatures approach, drying calves with towels is especially important to also avoid hypothermia. Getting newborn calves into a warm place or under a heat lamp helps calves maintain proper body temperature and have better oxygen exchange across their lungs.



Sticking a clean piece of straw or something similar up the calf's nose is irritating and will stimulate breathing. If this technique doesn't work, sticking a 20 or 22 gauge needle in the middle of the calf's nose (see picture to left) stimulates an acupuncture point that may also help the calf to breath.

Slow breathing calves can also be stimulated by pouring 60cc of ice water into the calf's ear or pouring a pint of cold water over the head. This will cause vigorous head shaking and hopefully "shock" the calf into breathing.

Commercial calf resuscitators can be used to both suction fluid out of the calf's airway and force air into the calf's lungs. When using these devices to inflate the lungs, use one hand to put pressure on the calf's esophagus (left side of neck) to force air into the calf's airway and not into the stomach (see picture to right).



If the calf has fluid in its airway, position the calf so its head is lower than the chest. Drape the calf over a bale so that its head is hanging over the edge. Holding the calf by its back legs and swinging is NOT recommended.

Weight of the internal abdominal organs will compress the chest and lungs, making it more difficult for the calf to breath. Instead, try suctioning out fluid with a commercial calf resuscitator or with a vacuum pump.

Food Armor®

Want to decrease your farm's risk of drug residues in meat or milk? Do you want to prove to consumers and your community that you are dedicated to producing safe food products? If so, consider becoming certified in the Food Armor® program. Food Armor® is a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) based approach to reducing drug residue risk and ensuring proper drug use on dairy farms. Veterinarians and producers work together to develop a residue avoidance plan to gain Food Armor® Certification, which is third party verified.



The program requires the producer, the farm's regular veterinarian, and a Food Armor® accredited veterinarian to work together to complete the certification process. Dr. Borst is a Food Armor® accredited veterinarian and recently helped certified the first Food Armor® farm in Minnesota. Zoetis Animal Health is offering a limited number of \$300 scholarships towards Food Armor® certification. If you want to learn more, ask one of our veterinarians or visit www.foodarmor.org.

Mastitis Study Looking for Participation

Zoetis Animal Health will be doing a study to investigate the effects of Spectramast LC on subclinical mastitis in early lactation cows. Participating herds would receive free Spectramast LC to use during the study as well as free milk culturing. Please contact our office if you are interested in participating or would like more information.

U of MN Bedding Study Looking for Participation

The University of Minnesota is looking for herds to participate in a study looking at different types of bedding and mastitis levels on dairy farms. We encourage any farms that keep record of all clinical mastitis cases to participate. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact us.

Veterinary Feed Directive

If your farm uses feed-grade antibiotics, the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is something you will need to become familiar with in the near future. A VFD is a statement issued by a veterinarian that allows a producer to purchase feed-grade antibiotics, much like a prescription. VFD's are already required for a few feed-grade antibiotics, but on January 1, 2017, all feed grade antibiotics (i.e. tetracycline crumbles) will require a VFD. We want our clients to be prepared, so there are no surprises or lapses in treatments. If your farm routinely uses any feed-grade antibiotics, please let our office know what those products are so our veterinarians can be prepared to write your VFD's.

