



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Winter 2019



A Tribute to Gran

As some of you know Dr. Lesley's maternal grandmother Kathleen Bryant Jones passed away unexpectedly last week at the age of 82. Gran was an amazing lady! She was a mother of five children and a wife to her late husband Leroy Jones for 53 years. Gran was a very active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church. She was the book keeper for Berk Mar Farm, their family farm in Buckingham County, and she did not use a computer for the accounting. Gran was always 30 minutes early for everything and encouraged exercise and hard work for all of us. She always wrote us sweet notes, even when paying her bill. They just don't make them like Gran anymore! We will all miss her greatly. Please keep Dr. Lesley and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy New Year – may this be the one without the rain, and the mud, and the flies, and the.....

We'd like to share some changes LVS, starting with the establishment of an After Hours Answering Service. With one call to the office you'll speak to a live person during weekends and after our office is closed. If a life threatening issue is occurring with your animal, a message will be relayed immediately to the Veterinarian on call; they will call you back as soon as they are able to. This gets your call answered as soon you place it, and also enables the Vet to manage their time during off hours the best way possible. Any calls placed that are not an Emergency will have a message relayed to the office the next business day by 8AM.

Our Licensed Vet Technician, Karen, has taken a full-time position closer to her family farm. Her expertise and thoroughness will be missed, but we wish her all the best!

Friendly reminder – our finance charges kick in after 60 days of non-payment at 15%. If you are having trouble paying your account, we would appreciate a call to let us know.

FAQ'S on Selenium Deficiency



What are signs my animals may be deficient in selenium?

- Muscle degeneration (white muscle disease) – even causing death if heart muscle is affected
- Reproductive failure/ retained placentas
- Immune suppression

How can my animals be deficient in selenium when I feed a mineral high in selenium?

- Our Virginia soils are high in iron and molybdenum, which antagonize copper and selenium
- Land fertilized with biosolids are especially high in iron and trace mineral supplementation is very important

When is the right time to supplement selenium by injection?

- Four – six weeks pre-partum using low stress handling
- Newborns in the first few days of life
- Whenever treating an ill animal

How can we prove how deficient our farm/animals are in selenium?

- Forage samples can be submitted
- Soil samples can be submitted
- Liver samples for selenium and copper can be taken from a deceased animal
- Liver biopsies and/or blood can be taken from live animals for trace mineral testing

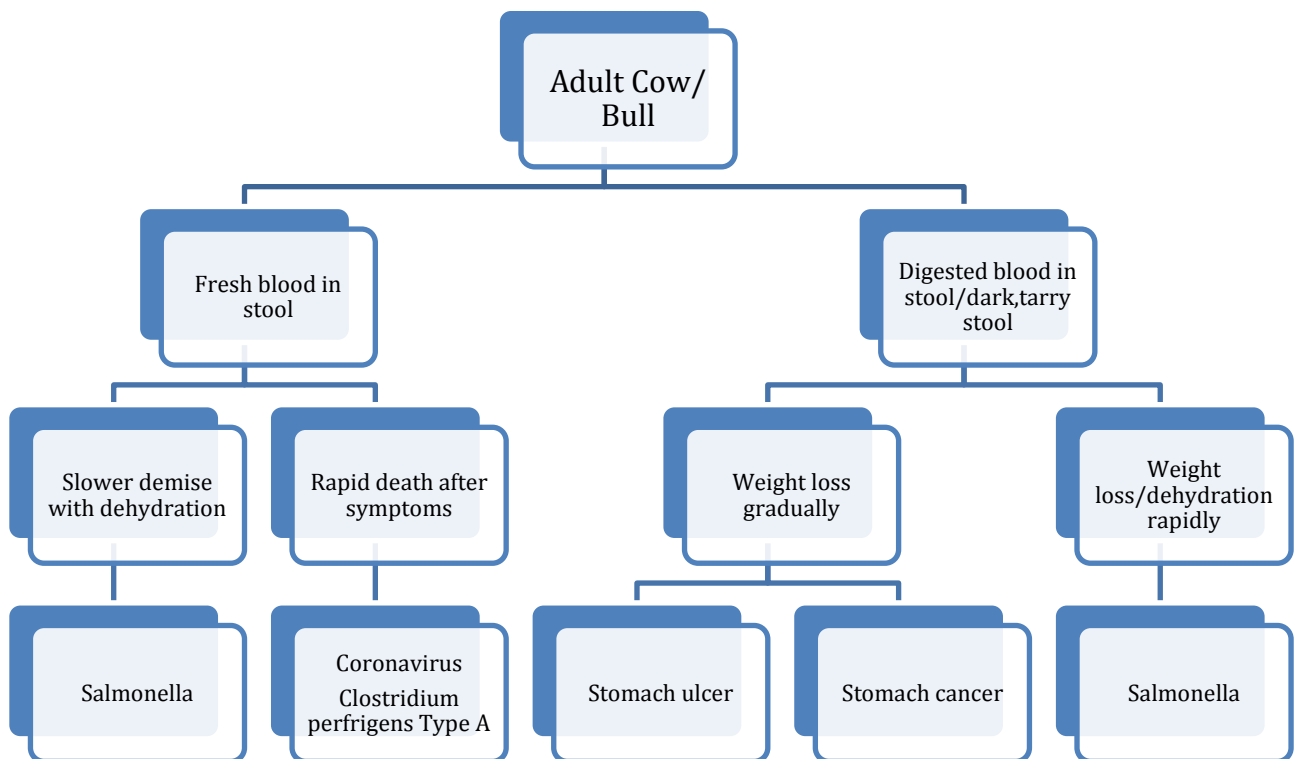
What products are available to provide additional selenium to our animals?

- Multi Min (Selenium, copper, manganese and zinc); injection burns (!) – should not be given to sheep
- BoSe (Selenium, Vitamin E); injection – good for sheep, goats and calves
- MuSe (Selenium, Vitamin E); injection – good for cows only – too concentrated for small ruminants

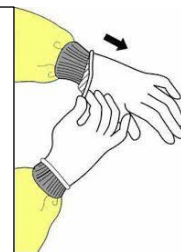


QUICK GUIDE FOR BLOOD IN STOOL OF ADULTS AND CALVES

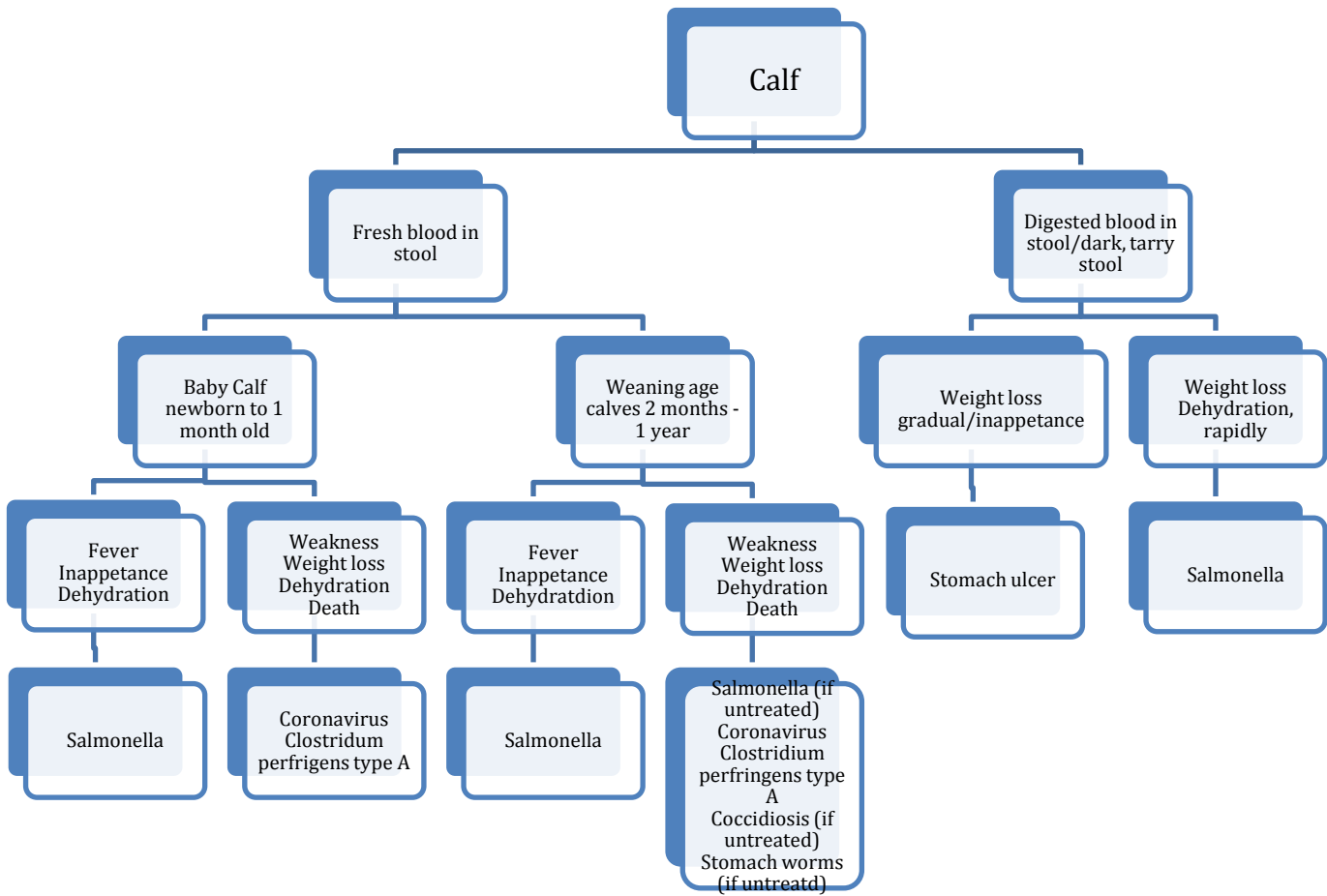
This is simply a reference guide for blood in the stool. It's very important if you have animals with blood in the stool to work with your veterinarian to determine the cause, if possible. There are many lab tests available to help determine the cause of the blood. Typically, a stool sample is collected and sent off to a state lab for a culture, fecal egg count and a virus screen. If an animal dies and is fresh, we typically recommend a necropsy (post-mortem exam). The results of these tests can help us recommend treatment and prevention strategies for your remaining cattle.



Please be sure to wear gloves and protective clothing to protect yourself from any zoonotic diseases, such as Salmonella. Remember to tell your doctor you were exposed to sick calves and/or cows if you develop symptoms of GI illness.



Quick Guide for Blood in Stool for Adults and Calves, (cont'd)



How to:

Administer fluids under the skin of scouring calves

- 1) Acquire fluids bags and IV sets from your veterinarian.
- 2) Assess calf's level of dehydration – if 5-8% dehydrated (skin tent, weak) subcutaneous fluids will help
- 3) Place IV set in fluid bag.
- 4) Place a large bore (16 gauge x 1 inch needle) under calf's skin in the neck area.
- 5) Turn IV set on
- 6) Move needle to a new location on other side of neck once the area fills to capacity with fluid. (250-500mls)
- 7) Administer 500-1000ml's of fluid



Upcoming Meeting/Education Opportunities:

Artificial Insemination Clinic on January 28th, Monday – At LVS office with limited availability - \$15 includes Pizza dinner and drinks. Starts at 6PM, please call 540-967-2974 to reserve your space by January 18th

CVCA Annual Meeting on January 24th, Thursday at Gordonsville Fire Hall at 5PM w/ dinner. RSVP at 540-672-1361

Discussion group on incorporating Longrange in your herdwork for upcoming Spring on February 13, Wednesday with BI. Call the office for details.

Look for upcoming podcasts with a Small Ruminant focus in March!