

## **PREVENTING, DIAGNOSING AND TREATING CALFHOOD DISEASES**

**Always work with the farm veterinarian when diagnosing and treating calfhood diseases. He/she will advise you regarding:**

- ◆ **threshold of symptoms that indicate treatment is needed**
- ◆ **selection of the drug most likely to succeed in treatment**
- ◆ **prescribed dose of the drug to achieve minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC)**
- ◆ **prescribed duration of the treatment most likely to restore health and prevent relapses**

### **1. Managing scours (diarrhea):**

- increasing resistance through good colostrum management and adequate nutrition
- reducing pathogen exposure (equipment sanitation, housing, ventilation)
- reducing impact of parasite infections by feeding a coccidiostat
- matching fluid intake with fluid losses
- providing electrolytes as needed
- observing carefully and regularly for secondary diseases

### **2. Managing respiratory illnesses**

- increasing resistance through good colostrum management and adequate nutrition
- reducing pathogen exposure (housing, ventilation)

- early diagnosis and treatment (including BVD-PI screening, bulk tank sampling for mycoplasma as needed)

### **3. Managing infected navels and hernias**

- increasing resistance through good colostrum management and adequate nutrition
- reducing pathogen exposure (clean calving conditions, navel dipping)
- early diagnosis and treatment

### **4. Managing external health problems such as lice, ringworm, flies, fly maggots, pink eye**

- reduce exposure through good environmental sanitation
- seasonal patterns permit seasonal treatment
- early diagnosis allows treatment of a few infected animals rather than all the heifers housed together

See also the companion resource, *Managing Calfhood Diseases: HAACP Application* at [www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com) in the Calf Facts section.