

Discussion

Veterinarians responsible for health programs on calf ranches, veal operations or who work with dairy clients that can not ensure adequate colostrum immunoglobulin levels in calves may need to consider approaches which incorporate one or more of the following components:

1. Stimulating both cellular and humoral immunity with appropriate vaccines. Potential for benefit is especially high in colostrum deprived calves, but evidence also suggests a health benefit for colostrum-fed calves.¹⁴
2. Monitoring health programs and troubleshooting epizootics with appropriate diagnostic tests can clarify specific causes of complex problems.
3. There is benefit to using prophylactic medication in calf populations during high risk exposure to pathogens when these risks can not be controlled.
4. Selection of therapeutic antimicrobials varies even when the same pathogen is identified during two similar epizootics. Diagnostic testing provides valuable supplemental information to clinical observations.

Summary

Calf health management programs differ between calf ranches and dairy farms because of differences in levels of colostrum immunoglobulin and the risk of pathogen exposure. Veterinarians can modify their health programs to adjust for these differences although re-

sults are less predicible when there is less control of colostrum feeding and pathogen exposure. Frequent and routine clinical observations along with diagnostic laboratory testing is essential for the practitioner to monitor calf health programs and adjust for epizootics when these occur under either system.

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Abstract

Invasive malignant fibrous histiocytoma in a cow

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An invasive malignant fibrous histiocytoma associated with the left cornual process, and causing lysis of the frontal bone, was diagnosed in a cow. The mass compressed the left cerebral hemisphere focally and extended into the frontal sinus and ethmoid and nasal turbinates. It was composed of pleomorphic to

spindle-shaped cells with ultra-structural evidence of fibroblastic, myofibroblastic, and fibrohistiocytic differentiation. Trauma and chronic inflammation may be predisposing factors for development of neoplasia in cattle.