

**AGRICULTURE**

# Reducing the risk of calf scours in Fall born calves

Fall calving in the Southern Plains has several advantages. One of the least-discussed advantages to fall-calving is the reduction of risk to an outbreak of scours. Neonatal calf diarrhea (commonly called

“calf scours” is one of the most costly disease entities in the beef cattle business. Fall-calving herds have the help of the hot, late summer sunshine to reduce the buildup and spread of the pathogens that cause calf

diarrhea. However, whether you have spring or fall-calving cows (or both), there are some key management procedures that will reduce the likelihood of a scours outbreak in your calves. These pro-

cedures are meant to decrease the pathogen exposure to the newborn calf:

- Calve in clean and dry areas.
- Calve heifers earlier than the cow herd.
- Avoid congregating.
- Avoid hay feeding in calving pastures by setting aside pastures during the summer to stockpile forage for utilization during calving time.
- Move pairs to larger pastures promptly.
- If hay is fed, use hay feeders and move feeders frequently.
- Use biosecurity and biocontainment measures for all herd additions.
- Isolate, quarantine, and perform appropriate tests on all herd additions.
- Introduce pregnant herd additions at least 30 days prior to the start of calving season. This will allow time for exposure to new pathogens, antibody development and secretion of antibodies into the colostrum.
- Do not add calves to the herd until the youngest calf in the herd is over 30 days of age. Buying a calf at a livestock auction or



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from a dairy for a cow that has lost a calf can introduce diseases that your herd may not have immunity against.

Isolation and treatment:

- Remove sick calves from the herd immediately. One sick calf can produce overwhelming pathogen exposure by shedding as many as 100 million bacteria or viruses per milliliter of feces (500 million bacteria and or viruses per teaspoon of feces).
- Visit with your local large animal veterinarian to determine best treatment options for the pathogens affecting your calves.



• Treating the sick calves should occur after handling the well calves. Clean and disinfect all equipment. Clothing, boots, gloves, etc. worn while treating sick calves should not be worn when handling well calves.

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**McALESTER LIVESTOCK**

Tuesday Aug. 26th, 2014, sold 1450 cattle. Steers under 450 lbs. \$4 to \$8 higher over 450 lbs. \$3 to \$6 lower. Heifers, \$4 to \$7 lower. The McAlester Union Stockyards

will have a sale Sept. 2nd and be open Labor Day weekend. The next special cow and bull sale is September 20th. Consignments are still open.

WEIGHT RANGE	#1 STEERS	#1 HEIFERS
225 to 300 lbs. ....	\$365 to \$415 .....	\$301 to \$320
300 to 350 lbs. ....	\$355 to \$371 .....	\$283 to \$297
350 to 400 lbs. ....	\$317 to \$331 .....	\$263 to \$277
400 to 450 lbs. ....	\$282 to \$295 .....	\$249 to \$262
450 to 500 lbs. ....	\$265 to \$278 .....	\$239 to \$258
500 to 550 lbs. ....	\$244 to \$257 .....	\$220 to \$233
550 to 600 lbs. ....	\$227 to \$251 .....	\$217 to \$231
600 to 700 lbs. ....	\$215 to \$236 .....	\$210 to \$218
700 to 750 lbs. ....	\$215 to \$220 .....	\$187 to \$201
800 to 850lbs. ....	\$198 to \$201 .....	\$181 to \$192

120 cows and bulls sold at the evening sale.

Packer cows \$3 to \$7 lower and bulls \$6 lower.

High yielding packer bulls sold from \$143 to \$155.

Average yielding packer bulls sold from \$140 to \$148.

Low yielding packer bulls sold from \$134 to \$138.

High yielding packer cows sold from \$124 to \$128.

Average yielding packer cows sold from \$120 to \$124.

Low yielding packer cows sold from \$111 to \$120.

There is a sale every Tuesday for stocker and feeder cattle, beginning at 10 a.m. The sale for cows and bulls is Tuesday at 6 p.m. The stockyard is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.