



Conference attendees check out the heifer barn, built in 2010, at Synergy Dairy in Pulaski, Wisconsin.

Photo by PD Editor Emily Caldwell.

DCHA tours and on-farm presentations provide the latest in calf raising

Progressive Dairyman Editor Emily Caldwell

As part of a new format for the annual Dairy Calf & Heifer Association Conference, which had a theme this year of “Be A Driver of Change,” conference organizers had a renewed focus on hands-on learning. The conference offered two afternoons of bus tours, with additional presentations at each of the four stops. Read on for some key takeaways from the tours.

Calf Source, a division of Milk Source, in De Pere, Wisconsin, has the capacity to raise 10,000 calves. The operation recently invested more than \$2 million in facility and system upgrades, including a scanning system to ID and record calves upon arrival. Records are kept in DairyComp, and calves are weighed and monitored by groups before they’re moved to Heifer Source in Kansas.

Safety Director Juan Quezada gave attendees a glimpse of the protocols in place for employees with the Milk Source company. Every employee must receive certification and receive regular safety training.

“We also have a ‘See It, Stop It’ pledge in place,” Quezada said. “Employees are required to report an incident as soon as they see it. They can’t wait four or six weeks.”

Engineer and veterinarian Ryan Leiterman of Crystal Creek gave attendees some points to consider when building or retrofitting calf facilities. He urged growers to focus on the ventilation at the bottom four feet of the barn – where the calves breathe. When it comes to curtain sidewalls, Leiterman says the best option is a curtain that rolls up from the bottom and rolls down from the top to meet in the middle. Conversely, the cheapest and least desirable curtain is one that opens from the top down.

He advises that producers stick to lower solid (concrete) sidewalls, no higher than two feet, with the ideal size being 12 to 18 inches.

The tour stop at Calf Source also included a presentation on sanitation

from Dr. Skip Olsen of Milk Products and tips on disease prevention from Dr. Kelly Peters of Countryside Vets.

The second stop of the day featured Green Valley Dairy in Krakow, Wisconsin. The started calf facility, which can house 1,640 calves, utilizes three-sided buildings with slatted floors over a 10-foot pit. Manager Paul Jacobs says the pit was purposely overbuilt to ensure environmental compliance.

Chris Horton of Digi-Star showcased NIR (Near Infra-Red) technology with the company’s Moisture Tracker device. While the new technology allows producers to react to changes in dry matter and adjust the ration accordingly, Horton pointed out several items to keep in mind when using the device.

First, measure the materials to be fed that day. The sample being pulled should be representative of the whole load to be fed, so try to pull from different places of the bunkface. Scan about 20 spots in the material, making sure to move the device around the pile and take measurements from the both the bottom and the top of the pile.

Horton says it should take about one minute to get 20 scans on the device. The information is stored on a jump drive and downloadable into an Excel spreadsheet.

Similar devices can range from \$5,000 to \$40,000, but Digi-Star’s tracker typically retails for about \$7,000, Horton said.

“These devices aren’t designed to replace lab analysis,” he said. “These supplement a lab and can get you immediate, proactive data to be able to make decisions.”

This tour stop also included presentations on manure as a potential revenue stream with Peter Westra of Hull Coop Association and how to perform a TMR Audit with Kristy Pagel of Diamond V.

A second afternoon of tours had attendees tour Genex Cooperative facilities in Shawano, Wisconsin.

Genex employees showcased bull collection facilities, described how the semen is tested and processed and opened up their new distribution site.

The fourth tour stop of the conference featured Synergy Dairy in Pulaski, Wisconsin. A new calf facility was built in 2010, which enabled the Olson and Jauquet families to bring their heifers back home after their custom grower decided to start dairying again. The operation has a focus on high-quality genetics and markets embryos abroad, including Italy, China and Japan.

On-farm presentations included deciding factors on breeding from David Schroeffer of Alta Genetics and the proper timeline of feeding through six months from Dan Schnell of United Cooperative.

Dr. Don Sockett of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory also shared his frank thoughts on recent research of 2X vs. 3X feeding.

“It was innately obvious to every [human] mother in our facility that calves would do better with being fed more often,” Sockett said.

His research found that the third feeding didn’t add a lot of extra labor but all of the calves on 3X feeding were taller with a bigger frame size.

“They were friskier, healthier, better calves,” Sockett said.

A surprising discovery in the research was how much calf-to-calf variability exists in starter grain intake. His team found intake “very inconsistent” day-to-day in both the 2X and 3X groups.

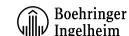
When asked about future research for his team, Sockett pointed to the field of epigenetics and studying long-term effects as being an exciting time for the dairy industry.

“It’s a whole new field of genetics,” he said. **PD**

Find more information about the Dairy Calf & Heifer Association, including social media links to conference coverage, online at www.calfandheifer.org.

NADA 55-030, Approved by FDA

Polyflex®



Ampicillin for Injectable Suspension, Veterinary

Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Description: Polyflex® (ampicillin for injectable suspension, veterinary) is a broad-spectrum penicillin which has bactericidal activity against a wide range of common Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.

Each 25 g vial contains 25 g ampicillin activity as ampicillin trihydrate, 90 mg methylparaben (as preservative), 10 mg propylparaben (as preservative), 200 mg lecithin, 500 mg povidone, 200 mg sodium chloride, 600 mg sodium citrate anhydrous.

Each 10 g vial contains 10 g ampicillin activity as ampicillin trihydrate, 36 mg methylparaben (as preservative), 4 mg propylparaben (as preservative), 80 mg lecithin, 200 mg povidone, 80 mg sodium chloride, 240 mg sodium citrate anhydrous.

Indications: Polyflex has proved effective in the treatment of many infections previously beyond the spectrum of penicillin therapy. This drug is particularly indicated in the treatment of the following infections caused by susceptible strains of organisms:

Dogs and Cats — Respiratory Tract Infections: Upper respiratory infections, tonsillitis and bronchopneumonia due to hemolytic streptococci, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis* and *Pasteurella* spp.

Urinary Tract Infections due to *Proteus mirabilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus* spp., hemolytic streptococci and *Enterococcus* spp.

Gastrointestinal Infections due to *Enterococcus* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp. and *Escherichia coli*.

Skin, Soft Tissue and Post-Surgical Infections: Abscesses, pustular dermatitis, cellulitis and infections of the anal gland, due to *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, hemolytic streptococci, *Staphylococcus* spp. and *Pasteurella* spp.

Cattle and Calves Including Non-Ruminating (Veal Calves) — Respiratory Tract Infections:

Bacterial pneumonia (shipping fever, calf pneumonia and bovine pneumonia) caused by *Aerobacter* spp., *Klebsiella* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., *Streptococcus* spp., *Pasteurella multocida* and *E. coli* susceptible to ampicillin trihydrate.

Dosage: The dosage of Polyflex will vary according to the animal being treated, the severity of the infection and the animal’s response.

Dogs and Cats — The recommended dose for dogs or cats is 3 mg/lb of body weight administered twice daily by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection.

Cattle and Calves Including Non-Ruminating (Veal Calves) — From 2 mg to 5 mg/lb of body weight

once daily by intramuscular injection. Do not treat for more than 7 days.

In all species, 3 days’ treatment is usually adequate, but treatment should be continued for 48 to 72 hours after the animal has become afebrile or asymptomatic.

Directions for Use: The multi-dose dry-filled vials should be reconstituted to the desired concentration by adding the required amount of Sterile Water for Injection, USP, according to label directions. **SHAKE WELL.**

After reconstitution, this product is stable for 3 months under refrigeration and will be white to pale yellow in color.

At the time of reconstitution, the vial should be dated and the concentration noted on the label.

Contraindications: A history of allergic reactions to penicillin, cephalosporins or their analogues should be considered a contraindication for the use of this agent.

Residue Warnings: Do not treat cattle for more than 7 days. Milk from treated cows must not be used for food during treatment, and for 48 hours (4 milkings) after the last treatment. Cattle must not be slaughtered for food during treatment, and for 144 hours (6 days) after the last treatment.

Precautions: Because it is a derivative of 6-aminopenicillanic acid, Polyflex has the potential for producing allergic reactions. If they should occur, Polyflex should be discontinued and the subject treated with the usual agents (antihistamines, pressor amines, corticosteroids).

Clinical Pharmacology: The antimicrobial action of ampicillin is bactericidal, and only a small percentage of the antibiotic is serum-bound. Peak serum levels in dogs and cats are reached approximately one-half hour following subcutaneous or intramuscular injection, and in cattle 1 hour to 2 hours following intramuscular injection.

In vitro studies have demonstrated sensitivity of the following organisms to ampicillin: Gram-positive bacteria — alpha- and beta-hemolytic streptococci, staphylococci (non-penicillinase-producing), *Bacillus anthracis* and most strains of enterococci and clostridia; Gram-negative bacteria — *Proteus mirabilis*, *E. coli* and many strains of *Salmonella* and *Pasteurella multocida*.

The drug does not resist destruction by penicillinase and, hence, is not effective against strains of staphylococci resistant to penicillin G. Susceptibility tests should be conducted to estimate the in vitro susceptibility of bacterial isolates to ampicillin.

Storage: Store at controlled room temperature 15–30°C (59–86°F). After reconstitution, store under refrigeration.

How Supplied: Polyflex (ampicillin for injectable suspension, veterinary) is supplied in vials containing 10 g and 25 g ampicillin activity as ampicillin trihydrate.

NDC 0010-4712-01 — 10 g per vial
NDC 0010-4712-02 — 25 g per vial

Polyflex is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

©2013 Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Manufactured for:
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
St. Joseph, MO 64506 U.S.A.

11950

Rev. July 2010

D4470B