

# Calf Scours: Major Causes, Risk Factors and Prevention Strategies

| Causative organism                   | Rotavirus, Coronavirus    | <i>E. coli</i>                           | <i>Salmonella sp.</i>   | Crypto     | Coccidia  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|------------|---|
| Infectious agent                     | Virus                     | Bacteria                                 | Bacteria  | Parasite   | Parasite  |
| Average age of disease onset         | 5-21 d                    | < 3 d                                    | 1-6 weeks; can occur at any age   | 5-35 d     | > 17 d  |
| Route of transmission                | Fecal-oral                | Fecal-oral                               | Fecal-oral<br>Colostrum/milk<br>Oral-oral (via saliva or nasal discharge) | Fecal-oral | Fecal-oral  |
| <b>Source of infection</b>           |                           |  |   |            |   |
| Contact w/ the cow                   | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Maternity pen                        | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| <b>Colostrum</b>                     |                           |  |   |            |   |
| Shed by cow                          |                           |  | x   |            |   |
| Fecal contamination                  | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Calf sleds, carts, etc.              | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Housing, bedding                     | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Feeding equipment                    | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Nose-to-nose contact                 |                           |  | x   |            |   |
| <b>Prevention and treatment</b>      |                           |  |   |            |   |
| Dry cow vaccine available            | x                         | x  | x   |            |   |
| Calfhood vaccine available           | x                         | x  | x   |            |   |
| <b>Oral antimicrobials available</b> |                           |  |   |            |   |
| Prevention                           |                           |  |   |            | Lasalocid <sup>1,2</sup><br>Decoquinat <sup>1,2</sup><br>Monensin <sup>2</sup><br>Amprolium |
| Treatment                            |                           | Neomycin<br>Oxytetracycline <sup>1</sup> |   |            | Amprolium   |
| Electrolyte therapy <sup>3</sup>     | x                         | x  | x   | x          | x   |
| Systemic antibiotics                 | Consult your veterinarian |  |   |            |   |

Reference: Table 2.2 in Raising Dairy Replacements, 2003, Midwest Plan Service.

<sup>1</sup>Available in milk replacers

<sup>2</sup>Available in calf starters and grower grain

<sup>3</sup>Suggested electrolyte: VitaLyte Plus

