Fecal Results

A higher percentage of your calves (55%) had Cryptosporidium compared with all calves in the study (43%). A lower percentage of your calves had Giardia (21%) compared with all calves (30%).

Calf Disease

You reported a total of 26% of your calves experienced at least one disease event before weaning compared with 34% of all calves in the study. A higher percentage of your calves (6%) died compared with all calves (5%). A lower percentage of your calves (6%) experienced digestive problems, such as scours compared with all calves (19%). A higher percentage of your calves (19%) experienced respiratory problems, such as pneumonia compared with all calves (11%).

Overall Summary

Thank you for participating in the USDA-NAHMS Dairy 2014 Calf Study. This report shows where your dairy ranks for various aspects of calf management in comparison with other dairies in the study. The information below provides an overall summary of colostrum quality, passive transfer status, and average daily gain, which are important and reliable indicators of preweaned dairy heifer health.
Colostrum and Feeding Management

Your dairy met the goal of providing calves colostrum with at least 50 g/L of IgG. On average, your calves had excellent serum IgG levels. Furthermore, your dairy met the current recommendation of providing colostrum within the first 4 hours of birth. Your dairy met the recommendation of providing calves with 6-8 quarts of colostrum within the first 24 hours following birth.

To meet their energy and protein requirements, calves rely on a liquid diet until their rumen develops. Your primary liquid feed type was milk. The average total amount of liquid diet fed daily to each calf on your operation was 8.0 quarts, which is greater than the average of 6.2 quarts for all operations that fed milk.

Weaning

Your dairy weans calves that are, on average, younger than the average age of all calves (66 days) when weaned. It is recommended that calves should not be weaned until they are consuming at least 1.5-2.0 lb of starter daily for 2-3 days. Most calves in the study were weaned based on their age. Your primary weaning criteria was age.

Calf Growth

The average birth weight of your calves was 95 pounds, which was equal to the average of all calves in the study (94 lb). Your calves’ average weaning weight was 197 pounds, which was equal to the average of all calves (196 lb). In the preweaning growth chart below, the black dots represent recorded weights of your individual calves through the preweaning period. The solid black line is the projected growth curve for all of your enrolled calves. The percentiles were created based on the projected growth curves of all Holstein calves enrolled in the study.

Weaning Criteria for All Calves

- Starter Intake: 83%
- Age: 17%
- Lack of Space: 9%
- Other: 9%

Average Age at Weaning:

- Average of all calves in study: 66 days
- Average of your calves: 44 days

Average Birth and Weaning Weights

- Birth Weight: 95 lb
- Weaning Weight: 197 lb