



Best Practices for Health Management

Protocol for Daily Monitoring of Youngstock for Disease

Find Sick Calves

Check each calf at feeding for:

1. Abnormal appearance (dull, depressed, weak or unwilling to stand, ears or head down, sunken eyes)
2. Decreased appetite (unwilling to drink or drinks less than normal, weak suckle effort)
3. Abnormal feces (scours)

Exam Sick Calves

1. Rectal temperature (normal for a calf is 38.6°C to 39.4°C (101.5°F to 103°F))
2. Abnormal feces (scours)
3. Hydration status:
 - a. Normal: eyes bright and not sunk, moist mouth
 - b. Mild dehydration: eyes mildly sunken in, moist mouth
 - c. Moderate to Severe dehydration: sunken eyes, dry mouth, cold extremities, not sucking
4. Breathing: respiration and effort

Scours

Mildly dehydrated:

- Oral electrolytes 2x per day between feedings for 2 to 3 days or as directed by a veterinarian

Moderate to Severely dehydrated:

- Requires veterinarian attention for:
 - Intravenous fluids
 - Antibiotic treatment
 - Anti-inflammatory treatment

Pneumonia

- Increased respiration rate and effort
- May be cough, runny nasal discharge
- Elevated rectal temperature (greater than 38.4°C)

Mild:

- Antibiotic therapy as directed by a veterinarian

Moderate to Severe:

- Requires veterinarian attention for:
 - Antibiotic treatment
 - Anti-inflammatory treatment

Other

Seek
veterinary
attention