

A calf's maintenance water requirements are 100ml/kg body weight/day and if they become dehydrated stomach tubing may be necessary to give them the amount over and above maintenance requirements.

# Getting feeding levels right can avert scours

From a health perspective the most common calf disease is scours.

Nutritional scours is the main type and it can be caused by a change in feed, for example too much, too little or a sudden change in feeding levels.

Temperature, cold weather and poor quality milk powder that does not clot in the stomach can also cause scours. Other factors can complicate the problem and stress is a big factor.

Infectious scours is the other form of scours and it is predominantly caused by rota-virus (50%) and less so by cryptosporidium (20%).

Scours cause damage to the gut lining, which results in a loss of protection, fluids and protein. Pickering says the calves never grow as well following infectious scours so prevention is the cure.

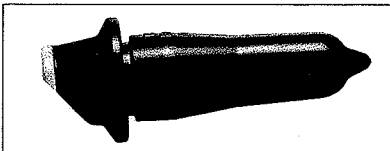
The Rotavec K99 vaccination used in dairy cows is effective but only if the calves get colostrum from those cows.

Scours result in dehydration and different levels of dehydration can occur, 5% is mild, 8% moderate, 10% severe and 14% dehydration results in shock and death of the calf.

"A good test of dehydration is to lift the skin behind the ear on the neck and the rate the skin returns to normal is a telling sign.

"Severe dehydration is characterised by the skin returning very slowly to normal and in moderate dehydration it returns slowly. Mild dehydration can be identified by mild depression, the presence of a rough coat and a scouring and dirty tail," says Pickering.

Calves maintenance water requirements are 100ml/kg body weight. If a 40kg calf is mildly dehydrated (5%) then they require an extra 2 litres/day to return to normal (5% x 40kg = 2). This can be given to them with a stomach tube. Electrolytes can be added to milk to treat calf scours. Electrolyte products provide energy and they absorb bugs and toxins in the gut.



## New teat for peachy calves

Skellerup have launched new products in the Peach Teat range for this calving season.

A new unthreaded Pull-Through Black Peach Teat is specifically designed for an easy fit into 19-22mm hole feeders. The new teat is manufactured with a tapered barrel and an angled back end to ensure it fits into feeders with a narrow moat.

The existing Threaded Peach Teat is still available in pink and black for fitting into Skellerup Peach Feeders and is now compatible with Stallion feeders with the introduction of the new Stallion Peach Cap.

This season the Skellerup Peach Teat product range is available in bags of ten and the original box of 50. Skellerup are also packaging, in bags of ten, the Skellerup Long Self Seal Calf Teat in the non-Peach range.

Available from your rural merchant.

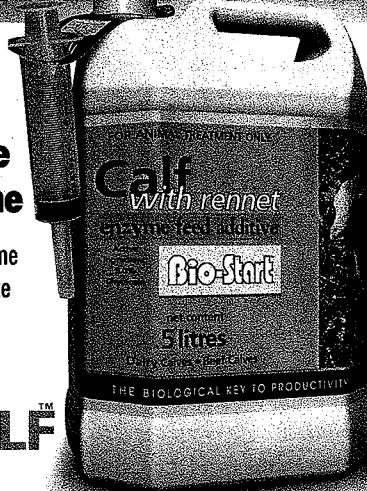
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