

# FARM News



MAY 2020

## Calf Rearing Pointers

- Good colostrum management is crucial to protect calves from disease and ensure their survival. There are a number of factors which affect whether calves ingest sufficient colostrum, and how well this is absorbed
- Providing higher levels of milk or milk replacer results in better growth rates, greater long term productivity and improved health and welfare
- Consistency and good hygiene in milk feeding are critical in successful calf rearing
- Calves less than four weeks of age should be fed milk twice daily. The long term economic costs from reduced productivity as a result of inadequate early feeding far outweigh any short term benefits in feed or labour costs of once daily milk feeding.
- Provision of clean, dry creep feed and clean, palatable water are key to maintaining good growth rates.



volac 

## Managing Scouring Calves

Calf scour (diarrhoea) is the most common disease of young calves, and can have serious financial and welfare implications in both dairy and suckler herds. It is estimated that 50% of calf mortality in dairy herds is caused by acute diarrhoea in the pre-weaning period. Scour develops after the lining of the intestines have been damaged by infectious agents including viruses, bacteria and parasites. As a consequence, the calf loses fluid and electrolytes (body salts) via watery faeces. This loss of water and salts creates dehydration and an alteration of the acid-base balance of the bodily fluids. Inflammation of the intestinal lining impairs the calf's ability to digest nutrients, creating weight loss and the potential for hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). It is important to treat cases quickly, as if severe, death can occur.

**The most common causes of scour include:**

**Viral** – Rotavirus, Coronavirus

**Bacterial** – E.Coli, Salmonella, Clostridial perfringens Type C

**Parasites** - Cryptosporidia, Coccidia

Scours can often be caused by more than one of these infectious agents acting together.

**We do an in house scour test in the practice –  
Please call the office for more information.**



## Competition Time!!!!!!

We have a competition running on our [Facebook page](#).  
Go check it out – you could win a Lavender Voucher!



## PRODUCT UPDATES

**Adrenacaine** local anaesthetic is NOW back in stock!! Remember that it is a legal requirement to use local anaesthetic when disbudding calves. It is also strongly recommended that all calves receive additional pain relief such as metacam at the time of disbudding.



**Toxovax** and **Enovax** are now available to order. Due to supply shortages in previous years we are recommending that you order early to avoid disappointment. Both vaccines can be used in ewe lambs from five months of age and can be given up to 4 months ahead of tupping.



## STARTVAC MASTITIS VACCINE

Startvac covers two different strains Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus

Startvac is now available it will be ordered in specifically for each farm. Please ring the office to discuss your requirements.

