

Newsletter MARCH 2020



Cryptosporidiosis in Calves

by Shane Gonoude (Animal Health Specialist) Ph: 087 6466707

Cryptosporidium is caused by a parasite. It is usually seen in young calves less than six weeks old, but most often occurs in the second week of life. Calves become infected when they ingest Cryptosporidium parvum oocysts (eggs).

These oocysts live in soil, water and faecal matter. Only ten oocysts are required to cause disease in susceptible calves. Once infected, calves will start shedding oocysts in the scour. An infected calf can spread billions of eggs, so it's easy to see how the disease spreads so quickly through calves.

Crypto scours decimates calf thrive and performance. Symptoms include diarrhoea, dehydration, loss of appetite, inflammation, fever and abdominal pains. These scours are very hard to treat as antibiotics do not kill crypto.

Prevention Strategies

- Hygiene and cleanliness are critical. Calving pens, feeding buckets, stomach tubes and farmer's workwear need to be properly cleaned and disinfected. Ensure to use a disinfectant that is effective against the oocysts from protozoan parasites e.g. Cyclex or Kilcox Extra.
- Use a separate stomach tube for administering colostrum as to that for treating sick calves.
- Isolate scouring calves immediately from the group and house in a clean, warm and dry environment.

- Give one or two extra feeds (2 litres each) of a good quality oral rehydration solution (Pect-O-Lyte) as soon as the calf starts scouring and when it is scouring.
- Continue to offer scouring calves normal amounts of milk or milk replacer as long as they want to drink.
- Antibiotics are ineffective and you can't vaccinate against Cryptosporidia.

CryptoShield is a non-antibiotic complementary feed for calves, which can be used as a very effective preventative and control treatment.

- It consists of a blend of plant extracts with high concentrations of natural polyphenols, combined with organic acids boosting calf performance while also controlling scour.
- CryptoShield promotes gut health, promotes calf health, shine and thrive.



Adjusting grazing targets after a wet February!

by Aisling Claffey (Dairy and Grassland Specialist) Ph: 086 0317483

With almost twice the average rainfall across the country during the month of February, conditions for grazing and early nitrogen applications have been almost non-existent. Spring rotation planners need to be adjusted accordingly to ensure grazed grass can be maintained in the diet from turnout until there is sufficient grass available to begin the second rotation.

The first rotation should take approximately 7 weeks from turnout to allow sufficient regrowth for the second round (15 % of the farm grazed per week). Where soils are not waterlogged ½ bag of urea/ac or 1 bag of 23:10:0/ac should be spread ASAP as Phosphorous is critical for spring growth and tillering.

On-off grazing and back fences should be used to minimise damage to the soil. Target grazing covers of 800-1200 kg DM/ha to begin with. This allows cows to acclimatise to grazing again. Covers of 1500 kg DM + should then be targeted to remove dead material from the base of the sward and allow the plant to tiller (produce new grass plants). 30 % of the grazing area should receive 2500 gal/ac slurry after grazing while the remainder of the farm should be topped up with 40 units N/ac by late March to promote regrowth.

Mega Milk 16 is the ideal nut for cows at grass, where silage still makes up a component of the diet, as the high energy levels balance the excess protein levels in the grass.

HOOVES 4 HOSPICE (A Midland Hospice Building Fund Project)

Tullamore, Birr and other Lions clubs, have joined forces with the Farming Community, supportive organisations and individuals in a fundraising project for the much-needed Level 3 Midland Hospice.

The project involves recruiting a large number of farmers, willing to rear a young animal. The animals will be sold by the Lions Club at 12 to 18 months and the entire proceeds of the sale will be donated to help fund the building of the hospice. To date over 120 farmers have agreed to take part in the project.

Farmers can help by doing one of the following:

1. Donate and rear an animal
2. Donate an animal
3. Rear an animal
4. Donate money to fund the purchase of an animal

If you wish to do any of the above, please follow the link below which will bring you to the appropriate form. Please enter the details and click submit.



<http://h4h.midlandhospice.ie/farmers>

If you have any queries you can contact the Hooves 4 Hospice office
Phone: 085 877 5477

“What the farmers say”



“I’ve used **Nugget Super Grow Calf Nuts** for the past couple of years on my farm. Calves had high levels of liveweight gains and had a lovely shine on them all year. I was very happy with calf performance and I will be using **Nugget Super Grow Calf Nuts** going forward. ”

Tommy Fagan - Dairy Farmer
Rosemount, Co Westmeath

Spring Sowing & Seed

by Paul Mooney (Crop Agronomist) Ph: 086 3532342

Due to a very wet back-end to 2019, there was only 80,000ha of Winter Cereals sown. It is estimated that up to 6000ha of this has failed and will have to be re-sown. Recent water-logging could easily double this figure. In autumn 2018 there was 158000ha so when you compare Spring 2020 with Spring 2019, there will be at least an extra 84000ha of Spring cereal seed needed. This will create a huge deficit in Spring seed availability and while we will do our utmost to provide all our growers with seed, it is crucial that you let us know your plans ASAP.

Seed returns and cancelling of confirmed orders for seed is something that our suppliers have clamped down on. While this is very regrettable it is also understandable given the massive losses, they have suffered by having to pay to dump seed in recent years particularly last Autumn.

Unfortunately, this leaves us with a choice:

- 1) Increase seed price to account for these losses.
- 2) Insist on customers taking and keeping seed once they confirm their order.

We feel 2 is the fairer option and would advise you to discuss how this policy will operate with your account manager.

Merits of feeding high quality Ewe & Lamb diets in late pregnancy

By Damien Conboy (Sheep Specialist) Ph: 087 2124036

Lambing will commence on many mid-season flocks in the next two or three weeks. At this late stage of pregnancy, ewe’s protein & energy requirements will almost double. Given the surge in foetal development at this stage, ewe’s physical capacity to consume silage will decrease even further.

This gap in feed intake needs to be met with a high-quality concentrate feed, rich in energy sources such as maize, barley & oats. It should also contain a source of rumen by-pass protein such as soya bean meal. Feeding rates will be determined by the number of lambs the ewe is carrying and the quality and chop length of the silage available. At this stage many ewes should be getting over 0.5kg

of concentrate/head/day. It is strongly advisable to split feeding into twice a day, once feeding rates go above this level.

Benefits of feeding **Nugget Ewe & Lamb** diets include:

- Strong healthy ewes at lambing
- Good yields of colostrum and subsequent milk yield for new-born lambs
- Increased lamb birth weights
- Improved lamb vigour at birth
- Improved vitamin E levels in colostrum
- Reduced lamb mortality

Typical daily concentrate allowance for Singles, Twins and Triplets in the last 3 weeks prior to lambing

Weeks before lambing	Singles (kg/head/day)	Twins (kg/head/day)	Triplets (kg/head/day)
3	0.3	0.8	0.9
2	0.5	0.9	1.0
1	0.6	1.0	1.1



Chlorine Free Dairy

by Tony Makim (Store Manager)
Ph: 057 9133544

It is only a matter of time before there will be zero tolerance for Trichloromethane (TCM) residues in your milk. These residues arise from the use of chlorine-based detergents along with an insufficient rinse cycle. TCM’s are caused when chlorine encounters milk or organic matter left in the pipeline or bulk tank after a poor rinse. Below are some guidelines & products to help you make the switch to chlorine free products and methods of chlorine free washing.

- Always ensure an adequate rinse cycle of 14ltr per unit.
- Hotwash (min 60deg) & descale at least once/twice per week.
- Rinse with peracetic acid. (Serpent).

We are stockist of the Biocel Dairy Detergents & Teat Dip range.

Biocel Ltd are based in Co Cork. They manufacture and supply a range of chemicals to numerous industries and public bodies in Ireland, including Brewing & Beverage, Food Production, Pharmaceutical, Water Treatment and Dairying.

Biocel Chlorine free detergents include:

- Circodine CF.
- Superclean Locount.
- Multisan CF.

A wide range of Chlorine detergents, descalers and rinses also available.

Contact your local branch for more information.

