

## Youngstock Pneumonia

Although we can have issues with pneumonia throughout the year, we are approaching the season where we tend to see the largest outbreaks in our youngstock. I will briefly cover risks factors, prevention, and treatments.

### Risk Factors:

- Sick animals not being isolated
- Mixing different age groups of calves
- Exposure to drafts
- Overstocking
- Inadequate ventilation
- Extremes of temperatures
- Poor hygiene/drainage
- Restricted access to feed, inadequate amount of feed, rapid diet changes (eg. weaning)
- Too many stresses at once (eg, weaning, dehorning, pen change, etc)
- Poor colostrum management

### Prevention:

The above risk factors will vary between farms and each farm should analyze what their greatest risk factors are and how they can minimize them. Some things, such as climate, are out of our control but there are things that can be done to help mitigate the risks. So, what are some easy things that can be done?

- 1) **Ensure adequate timing between management changes/stresses**
  - a. Dehorn calves at least 2 weeks prior to weaning.
  - b. Change diets (if needed) at least 2 weeks before or after pen moves or other stressors
- 2) **Evaluation of colostrum program**
  - a. Monitor calf total proteins (look into colostrum management further if not achieving good results).
- 3) **Adequate Housing**
  - a. Determine proper stocking density
  - b. Minimize/reduce comingling of animals from different pens (ie all in/all out preferred)
  - c. Bed well and ensure proper drainage. It is pretty much impossible to properly bed an overcrowded pen.
  - d. Remove drafts
- 4) **Ventilation**
  - a. Evaluate your ventilation. Is it adequate or can it be improved?
  - b. It is difficult to properly ventilate an overcrowded pen/barn.

**5) Minimize pathogen shedding**

- a. Consider having isolation pens for sick calves
- b. Cull chronic pneumonia calves
- c. Create and follow a good vaccination protocol. There are many vaccines for pneumonia prevention available. These vaccines help reduce clinical disease and pathogen shedding.
- d. Reduce comingling of animals from different pens and big differences in ages.

**Treatments:**

Develop a protocol with your veterinarian that best suits your farm. Review it annually and adjust as needed.

**1) Antibiotics (some things to consider)**

- a. Frequency of administration
- b. Speed of lung penetration
- c. Route of administration
- d. Cost of treatment
- e. Evaluate treatment success
- f. Pathogen you are dealing with

**2) NSAIDs – Such as Metacam or Anafen**

**3) Steroids – Such as Predef**

**4) Vaccines**

- a. Proper vaccination can help reduce disease incidence, severity, and shedding.
- b. There are some vaccines that may be a benefit in the event of an outbreak.

This should give you a good starting point in assessing your current young stock management and help identify areas that will help minimize respiratory disease in your heifers. If you have any questions or don't know where to start, ask your herd veterinarian to review what you are doing and help come up with a plan.

Dr. Andrew deHaan

## Fall Beef Producer Meeting is Back!

We are happy to announce the return of our annual beef producer meeting! Save the date for November 17, 6:30-9pm. More details to follow in the November Newsletter.

## Upcoming stat holidays

The clinic will be closed Thanksgiving Weekend October 8-10th. As always, veterinarians will be available 24-7 for emergency service. The Saturday fee schedule will remain unchanged from non-stat weekends.

## Bovikal<sup>®</sup> \$40 Fall Gift Card Promo!

Receive a \$40 prepaid gift card when you purchase a case of Bovikal<sup>®</sup> between September 1 and October 31 2022. Each farm can redeem for up to 10 gift cards. \$400 in potential savings. Producers have until November 30, 2022 to redeem. Program information will be available at [bovikalc.ca](http://bovikalc.ca) starting September 1.

