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REPLACEMENT HEIFERS -- HEALTH PROGRAM

T. B. Avery¹

Summary

Common disease causing agents are identified and a sample replacement heifer health program is presented. Written objectives are useful for evaluation of heifer rearing.

Introduction

Replacement heifer health involved most of the general herd health program but has several additional problems. Examples of specific disease conditions encountered by replacement heifers are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Specific disease conditions

Pneumonia	Diarrheas
Parainfluenza	Rotovirus
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis	Coronavirus
Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Bovine Viral Diarrhea
Pasteurella Multocida	Salmonella sp.
Pasteurella Hemolytica	E. coli
Hemophilus somnus	Coccidia
Corynebacterium pyogenes	Cryptosporidia
	Nutritional
Parasites	Antibiotic
Lice	
Grubs	Miscellaneous
Internal	Ringworm
	Pinkeye

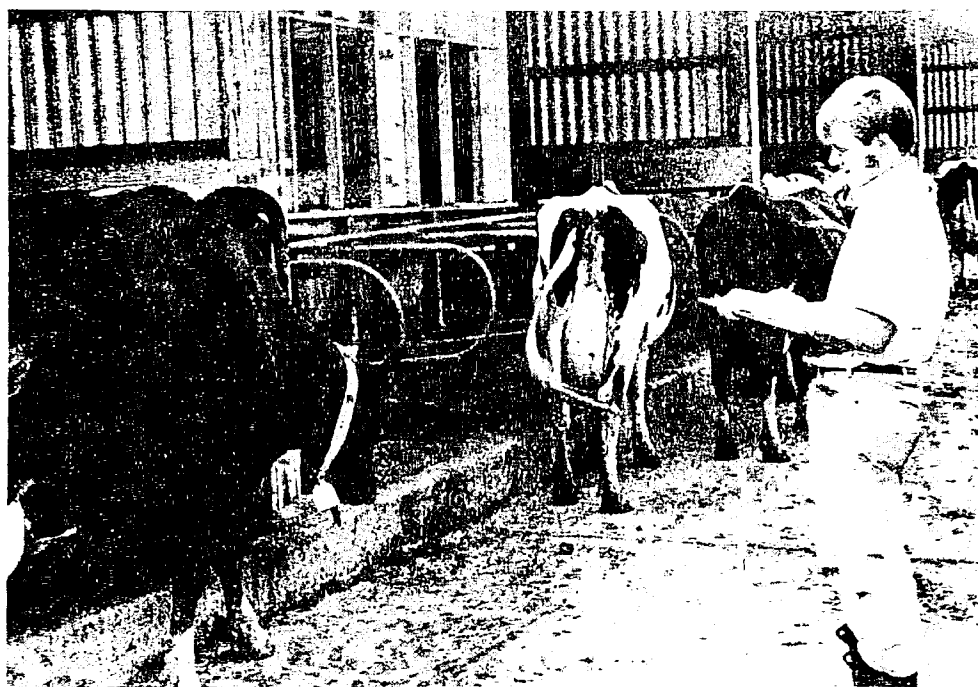
General Concepts

Adequate colostrum intake and immunoglobulin absorption is the foundation for successful calf rearing. Nutritional intake sufficient for weight gain is probably the next most critical need for a healthy calf. Housing and population density are important because they have a tremendous effect on how the disease agent interacts with the calf. A sample preventative vaccination program is illustrated in Table 2.

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Table 2. Sample preventive herd health procedures

Age	Disease	Procedure
7 wk	BVD IBR-PI3 H. somnus	Killed vaccine Intranasal vaccine Bacterin
4-6 mo	Brucellosis Clostridia sp. Supernumerary teats	Strain 19 (reduced dose) 7-way Removal
(Calves should be dehorned before 4 mo of age)		
6 mo	BVD IBR-PI3 H. somnus	Killed vaccine Intranasal vaccine Bacterin
Pre-breeding	BVD Clostridia sp. Leptospirosis sp. IBR Internal parasites	Killed vaccine 7-way 5-way Intramuscular Fecal flotation



Keith Heikes, Dairy Specialist at the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit (KABSU), classifying a cow