

**WEBSITE!** Grassland now has a website located at [grasslandvet.com](http://grasslandvet.com). This site is designed to be friendly to clients with both large and small animals. Certainly it will be useful for prospective new clients or employees to easily find information about our practice and employees. We would however like to make the website useful for our current clients. For example, many of our newsletters are located in an archive at the website. Some individuals have already accessed those. We can make newsletters more convenient to look through, and may have the most recent newsletters located more prominently. We may provide links to sources of information pertinent to your needs, or services related to your industry. If there are specific ways to make the site more useful to you, or if there are services you would be interested in that we don't currently provide, please feel free to contact us. The website is a work in progress.

**CALF DIARRHEA:** It's a typical winter. Every year calf scours is a greater issue beginning around December. More cows calve in the barn, the barn is closed and tends to be more damp, and it is more difficult to clean thoroughly. As a result calves are born in areas with a higher concentration of all the 'bugs' that can cause diarrhea.

One thing to remember is that calves aren't born infected with those bugs. If she gets diarrhea, it's because the calf was exposed to the bugs after it was born. Calves get exposed either at the calving location, or at the location where they live. The more time calves spend in the environment with the cows, the more likely they are to get infected. Do all that you can to minimize exposure to scours causing bugs. Have the calving environment as clean as possible, and remove the calf from that area as soon as possible.

The other strategy is to maximize the protection your calves have. Feeding a gallon of first milking colostrum within 6 hours of birth goes a long way for preventing scours. Please note that cows are finished making colostrum within a week of calving. As soon as she calves the cow begins making milk. 90% of antibodies are removed from the udder at the first complete milking. Milk from subsequent milkings has no protective value! Of course colostrum needs to be collected and fed with clean containers. If feeding colostrum isn't providing adequate protection, cows can be vaccinated during the dry period to add additional antibodies to colostrum

If vaccinating dry cows won't work for you, there are products you can give to newborn calves to provide additional protection directly. One oral product many of you use is called Bovine Ecolizer + C®. This provides protection against E coli scours and clostridial infections. Currently this product is on indefinite backorder. The only similar product we currently have available is Bovine Ecolizer®, protecting against E coli only. Calf Guard® is also used in newborn calves. This product provides protection against rota and corona viruses. Calf Guard® is not an antibody product. Instead it is a vaccine. Calf Guard® must given separately from colostrum, preferably approximately one half hour before colostrum is fed. It is possible to test calves between the ages of one and 7 days to determine if adequate colostrum was provided. We can perform a simple test on calf blood to evaluate blood protein levels. If protein levels are low, it indicates a problem with colostrum collection or feeding. Please contact us if you have questions regarding calf diarrhea or any of these products.

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