

Coccidiosis in Calves

- Coccidiosis is a common parasitic disease that affects cattle, and other animals.
- Bovine coccidiosis is seen most frequently in young cattle that are three weeks to twelve months of age.
- It is caused by microscopic protozoan organisms that inhabit the cells of the intestinal lining.

Common Clinical Signs

- The most common sign is diarrhea that contains blood.
- Animals often strain due to irritation of the lower bowel and rectum.
- Blood may appear in the manure after the second or third day of diarrhea.
- Dehydration, weight loss, depression, loss of appetite and occasionally death may also be observed.

DIAGNOSIS CAN BE MADE FROM A COMBINATION OF;

- HERD HISTORY
 - CLINICAL SIGNS
 - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE ANIMAL
 - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF THE MANURE.
- SO PLEASE CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR PROPER DIAGNOSIS OF THE DISEASE.

Some Ways to Minimize Infection

- Keep young, susceptible animals as clean and dry as possible.
- Prevent drinking water and feed from becoming contaminated with manure.
- Keep pens dry & supplied with ample dry bedding.
- Prevent overgrazing. Animals forced to graze down to the roots of plants may eat large numbers of parasites.
- Isolate & treat animals that are parasitized.
- Coccidiostats can be used as a tool for prevention, by mass medicating the food or water of yearling or feeder calves. Some examples of coccidiostats are sulfonamides, Rumensin, lasalocid and Decox.

Clinical disease due to Coccidiosis **DOES NOT** occur in the
FIRST THREE WEEKS
of life.

Treatment Options

- Amprolium & Toltrazuril are effective as TREATMENTS for Coccidiosis for both young calves and older ones.
- Amprolium is given orally daily for 5 days, as a treatment. It can also be given as a mass treatment over the course of 21 days.
- Toltrazuril is given as a single dose for treatment.

Toltrazuril is a very effective anticoccidial drug that can be given as a single oral dose – either as a liquid (Pr Baycox®) or in pill form.

Giving Toltrazuril to your calf AFTER 10 days of age will effectively protect that calf from getting Coccidiosis in the future.