

Miracle of Birth Center

Calving Protocol

Upon arrival and identification of the pregnant cows, a desired calving date is determined based on normal term due dates supplied by the owner. The first cow will have been induced prior to arrival for expected birth the first day of the fair. Make a list on the "Induction Schedule Form" and post it on the bulletin board. Administer Inforce 3 intranasal vaccine to all cows on arrival. Hang a treatment record with clipboard folder on the pen for each cow. Cow record and calf record should be on the same clipboard.

1. Normal induction is 20cc Dexamethasone injection SQ at 8am with expected delivery between 24-36hrs or in some cases, earlier. The latest experienced has been 48 hours but most have occurred from 2pm to 9pm (around 4pm being most common.)
2. At 8 am of the expected delivery day, expectant cows are examined vaginally and rectally by a co-chair veterinarian and rotation student(s) in order to help determine expected delivery time, normalcy of presentation, and general educational experience for the rotation students. Blood is drawn and run for CA/P.
3. When it is confirmed that the cow is in the process of delivery, notify the camera crew, close off the area on the south side of the center pen, and move the delivery equipment next to the round pen door. Identify a rotation student, a co-chair and a volunteer veterinarian to attend the birth and offer commentary to the public.
4. A vaginal exam is usually completed after the amnionic sac has ruptured and two feet are observed. Additional assistance may be offered if the cow has been in active labor for a half hour without progress. (The tendency of most volunteer veterinarians is to intervene too quickly. Guidance from one of the co-chairs is encouraged to determine the need for assistance.)
5. OB chains are attached to both ankles with a double loop once both feet and nose are showing. Veterinarians are encouraged to allow the senior rotation students to participate in the delivery as much as possible.
6. The fetal extractor (calf jack) will only be used in very difficult deliveries under the direction of one of the co-chairs.
7. Immediately after the calf is delivered, clear the airway, tickle the nostrils with straw and pump the chest if necessary. If the calf does not breath, administer 50 cc of Sodium Bicarbonate IV and attempt to resuscitate using the McCulloch medical aspirator/resuscitator.
8. Dip the navel with 7% iodine. Allow the cow to lick the calf and allow the calf to stand on its own
9. Always complete a final vaginal exam after the delivery to ensure that there are no twins or vaginal tears present.
10. As soon as calf has been dried by licking, it is given Inforce 3 and Epic Newborn Calf Supplement.

11. First milking is done by FFA students as soon as practical and colostrum tested with the colostrometer. Serum proteins are determined the next day on the calf blood. All calves receive a minimum of 2 quarts of colostrum from the dam or more if the calf takes it. Nursing bottle is preferred unless calf is reluctant to suck after 4 hours, then the esophageal tube is used (very carefully and only by experienced personnel). A second bottle of colostrum is given at chore time so that a calf gets a total of 4 quarts within the first 24 hours. Save an extra bottle of quality colostrum in the refrigerator in the office.
12. Offer 2 cups YMCP in warm water to all cows immediately after delivery.
13. Administer one Bovikal[®] (Ca/P) boluses p.o. to all fresh cows at the treatment session following freshening.
14. Cows and newborn calves are all given a complete physical each morning between 7-9am by the students and attending veterinarian
15. Any cow designated as having a retained placenta (defined as retention after 24hrs) is given Excede SQ in the ear according to label directions on day of diagnosis. (This is an extra-label use of Excede unless the cow has a fever and includes a diagnosis of "metritis" but it is part of the Haubenschild protocol.) Cut off membranes?
16. Dam is blood tested for CA/P routinely after calving and again the next day and necessity of supplementation determined by the staff veterinarian. A single BoviCalc bolus is administered if minerals are low. CA/P blood test is done morning and evening until normal levels are reached.
17. Cows and calves are given a probiotic paste orally according to label directions every morning that they are at the fair.
18. Refer to the Haubenschild Farm Treatment Protocol for further guidance on response to abnormal findings.
19. Treatments other than the routine protocols listed will be only authorized and administered by one of the co-chair veterinarians.

TREATMENTS OTHER THAN THE ROUTINE LISTED ABOVE ARE ADMINISTERED AS NECESSARY AS DETERMINED BY THE CO-CHAIR VETERINARIANS.