

Immunoboost - a New Tool to Keep Calves Alive

by Russell Schnepfer, D.V.M

Immunoboost® is an immunomodulator that turns on the calf's own immune system and does it so effectively that Immunoboost® is being used as a treatment as well as to prevent disease. It is licensed for use in baby calves to prevent *K99 E.coli* scours. Interferon is produced by the calf's own immune system. This is the same principal I use by vaccinating with a modified live virus vaccine. But Immunoboost® does it much faster and better. The immune system starts producing interferon within two hours of administration.

Calves vaccinated with Immunoboost® at day one were challenged with a severe *E. coli* and 90% survived while the controls died.

One of my calf raisers says she can convert a "dishrag" calf to standing in a few hours. We have a man with a beef cow herd that had severe diarrhea in the nursing calves. He gave 20 calves, between 4 and 14 days of age, an injection of Immunoboost®, and a few of the calves were laying out flat. The next day all calves were up nursing and the diarrhea was over. One calf had a relapse a week later. He repeated the 1 ml dose of Immunoboost® and now that calf is also doing well. I had diagnosed his calves' diarrhea as a combination of *E.coli* and *Cryptosporidiosis*. Now he is injecting the

newborn calves as they are born and successfully preventing the diarrhea. I do not know if Immunoboost® has any effect on Crypto, I do not see how it could, or if the Immunoboost® killed off the *E. coli* and then the calves were able to handle the Crypto. A Veterinarian near Winnipeg, Manitoba has a client that swears he treated Coccidiosis successfully with Immunoboost®.

Warts dry up and disappear two weeks after injecting with Immunoboost®. The list goes on and on as to what this product will supposedly do. Every time we have something new it is supposed to treat everything, and then after it has been out for awhile we find where the product really fits. We know we have a promising tool and now we are working at finding the situations that benefit the most.

Immunoboost® is cleared for use in calves under the age of 5 days for the prevention of *K99 E. coli*. Any other use is extra label and must be prescribed by a Veterinarian.

Immunoboost K was marketed a few years ago. But the new Immunoboost® is a new product produced by a patented process. Immunoboost K had mineral oil droplets in it and the new Immunoboost® uses a different, less reactive and more effective base.