



We are FINALLY closing in on the end of 2020! With calving season right around the corner, we want to play our part in helping you to be as prepared as possible. Hot topics for this year are the drought setting us up for vitamin deficiencies (A, D, and E) – see our attached feed flyer for recommendations on combatting this issue. This also ties into our stressing of the importance of your calves having the successful passive transfer of their antibodies (and vitamins) via their colostrum. You will also see noted that our at birth recommendations for calves have not changed from last year. Also attached is a detailed flyer talking more in depth about the First Defense Dual-Force product and why we recommend this product so highly.

As always though if you have questions never hesitate to give us a call or stop by!

We hope you all have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!
– Gavins Point Veterinary Services

Calving Pen Management Tips:

to help minimize disease/scours spread in your calves

- The Gold Star method is moving the pregnant mothers to a new pen every 2 to 3 weeks this way their calves are born into a fresh pen with no contamination from older calves (also referred to as the Sandhills Calving Method)
- The Silver Star method is waiting a couple of days after the calves drop and their nursing is well established before kicking the pair out into a new pen and only fill that pen for 2 to 3 weeks then start into another pen
- Clean all yards up as much as possible – focus on filling in areas that tend to turn into puddles
- Bleach as many things as possible



**AFTER HOURS
EMERGENCY NUMBER:
605-956-7756**

***Reminders: you have to
leave a voicemail to have
your call returned and we
only see livestock after
hours***

**For general questions, sales,
etc. contact us by phone, text,
email, or just stop by the
office!**

P: 605-956-7756

E: gavinspointvet@gmail.com

Recommendations for calves the 1st day of life/ASAP after birth:

- **Inforce 3** (quick respiratory virus protection)
- **Dual-Force OR Tri-Shield** (E. Coli K99, Corona, & Rotavirus protection*)
- **Clostridium C&D Antitoxin** (immediate protection)
- **Iodine 7%** spray the navel thoroughly
- **Colostrum** ideally directly from mom or a REPLACER product

**Dual Force is not labeled for Rotavirus protection – Tri-Shield is labeled to protect against all 3 pathogens.*

Calves who have gotten a sufficient quantity of quality of colostrum and who are not lacking in vitamins and minerals are going to have a stronger immune system allowing them to more efficiently fight scours and other disease! Keep reading to learn more about how to ensure your calves are ready for whatever curveballs may get thrown at them!

Choosing a Colostrum Product:

- Supplement vs. Replacer
 - If the calf is not going to receive any colostrum from the cow your colostrum product has to state the word “REPLACER” on the bag. As it will need to completely REPLACE the mother’s colostrum.
 - A product that states “SUPPLEMENT” on the bag is just that – a supplemental product designed to provide supplemental antibodies to a calf already receiving a replacer product/colostrum from the cow.
 - Some supplements will state something along the lines of “E.Coli Antibodies” this means that the product is meant to provide additional E. Coli antibodies but is not sufficient for colostrum REPLACEMENT (+ If you are having E. Coli scours on your farm our recommendation is to instead provide each calf with a dose of Dual Force gel).
- IgG vs Antibodies
 - IgG’s are antibodies
 - IgG1, IgG2, IgA, IgM all contribute to the total antibody concentration within colostrum
- Why **Calf’s Choice Total Hi-Cal**?
 - It is very high in natural colostral fat which provides a much-needed boost of energy to a newborn
 - **It is made from NATURAL bovine colostrum** (it is not made from manufactured ingredients such as blood serum, whey, eggs, vegetable fats, etc.). Being a natural product means that the calf can fully absorb and properly utilize the product.
 - Can be used both as a supplement or a replacer
 - For replacement of maternal colostrum, the recommendation is that calves receive a total of 150-200g of IgG with the first feeding within 2 hours of birth and a second feeding within 8 hours - which can be done by feeding at least 1.5 bags/ ideally 2 bags of this product.
 - For supplementation feed at least 1/2 bag/ideally a whole bag - especially if maternal colostrum quality is poor, weather is cold, etc.

Calves can only absorb colostrum for the first 24 hours of life with the best absorption being the first 6 hours – absorption ability steadily declines after that.

COLOSTRUM TIPS:

- HOT water and a good whisk are essential for mixing
- Calf’s Choice Total Hi-Cal: to make 1 bottle/1 bag it only requires about 5 cups of water – start with about half that amount in your bowl, while continuously whisking slowly add the powder to your water, and as needed add the remainder of the water in small increments.
- Be sure you allow it to cool down a bit before offering to the calf so as not to burn their throat.
- For their abomasum development nursing/sucking is always the best route to intake colostrum but if they won’t drink on their own then they must have it tubed to them.

