

ImmunoBoost Makes Raising Calves More Fun

By Russ Schnepfer, D.V.M.

ImmunoBoost has made the beef cow - calf operation's baby calf scours manageable. Most of them are giving one ml of ImmunoBoost subcutaneously in the calf's neck shortly after birth. This has made a dramatic impact on first week scours. Calves not receiving an injection on day of birth, but scour later, are injected at first signs of scours. By the next day the scours are usually gone. With any treatment, if the calf has been squirting for three days and has no villi left in its gut, few treatments are going to help. (I recommend a cork for those.) In a calf that was injected with ImmunoBoost initially and then scours a week later, we repeat the one ml and it is usually effective. I think the effect of the ImmunoBoost stimulated interferon lasts about seven days.

Many heifer and dairy-beef calf ranchers are injecting the ImmunoBoost on day one and finding excellent success at getting the calf off to a good start. Some of these ranches were having no success with antibiotics, and now the ImmunoBoost is working where the antibiotics failed. There is one large calf ranch that does not have many scour problems the first few days, but the calves scour at five to seven days, so he waits until the first sign of scours in the group and then injects the ImmunoBoost. He says it puts a sudden stop to the scours.

Vealers are finding benefits, using ImmunoBoost day one into the barn, for the scours. We find using the ImmunoBoost for treatment on poor doing calves, which have not

responded to a series of antibiotics for some respiratory problems, is successful in approximately seven out of ten calves.

ImmunoBoost is being used alone for treatments. However, I feel your success rate will be higher, especially if treating a bacterial infection, if standard treatments are used simultaneously.

Can ImmunoBoost replace other products in the calf program? Yes, but I am not yet comfortable at making the recommendations. The ImmunoBoost causes the calf to produce interferon and that is one main reason for using modified live virus vaccines. So I do not have a problem with substituting ImmunoBoost for the day one modified live virus vaccines, but I do not know how much farther to go. I have one person that is doing nothing but inject ImmunoBoost once a week to his calves - but it is too early to tell if this works. I doubt that it would protect against BVD if he has a PI in the barn.

Bull calves are bringing \$2/pound and heifers are up to \$4/pound, making many raisers reluctant to take anything out of their programs. We do have experimenters at work however, and I will let you know their results.

ImmunoBoost has proven to be an excellent weapon in our arsenal against disease.