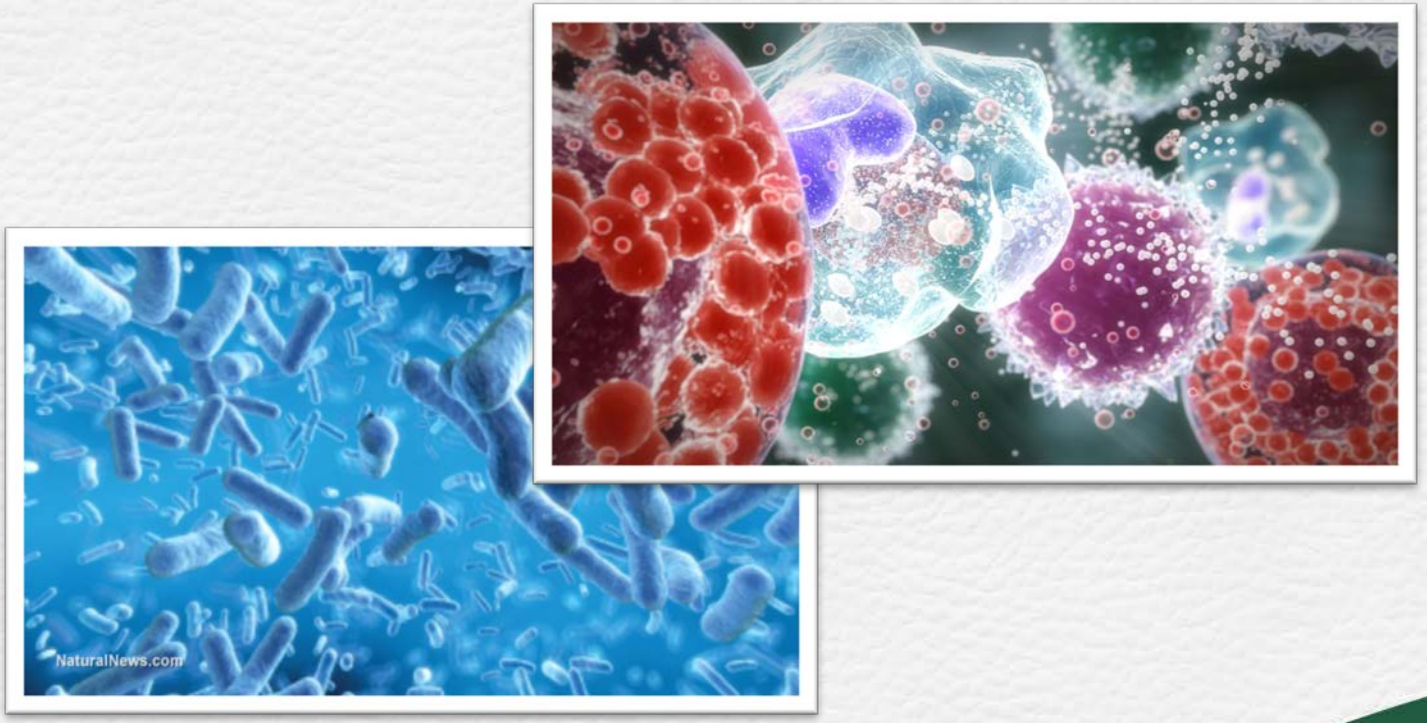
Cow Calf Health

Dan Bakker
Foundation Livestock Service

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Health is a Balance

Increase Immunity
Reduce Pathogens



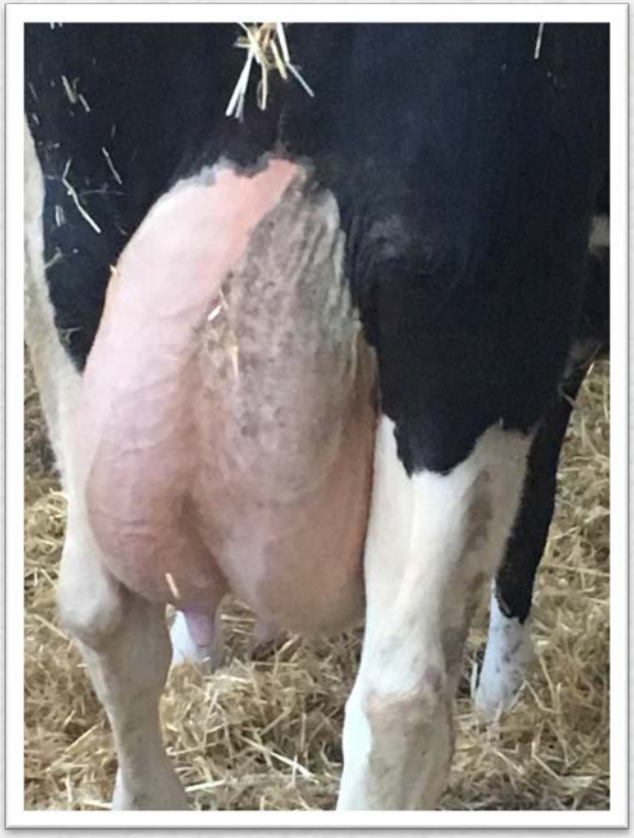
FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Increasing Immunity

1. Colostrum
2. Colostrum
3. Colostrum

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

The contents of that udder are the best thing the calf will EVER eat —or the worst!



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Why Colostrum?

- Calf is born with ZERO antibodies
- Antibody = Protein that recognize something foreign and binds it (send for help)
  - Scouts: Alert the rest of the army
- If there is no alert the enemy will multiply and take over

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Colostrum: Gift from Mom

- Passive: Calf doesn't do anything—just absorbed from mom
- Only last a short time (7-60 days)
- Gives calf antibodies (scouts) until the calf can make their own

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

How to Maximize Colostrum

- Vaccinate cows with scour vaccines 6-10 weeks prior to calving
- Booster vaccines per label
- Good cow nutrition two months prior to calving—no major ration changes within 30 days of calving
  - Properly balanced ration (Vitamin E)

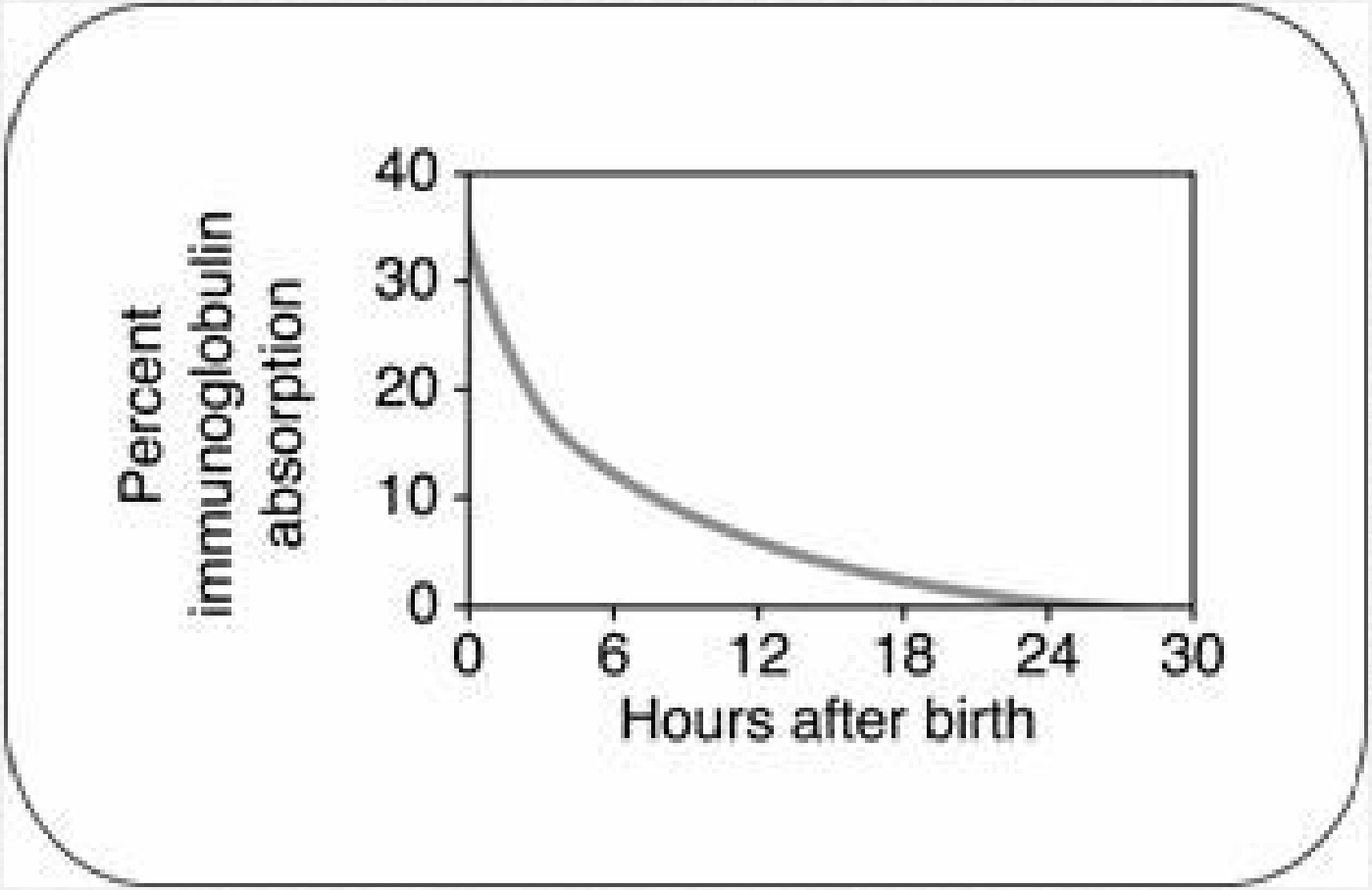
FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Colostrum Intake

- Calves aggressively nursing within one hour of birth
- Pens ready to assist nursing if needed
- Not nursing by **three** hours
  - Tube feed colostrum REPLACEMENT product

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Colostrum Intake



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Colostrum Quantify Results

- Goal = > 90% calves above 5.5g/dL
- Measure total proteins with blood sample on 12 calves 2-7 days old

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Proper Esophageal Feeder Use

- Esophageal feeder
  - CLEAN
  - Not scratched up
- Calf is sternal or standing
- Ensure in esophagus and not trachea
- Head in **normal** position
- Tilt nose down when removing

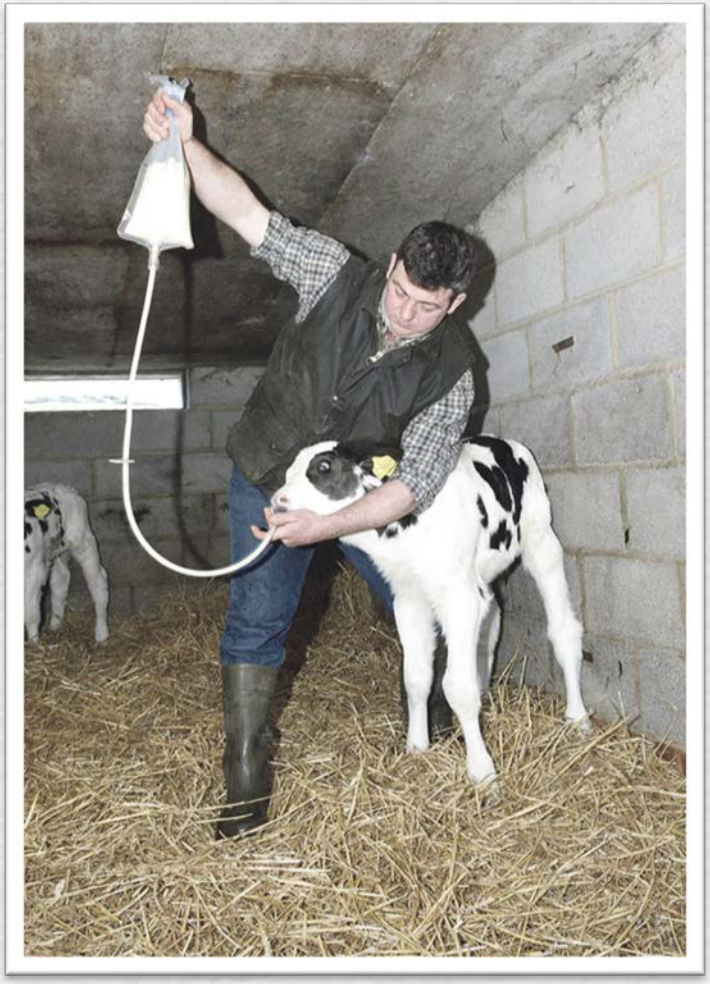
FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Aspiration Pneumonia

- Ensure proper esophageal feeder technique
  - Nose never above eyes
  - Head in normal position
  - Standing (sternal if you have to but not recommended)
  - Ensure proper placement (feel)

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Aspiration Pneumonia



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Dipping Navels is Paramount to prevention!

- **The number one way to prevent infections is to dip EVERY navel with strong iodine after birth!**
- The dipper should be cleaned at least every 5th calf or every week, whichever is more frequent.

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Calf Vaccination

- Consult your veterinarian
- DO NOT overvaccinate
- Vaccines can add stress

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Change Cannulas Often

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Bedding Management

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Bedding

- Dry knees in the calving pen

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

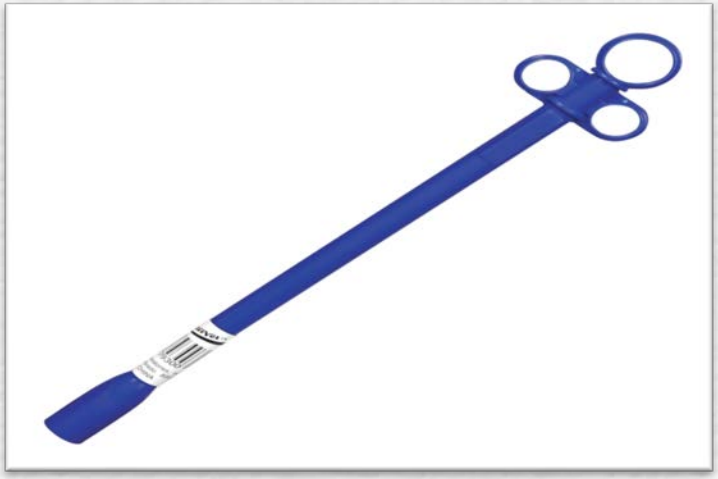
Cleanliness

- What and when to clean?
- Disinfection protocols

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Standard Disinfection Protocol

1) Rinse with warm water
2) Wash with soap(hot water) and scrub with brush
3) Rinse
4) Disinfect
4) Hang to dry
5) Final disinfectant prep before use on calves



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Two Sets of Supplies

- One for sick calves
- One for healthy calves

- Esophageal Feeder
- Balling Guns
- Bottles/Nipples

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Animal Sources

- Keep animals from different sources in separate pens if possible
- No nose to nose contact
- Older calves have lots of bugs

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Calf Diarrhea

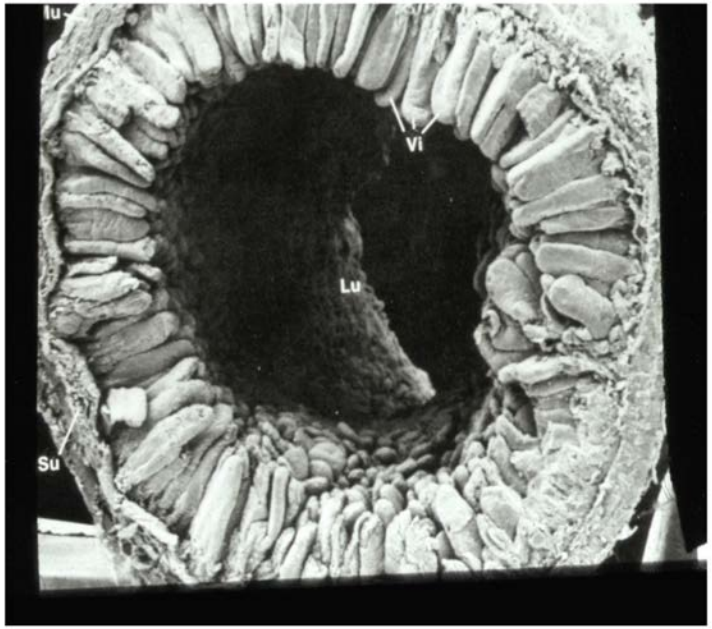
- Many causes in first 14 days of life
- Almost all caused by Fecal→oral route (eating/being exposed to feces from older calves)
- Viral
  - Corona virus
  - Rota virus
- Cryptosporidium parvum
- Bacterial
  - Salmonella
  - E. coli

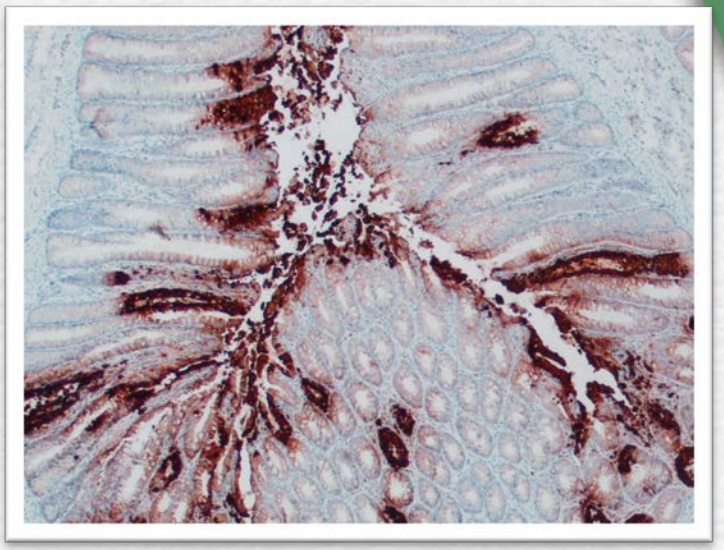
FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Viral Causes

- Few in… many out: Calves begin to spread 10^11 (=1,000,000,000,000) viruses per GRAM of feces 3 days into the infection
- VIRUSES→ antibiotics will not directly help this
- **Nothing in a vet truck can "treat" a viral scour**

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm





The ileum of a healthy normal calf

The ileum of a calf infected with a Corona Virus; changes in the mucosal surface, with villus atrophy, Leads to malabsorption and electrolyte imbalance, allowing infection of other viruses, bacterial, and protozoan

Pictures Take By: Donald C. Sockett DVM, PhD; University of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Madison Wisconsin

FOUNDATION LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Calf Diarrhea

- DO NOT keep scouring calves in the calving pen
- Start a new calving pen at least two pens away from the pen with the sick calves
- DO NOT allow people or animals to go between these pens

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Nasty bug

Salmonella

- Many different subtypes
  - 2% responsible for 80% of disease
  - dublin and heidelberg the worst
- Can survive for 4-5 years in water, soil, dust, moist areas out of direct sunlight
- S. dublin can survive in dry feces for over a year, however freezing at –4ºF kills 85% of Salmonella spp. in 2 days

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Wear Gloves!

- Calf Diarrhea is VERY contagious
- Several types can infect people

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Work Flow

- Separate people for sick and newborn calves
- Separate boots and coveralls
- Care for newborns before caring for sick

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

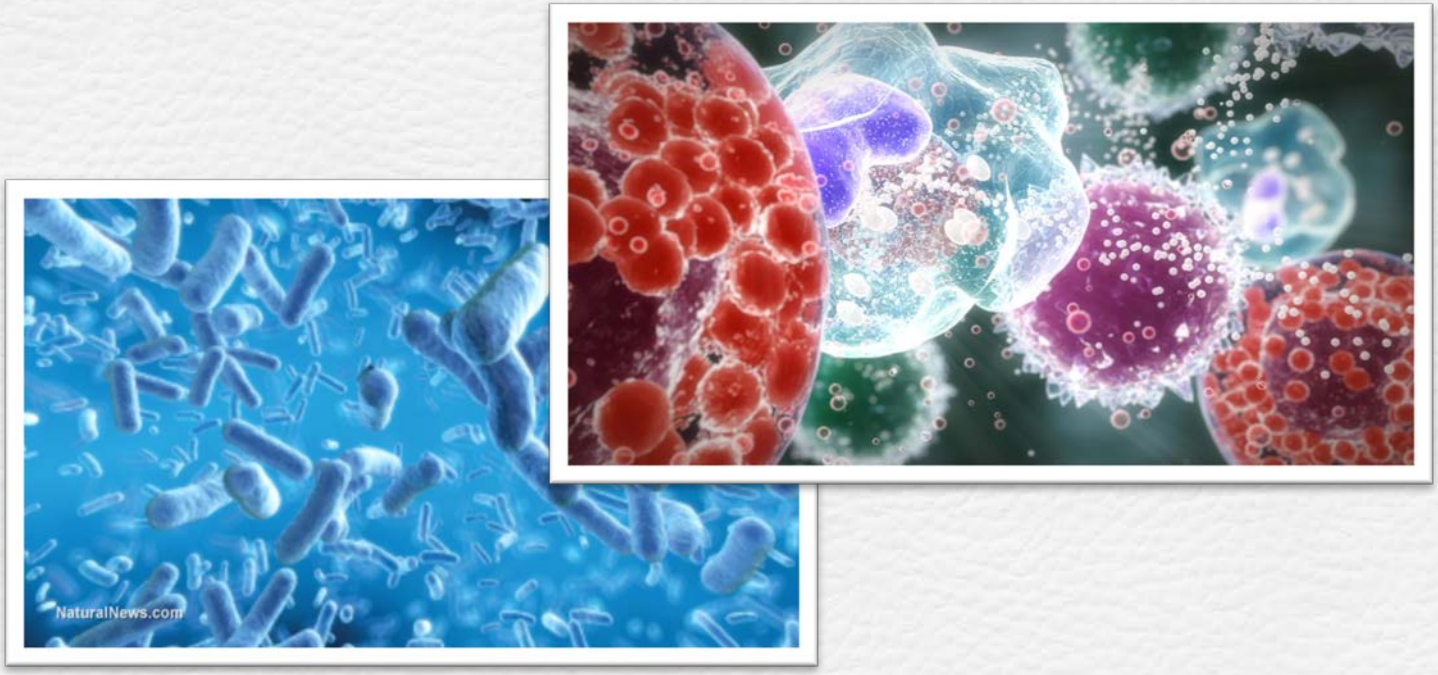
Calf Diarrhea

- Get your vet involved early
- Diagnostics on fecal samples
  - KNOW YOUR ENEMY
- Electrolytes
  - Oral
  - Use on every scouring calf, every day
  - Two quarts in warm water
    - Electrolyte balance, alkalizing agent, energy

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Health is a Balance

Increase Immunity
Reduce Pathogens



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Stress Suppresses Immune System

- Heat
- Over Crowding
- Flies

1 fly killed in April = 80,000 less in August!!!

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

2 main types of flies

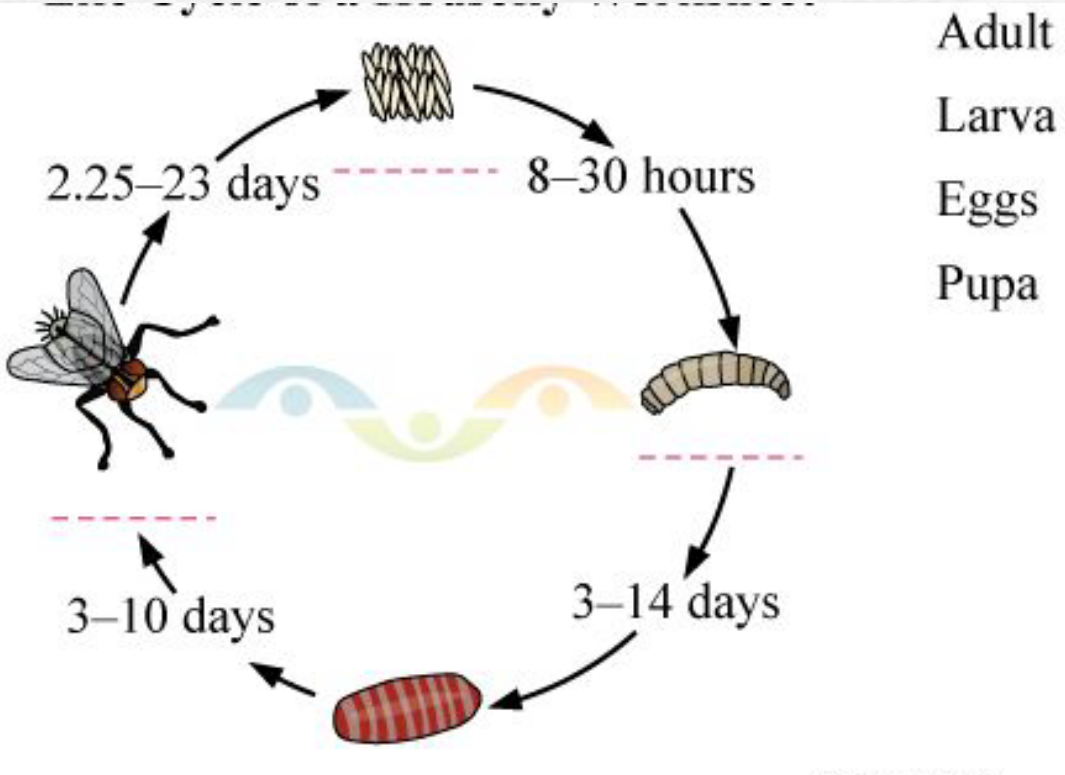
- Stable Fly
  "biting fly"
  28 days

- House Fly
  15 days

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Short life cycle = quick mutation 40-70% moisture



FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

FOUNDATION LIVESTOCK SERVICE

Our Vision	Our Mission
Our clients will maximize their potential.	Develop simple, repeatable systems for your farm that consistently produce excellent results.

Sara M. Barber, DVM

507-360-2774

sbarber@foundation.farm

Dane Bakker

712-470-9050

dbakker@foundation.farm

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE

Our Values

- **Honesty**: We provide honest feedback and communication.
- **Respect**: We respect your investment and the perspectives and opinions of others.
- **Integrity**: We will serve your farm to the best of our ability and follow through on our commitments.
- **Perseverance**: We will continue to pursue the goal even when it is difficult or there are delays in achieving success.

Controlled Beef Systems Support Package

What does poor health and inconsistent calf performance cost YOUR business???

We get to know you and understand your specific challenges and your operation.

With targeted information and questions you can take us inside your operation.

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Return on investment

- Improved animal health and
  calf performance
- Consistent performance
- Maximize facility efficiency
- Employee efficiency and morale
- Prevent issues vs time and frustration of dealing with problems

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm

Foundation Livestock Service

"We help beef producers who calve in controlled systems increase profitability by improving animal health and facility flow"

Thank you! Questions?

FOUNDATION
LIVESTOCK SERVICE
www.Foundation.farm