



# W-S Feeds Chronicle

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## AVOIDING COCCIDIOSIS IN WEANED CALVES

Coccidiosis is a protozoan disease that exists wherever there are cattle. Most cattle have encountered these protozoa and have developed some immunity. Calves are most vulnerable to the disease because they don't yet have immunity. At weaning, when cattle are gathered and congregated, especially if calves are confined in a corral or feed yard, calves may be exposed to more manure and coccidia, and some may break with coccidiosis. The best defence against this disease is a good management, preventing situations in which contamination can build up to ineffective levels. If hygiene is poor (such as allowing feed or water to be contaminated with feces), it doesn't take long for all the calves to be exposed. Some develop clinical signs such as a dirty hind end or blood in the manure. Diarrhea in newly weaned calves may be the result of a drastic change in feed, but often is a sign of coccidiosis. Clinical signs can vary from subtle to very severe. A calf may merely have a slightly looser stool, but in severe cases the calf may become quite dehydrated, with sunken eyes. These calves may become so weak that it's hard for them to get up. When a group of calves becomes exposed, you generally see a large number of animals with messy diarrhea.

The strategies for dealing with coccidiosis are largely preventative. The calf may need supportive therapy, especially fluids, if he's dehydrated from diarrhea. Drugs for coccidiosis include coccidiostats like amprolium, decoquinate, and sulfa drugs. There is no "best" treatment, but there are several options. There are many products used for prevention, such as adding amprolium to the drinking water or adding Deccox, lasolocid or monensin to feed. We rarely see much coccidiosis when cattle are fed a diet containing monensin or another coccidiostat. You won't see diarrhea right away when calves get coccidiosis. The incubation period is about three weeks from the time the animal ingests the protozoa until breaking with diarrhea. If the disease is chronic and ongoing, you see some very stunted calves. Weather can play a role in disease outbreaks. Bad weather creates more stress, and if cattle are bedding on wet, contaminated straw or hay, and then lick themselves, they pick up a high number of protozoa. One way to reduce the problem of coccidiosis is to minimize stress as much as possible. Stress plays a significant role in vulnerability, as does confinement. If the cattle can be more spread out, risks may be reduced. Anything you can do to lower the stress at weaning could be helpful, but calves can still get coccidiosis without stress if the environment is dirty. (Canadian Cattlemen)

## LEPTOSPIROSIS - RE-EMERGING OR REDISCOVERED

## CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

We will be closed on October 11, 2011 for Thanksgiving. *Please order your feed accordingly.*

## SPECIALS - THESE SPECIALS WILL RUN FROM OCT. 11 - NOV. 30, 2011

### FEED LOT STARTERS

All 2 MT orders of feed lot starters will receive a \$10.00 discount. On orders of 5 MT there will be a \$15.00 discount.

### BEEF SUPPLEMENTS

Receive \$15.00 discount on all orders of 2 MT or more.

## HANDS-ON BROODING GETS RESULTS

Close attention to brooding management is essential according to Dr. Scott Gillingham, DVM, Canadian Regional Business Manager for Aviagen, Inc. He says the first 10 days in the broiler barn are crucial to bird health and ultimate profitability. Today's broilers grow bigger and faster. They are putting down a lot more protein. They are more aggressive to feed. Rapid weight gain in young broilers presents management challenges to the poultry farmer. There is no room for error. Farmers must look to their stockmanship and the young broilers' genetics, nutrition and health. We need to measure the birds' production performance. Feed them as soon as they arrive in the barn...stimulate their guts. Get them on feed, not a litter. If the chicks' development is delayed they will not catch up. Any delay means a big loss at the back end. Watch your birds' behaviours. Put their feeders close to their comfort zone under their heaters. Production is derived from their daily nutrient intake. Birds also have a preference for a certain pellet size. Look at getting birds

Leptospirosis is an economically important bacterial infection of livestock that causes abortions, stillbirths, infertility, and loss of milk production. Leptospirosis is caused by pathogenic spirochetes of the genus *Leptospira* and is an important cause of abortion and infertility in North American cattle. Leptospirosis is a re-emerging infectious disease that tends to fluctuate in prevalence as a livestock pathogen. Its transmission to livestock and to humans is often associated with wet, unsanitary conditions favouring the collection of surface water infected with organisms shed in the urine of infected animals. Along with dogs, cattle, horses and pigs are commonly infected. A number of wildlife species (skunks, raccoons, rats, muskrats) are incriminated as reservoirs and shed organisms into puddles, ponds and streams that ultimately put livestock at risk, especially those on pasture. Pathogenic leptospires have been categorized into seven species and approximately 250 serovars. Individual serovars favour specific hosts. For example: serovar Hardjo is commonly found in cattle, serovar Canicola is common in dogs. Transmission of the infection involves contact with infected urine, placental fluids, or milk. *Leptospira* can also be transmitted in semen and during natural breeding or pregnancy. Leptospires invade through intact oral mucosa or water-saturated skin. Environments with standing water sustain bacterial populations and soften the skin of the coronary band to facilitate invasion. Under the right conditions, leptospiral organisms survive for weeks outside of the animal. Leptospires invade the body through mucous membranes or damaged skin. After an incubation period of 3 - 20 days, organisms are carried by blood and subsequently invade many tissues, including the liver, spleen, kidneys, reproductive tract, eyes and central nervous system where they multiply. Antibodies to *Leptospira* appear soon after infection and with appearance of antibodies infected animals start to clear organisms from most organs except the urinary system.

*Leptospira* infections in cattle generally result in no or relatively mild clinical signs, but produce a renal carrier state associated with long-term urinary shedding. Persistent infection of the reproductive tract is common in both males and females. Clinical signs of infection can be subtle. Late abortions, stillbirths, or birth of weak calves is an outcome when pregnant females are infected for the first time. Retention of fetal membranes is common. Abortions due to serovar Hardjo infection tend to occur sporadically. Some serovars (Pomona or Grippotyphosa) can be associated with abortion "storms." Perhaps the most economically significant manifestation of *Leptospira* infections is the subtle impairment of herd reproductive performance. Exposure of non-infected replacement females to organisms shed from chronically infected cows in the herd perpetuates the occurrence of abortions, stillbirths and weak calves.

A good clinical and vaccination history is important. Diagnostic tests include blood tests designed to detect antibodies against the organism, examination of abortion and fetal tissues. No single diagnostic procedure can be used in every situation increasing the importance of using combinations of tests. Dependence on blood tests alone is often misleading. The most common approaches to the control of leptospirosis in cattle are based on prevention of exposure, vaccination, and selective treatment. Important elements of control include: 1) Limiting direct and indirect contact between cattle and carriers of leptospirosis; 2) Proper diagnosis of reduced reproductive performance is critical; 3) Quarantine/treatment of replacements; 4) Vaccination; 5) Antibiotics can be used to treat individual animals and will, in general, eliminate persistent infections; 6) Eliminate standing water in high-use areas.

off crumbs and onto pellets. With fine feed they will spend more time at the feeder. That is why you want to get to pellets sooner. The poultry producer should establish the chicks' comfort zone within their first 10 days in the barn, observing that too much heat will destroy their guts. A lot of feed conversion can be lost in the first 10 days and variations in humidity will influence the effective temperature for the birds.

Crop filling is the best thing you can do in the barn. Check it along with bird temperature. It is critical. The crops should be at least 85% filled within their first 12 hours. Light intensity in the barn at 50 - 70 lux, is also critical in the birds' first seven days in the barn. Paint the barn interior white. We need the birds to see their environment to feed and drink. The lighting program for brooder management must be tailored to the birds' sex, targeted weight and feeding programs.

As for the birds' water requirements, there are peak demand periods in the barn, so there must also be a source of immediate, clean water. In addition, the producer must check the flow rates of his water system's nipples, which in the first week in the barn should be at least 25 millilitres of water per nipple. You have to have consistency. A reduced flow rate reduces growth. (Canadian Poultry)

#### **FUTURES MARKET**

##### **PORK (US \$ per cwt.)**

October	\$93.38
December	\$87.80
February	\$91.58

##### **BEEF**

October	\$122.15
December	\$122.65
February	\$124.15

#### **PAYMENT METHOD**

We would like to remind you that there are several different ways that you can pay your account. They are on-line payments, telephone banking, visa/mastercard, debit, cash or cheque.

NET - end of the following month

3% - if paid within 10 days of the date invoiced

2% - if paid by the 20th of the following month