

Milk Fever

By: Courtney Nygard

Milk fever is a disorder mainly of dairy cows close to calving. It is a metabolic disease caused by a low blood calcium level (hypocalcaemia). About 80% of cases occur within one day of calving because milk and colostrum production drain calcium from the blood, and some cows are unable to replace the calcium quickly enough.

Now knowing what milk fever is and how often it occurs, the next thing you need to know are the signs of milk fever starting, which are: initial excitement or agitation and a tremor in muscles of the head and limbs occurring.

Then the cows stagger and go down to a "sitting" position, often with a 'kink' in their necks and finally they lie flat on their side before circulatory collapse, coma and death.

A dry muzzle, staring eyes, cold legs and ears, constipation and drowsiness are seen after going down. The heart beat becomes weaker and faster. The body temperature falls below

normal, especially in cold, wet, windy weather.

The best way to control milk fever in your cattle is to stop it before it happens. Keeping an eye on all cows that are close to calving will help you control milk fever.



We're all Responsible

By: Giovanna Nave

“Avoiding Drug residue is vital to ensuring the safety of our milk”

Avoiding drug residues is a major part of responsible antibiotic use. This is vital to ensuring the quality and safety of our milk and maintaining the positive image our dairy products have among consumers, medical and dietary professionals. Involving veterinary professionals is vitally important to responsible drug use. Every dairy operation must establish and maintain a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.

As producers of both milk and meat, we have two major food-safety responsibilities. We must make sure

that the milk leaving our farms and the meat in cows we send to market are absolutely free of any drug residues. Dairy cattle have a higher incident of drug residues in their meat than beef cattle.

The Food and Drug Administration and the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments have developed a cooperative state federal program to ensure the sanitary quality of Grade A milk and milk products shipped interstate. Mandatory reporting to a National Milk Drug Residue Data

Base is required under that program.

Each year, there are drug residue tests on nearly four million samples of milk from farms, bulk milk pickup tankers, plants and stores. In the past, most testing was being done for beta-lactams. Now testing is done for sulfonamides, aminoglycosides, macrolides, tetracyclines, and fluoroquinolones which are more commonly used drugs in today's dairy industry.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 FFA mtg. 3rd Period SLE 	6	7 Staff Work Day	8 Staff Work Day	9
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