



From the desk of Dr. Chad Vogel

August 1, 2018

Tough economic times leave little room for errors, so I wanted to talk about some simple things we can check (Spot checks) to keep things rolling along and avoid more costly death loss/poor performance. These are available through the clinic. You can send samples with your veterinarian or drop off at the clinic.

**Colostrum:** Quality Colostrum is essential to calf health. However, many factors go into complete transfer of antibodies to the calf. Good dry cow nutrition, timeliness and cleanliness of colostrum harvest and finally feeding the calf. A Brix refractometer will accurately tell us the quality, how many antibodies are in your colostrum. You can send in multiple samples and spot check your herd.

**Culture:** Bacteria counts in colostrum. This tells us how well we harvest, how clean our equipment is and how well we store our colostrum. Feeding dirty colostrum causes sick or worse, dead calves.

**Milk Replacer Concentration:** We now have the ability to test your milk replacer concentration as fed. Differences in concentration of milk replacer can lead to diarrhea and poor growth. This test can help unify your feedings and feeders on their routine as a way to test and give results. Sample ideas include at different points in the feeding cycle if using large batches, different employees mixing or shifts.

**Rumensin levels in calf feed:** Rumensin, a coccidiostat in most weaned calf feed is used to help prevent coccidia (diarrhea and sometimes death) outbreaks. That being said, we do treat and identify coccidia in calves on treated feed.

Calves need to eat the appropriate amount of medication. We can test the levels of Rumensin in your feed. Reasons:

1. Are the levels adequate?
2. Is the medication evenly mixed?
  - For example, are the levels at front of the bunk the same as the levels at the end?

**Urine pH:** Anyone feeding anionic salts in their dry cow rations can check urine pHs to see if the cows are eating the proper amount of anionic salts. These salts help us manage Calcium in our transition cows. As everyone knows a good transition saves a lot of cost in treatments and improves performance in that lactation. We can collect some urine and check the pH of the urine, looking for pHs to be 5.5-5.9.

\*Remember we can also help you spot check your parlors and milking routines using the Vadia and our team. We want to minimize mastitis and somatic cell deductions/premium loss and increase parlor efficiency.

### **DropShip Updates**

Longrange, Penicillin, and Polyflex are now available in small quantities. For questions or ordering, please call (810)376-2425 extension 106.

***Good luck to the 4-H kids at all the local fairs!***

***Huron Community Fair***

July 29th—August 4th, 2018

***Sanilac County Fair***

August 19th—August 25th, 2018



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