

Dr. Lucie Decoeur * Dr. Steve Dorais * Dr. Marc Levesque * Dr. Éloïse Molgat
February 2022

A new member joins our team!

We are pleased to welcome **Emily Lalonde**, registered veterinary technician, to our team. Originally from St-Anne-de-Prescott, graduated from Collège Boréal in 2018, she then worked for the University of Guelph, in the large animal hospital for the past 2 years. We are very happy to have her join our team and look forward to being able to count on her skills and abilities with dairy animals. Her work will consist mainly of dehorning, vaccination and assistance with veterinarians. Once again, Welcome to the team Emily!



Calf scours, prevention and treatment

Calf neonatal diarrhea, or more commonly referred to as “scours”, is the number one cause of death in dairy calves under one month of age. Diarrhea causes dehydration and depression, and can lead to bacteremia (bloodstream bacterial infection), septicemia (systemic multiorgan inflammatory response) and death if not treated adequately. That being said, the key to raising healthy non-diarrheic calves is to work in prevention, and if scours show up recognize the early signs to treat it quickly and efficiently.

Prevention: Use good husbandry practices and limit environmental stressors!

- Proper colostrum management remains the most important factor for healthy calves. Quantity (4L), quality (Brix value > 22%), timing (< 12h) and cleanliness are essential.
- Everything that has to do with newborns has to be clean. All housing and feeding equipment has to be clean. Wash with warm water and soap, but also disinfect and let dry thoroughly between each use.
- Consistent feeding and proper nutrition makes for stronger calves. Deliver the same fresh and warm milk in adequate quantity on a steady feeding schedule.

Treatment: Work with us, the vets, to establish a treatment protocol suited to your farm!

- Dehydration is what most often kills calves. Recognize dehydration by assessing skin tent and eye position. When present, it is crucial to start supplementing with oral electrolytes and/or intravenous fluids.
- Depression keeps the sick calves from getting better. Recognize depression by assessing suckle reflex and standing ability. When present, contact your veterinarian because more aggressive treatment is needed.
- Fever rhymes with antibiotics. Take a rectal temperature, and if above 39.5°C (103°F) start antibiotics recommended by your veterinarian (antibiotic choice will vary, but generally Forcyl or Baytril are good picks).
- Anti Inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for the upset stomachs. Calves that do not drink well are not feeling well. Give a single dose of NSAIDs (such as Metacam or Anafen) to promote milk intake, which calves need to fight the disease and to get back on their feet faster.