

Newsletter December 2021



Winter Calf Management

Eoghan McAlonan



Once temperatures drop below a calf's lower critical temperature (about 10°C up to 4 weeks old), an increasing amount of energy will be used to maintain body temperature. This will compromise growth rates and immunity. Here's how to help your calves deal with the colder weather:

- Increasing milk powder concentration to increase energy uptake from milk, better still, provide an extra (third) milk feed per day.
- Providing more straw so calves can nest. When calves are sat down, their legs should not be visible through the straw. Rationing straw is a false economy with costs of a pneumonia outbreak outweighing savings on using less straw.
- Investing in calf jackets - if jackets are limited prioritise the youngest calves. The lower critical temperature drops in draughty or wet environments. Keep draughts out at calf level by sheeting gates or providing wind barriers like big straw bales in bigger pens. Keep moisture levels down by providing water at the front of pens, having excellent drainage and washing buckets etc in a different building.
- Keep calf numbers per pen as low as possible. When group size gets to above 12-14 pneumonia is a bigger risk.

It's sometimes tempting to close off ventilation in colder weather. This can make things worse. Maintain ventilation (inlets/outlets/fans) but use straw and coats to keep calves warm.



Office Opening Hours Christmas & New Year 2021

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th)	OPEN until 12pm
Christmas Day (Saturday 25th)	Closed
Boxing Day (Sunday 26th)	Closed
Bank Holiday (Monday 27th)	Closed
Bank Holiday (Tuesday 28th)	Closed
New Years Day (Saturday 1st Jan)	Closed
Bank Holiday (Monday 3rd Jan)	Closed

Please stock up on medicines. Medicines can be collected from the offices during these dates by appointment, but **a fee will be charged**.



Medicines Course

Our Medicines Course will take place on **16th February at 2pm**. Located at the Bridgwater office. Please contact the office for a place in the course.

Medicine Poisoning

Be aware that most medicines for your livestock can be poisonous to your pets. Medicines like Chloromed, which is top-dressed and therefore easy for a dog to get access to, is a particular concern - take care.

Trodax Alternative

We can source an alternative for Trodax, but it is in import. Therefore call us if you are interested and we can put an order together.

COVID-19

If you have a positive lateral flow or PCR test within 10 days and have a visit booked, please contact the office to discuss the visit. We must reduce the spread of this disease.

Have a very Merry Christmas from the FarmVets team

