



Countryside Veterinary Clinic November 2017 Newsletter



Future Impacts of Calf Rearing Peter G. Ostrum, DVM

I recently returned from the “Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council” annual meeting and attended Dr. Jim Quigley’s lecture on the *Impacts of Calf Rearing for Future Production*. A respected researcher and nutritionist, Dr. Quigley examined various key management issues surrounding the lives of pre-weaned calves.

1. **Epigenetics:** As a new field of study this refers to the concept of “what you do to momma, you also do to her unborn calf”. Stressing the dam can have significant production consequences for her calf years later. Stresses that can be successfully managed would include dry cow cooling, properly balanced dry cow rations and optimizing dry cow body condition scores (3.25 – 3.5).
2. **Dystocia:** Difficult calvings not only negatively affects the dam’s immediate lactation but also severely impacts her calf’s future milk production. Calves that experience a difficult birth have been shown to produce up to 1,600 lbs. less milk during their first lactation compared to calves that were born uneventfully. Cows and heifers that are over-conditioned or have milk fever are prime candidates for dystocia.
3. **Colostrum:** No single factor affects the future health and production of a calf more than colostrum feeding. Calves need at least 1 gallon of fresh, clean colostrum within the first 8 - 12 hours of birth. Many farms are now feeding 1 ½ gallons (2 feedings) within this time frame.
4. **Calfhood Disease:** It’s no surprise to anyone raising calves that scours and respiratory diseases can be significant health hurdles for affected calves to overcome. Calves that are free of disease are less likely to be culled early and are more likely to freshen by 22 -24 months of age. Clean, dry, well ventilated calf pens that aren’t overcrowded are key to reducing pathogen exposure.
5. **Preweaning Nutrition:** Recent research suggests that for proper rumen development calves need a combination of both milk or milk replacer and high-quality calf starter. Furthermore, the trigger for future milk production appears to be average daily gain for the growing calf. An achievable goal for all calves is to double their birth weight by weaning. By weaning, calves should be consuming 2-2.5 lbs. of calf starter. Farms that are feeding high levels of milk or milk replacer may need to wean their calves over a period of several weeks to ensure that calves are eating sufficient amounts of starter when weaning is complete.

The take home message to remember is that how we raise our calves greatly impacts their future production as adults. **Healthy calves translates to health cows!**



We will be closed on Thursday November 23 for Thanksgiving.

READ OUR NEWSLETTERS: Remember that if you spot your name in our newsletter and call us within 5 days of the billing date, we will give you a \$10.00 credit on your bill.

Over - >



Lewis County Historical Society 15th "Home for the Holidays Festival"

Thursday November 16th - Sunday November 19

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 pm to 4 pm



Friday November 24th 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Santa will be present with gifts between 7 pm and 9 pm

Saturday November 25th 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Theater Production of "A Christmas Carol"

by members of the

Adirondack Community Chorus

Directed by Michael Ferris

Saturday November 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Free will offering will be taken



Huge Lionel Train Display!

Lionel trains going around and through the Lewis County Fair, Halloween Town and a huge Christmas village!

Silent auction on decorated Christmas Trees and Wreaths!



- Festival of the trees
- Ginger Bread Houses on display
- Raffle items and silent auction items!



Gift Shop Open – Great Christmas Ideas

Shop local throughout Lewis County for great deals and great Christmas Gifts

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www.lewiscountyhistory.org