

Calf health scorecard

Implement the treatment protocol agreed with your vet for calves with early and late signs of disease.

PNEUMONIA

Signs of good health and vigour

- Bright • Playful • Curious
- Keen to drink milk



- Clear eyes and nose
- No cough

Normal temperature
(38–39°C or 100–102°F)

Look for early signs of disease

- Quiet • Slow to stand
- Still drinking milk



- Discharge from eyes and nose
- Cough on movement

High temperature
(>39.5°C or 103°F)

Late signs of disease

- Dull
- Reluctant to stand unaided
- Off milk



- Severe discharge with pus
- Frequent coughing/wheezing

High temperature
(>39.5°C or 103° F)

SCOURS



- Clean hindquarters
- Well-formed faeces

Normal temperature
(38–39 °C or 100–102 °F)



- Dirty hindquarters
- Loose faeces

Variable temperature



- Wet hindquarters
- Hair loss
- Dehydrated
- Watery faeces

Variable temperature

ACT NOW

Early detection means
prompt treatment

Why use this scorecard?

Early detection of disease and immediate-effective treatment in calves is vital as:

- Calves will spend less time ill, thereby improving their welfare
- It saves time that would have been spent caring for sick calves
- It improves growth rates
- It reduces antibiotic use by reducing the need for repeat treatments

When to use this scorecard

Use this scorecard daily as part of your routine calf checks. It is also a useful tool to train new calf rearers.

How to use this scorecard

Use the photos to check each calf for signs of disease and categorise them into good health, or with early or late signs of disease.

Calves with early and late signs of disease should receive treatment as soon as possible.

Calves that have no suck reflex or cannot stand unaided require immediate veterinary attention.

We have included boxes to record treatment protocols for each condition for calves with early and late signs of disease. You should agree these treatment plans with your vet.

Do not forget to record any medicines used in your medicine book. Sign up for the AHDB Medicine Hub to collate, report and compare antibiotic data at ahdb.org.uk/medicine-hub Recording a detailed reason for use will help both you and your vet identify where any problems may lie.

Pneumonia treatment protocol

Early signs of disease

Late signs of disease

Scours treatment protocol

Early signs of disease

Late signs of disease

Vet's phone number

AHDB

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If you no longer wish to receive this information, please email us on comms@ahdb.org.uk

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