

Cow/Calf Health Calendar

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COWS



Preg Check



Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- 4 O's – Open, Old, Ornery, Oddball



Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- 4 O's – Open, Old, Ornerly, Oddball



Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- Bad teeth
- Bad eyes
- Bad udder
- Unsound feet/legs



Preg Check

Make culling decisions:

- Cows that records show have not weaned a good calf
- Cows that will calve too late

Preg Check

For those selected to retain:

- Replace lost ear tags
- Weigh/BCS cows → feeding groups
 - Heifers
 - 2nd calf heifers
 - Mature cows
 - Old cows

Preg Check

For those selected to retain:

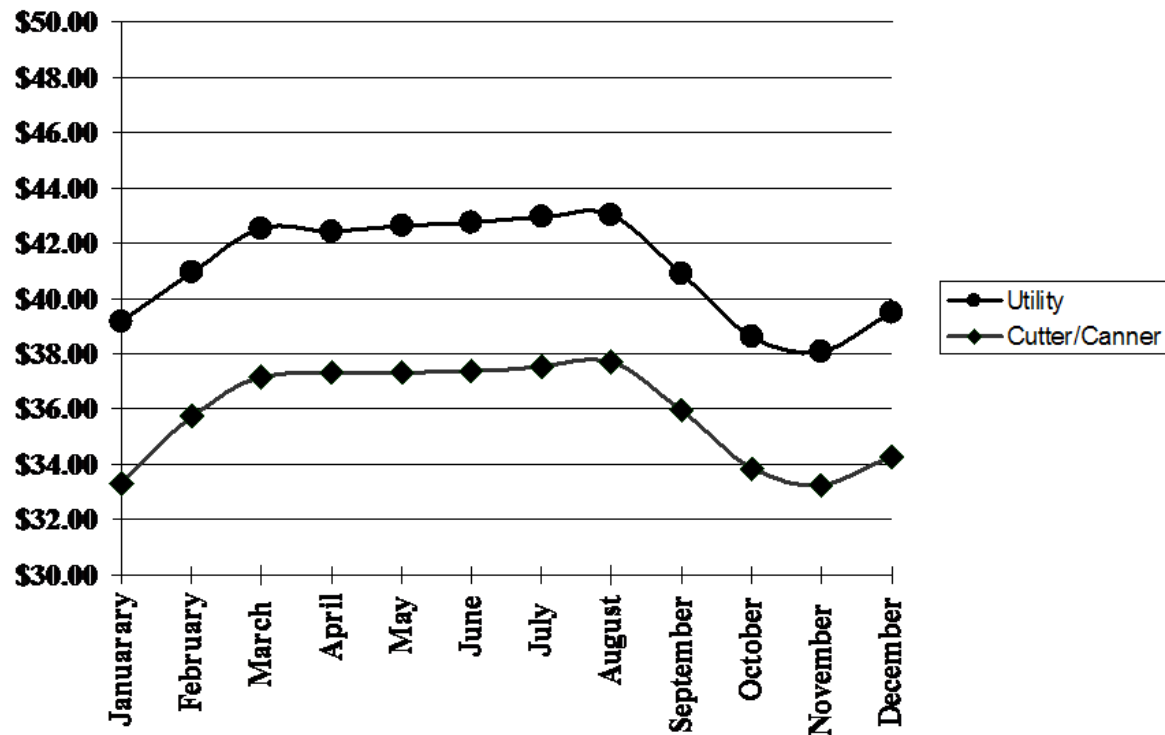
- Vitamin A (?)
- Lepto
 - hardjo-bovis
 - pomona
- Deworm
- External parasite control
- Move to winter pasture(s)

Preg Check

For those to be culled:

- Take to sale barn
- Cull cow feeding program

Cull Cow Feeding Program



^aTen year average (1995-2005)

^bAdapted from Cattlefax, 2006

Pre-Calving

At least 30 days pre-calving:

- Vit A injection (unless well-supplemented)
- Scours vaccine (if needed)
 - Rotavirus
 - Coronavirus
 - *E. coli*
 - *Clostridium perfringens*
- 7- or 8-way clostridial (Blackleg/Tetanus)
- Move to calving pasture

Calving



Traditional Calving Management

Calving Pasture

Traditional Calving Management

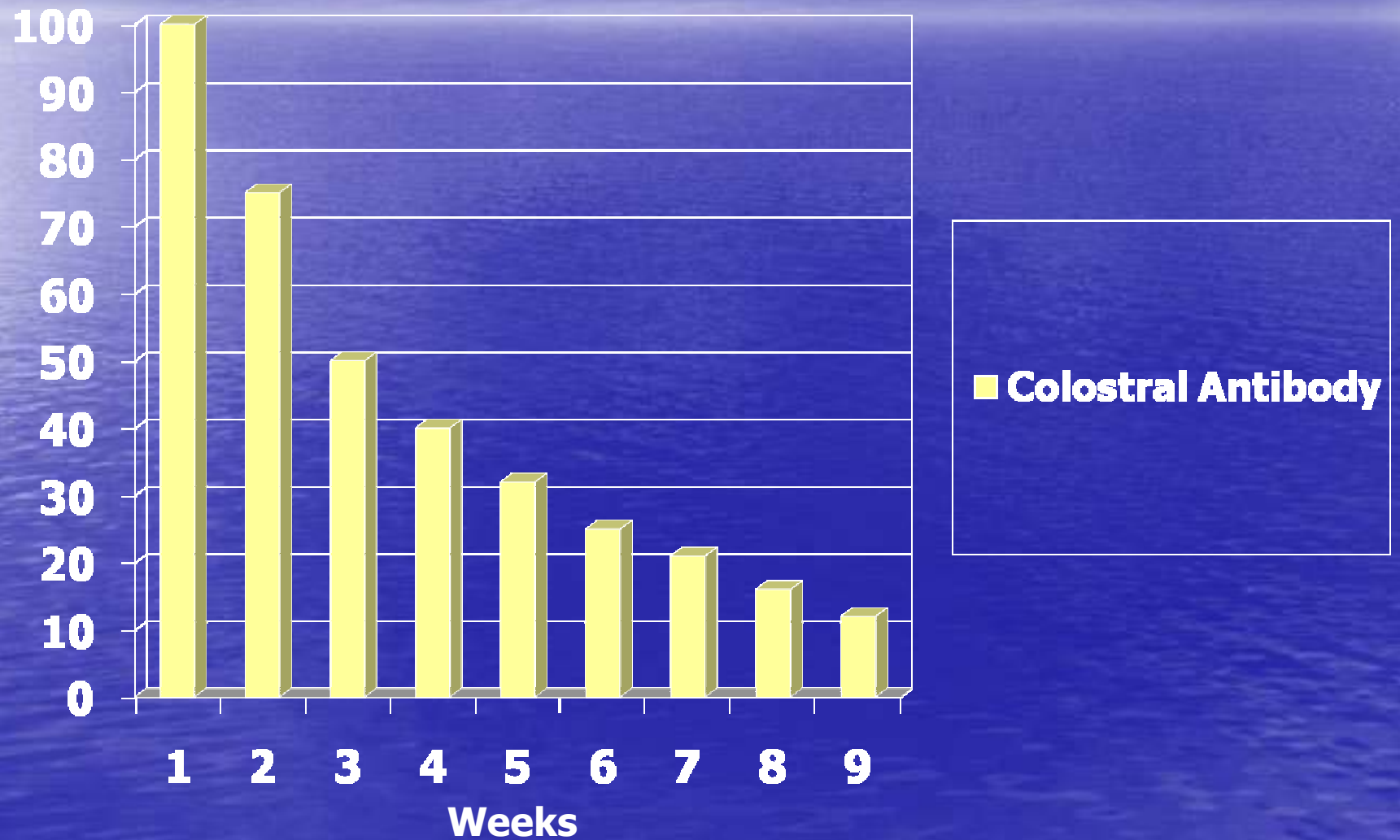
- Scours = #1 disease of newborn calves
- Multitude of possible organisms involved:
 - Viruses
 - Bacteria
 - Protozoa

Traditional Calving Management

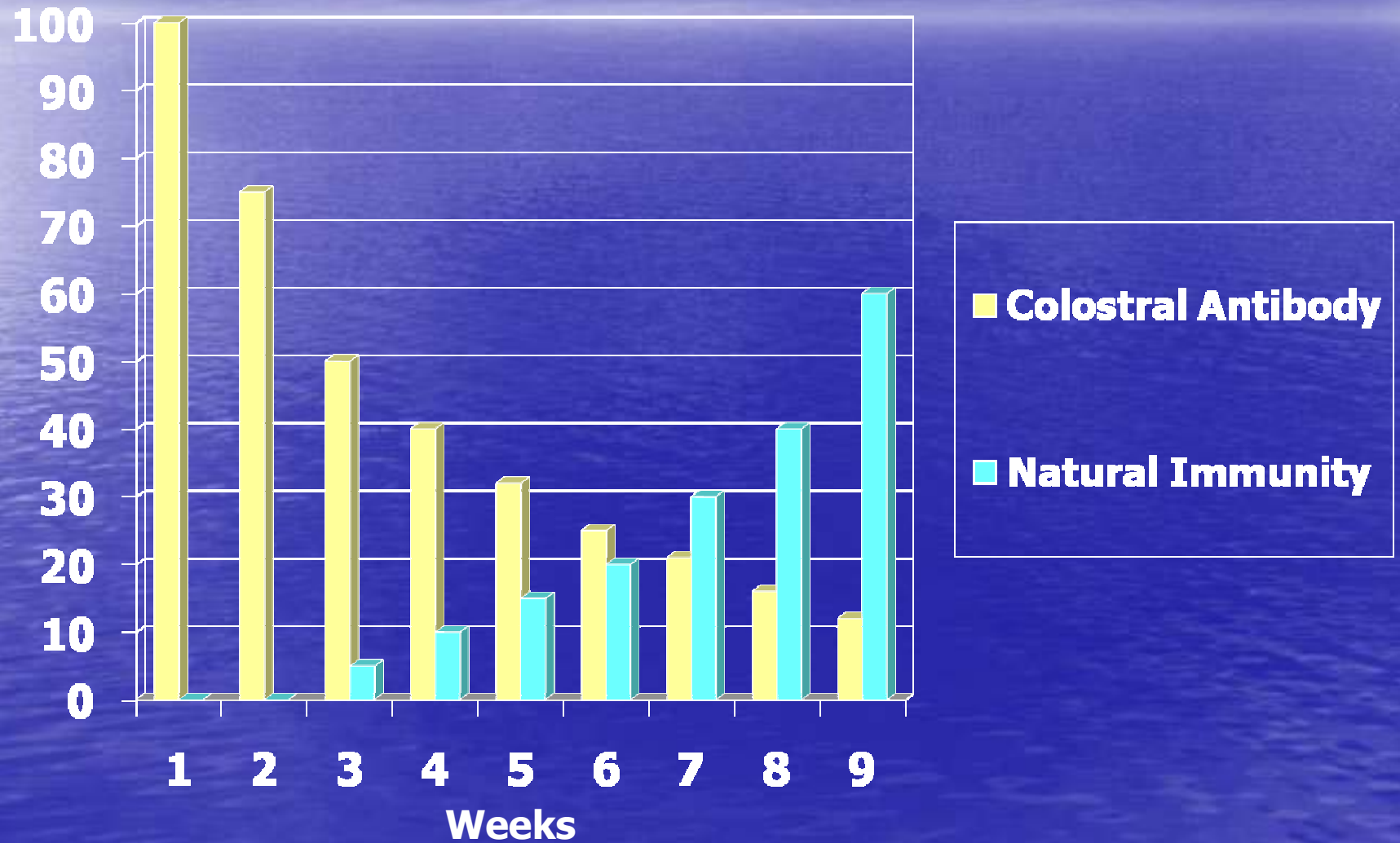


Disease will build up on calving grounds over time

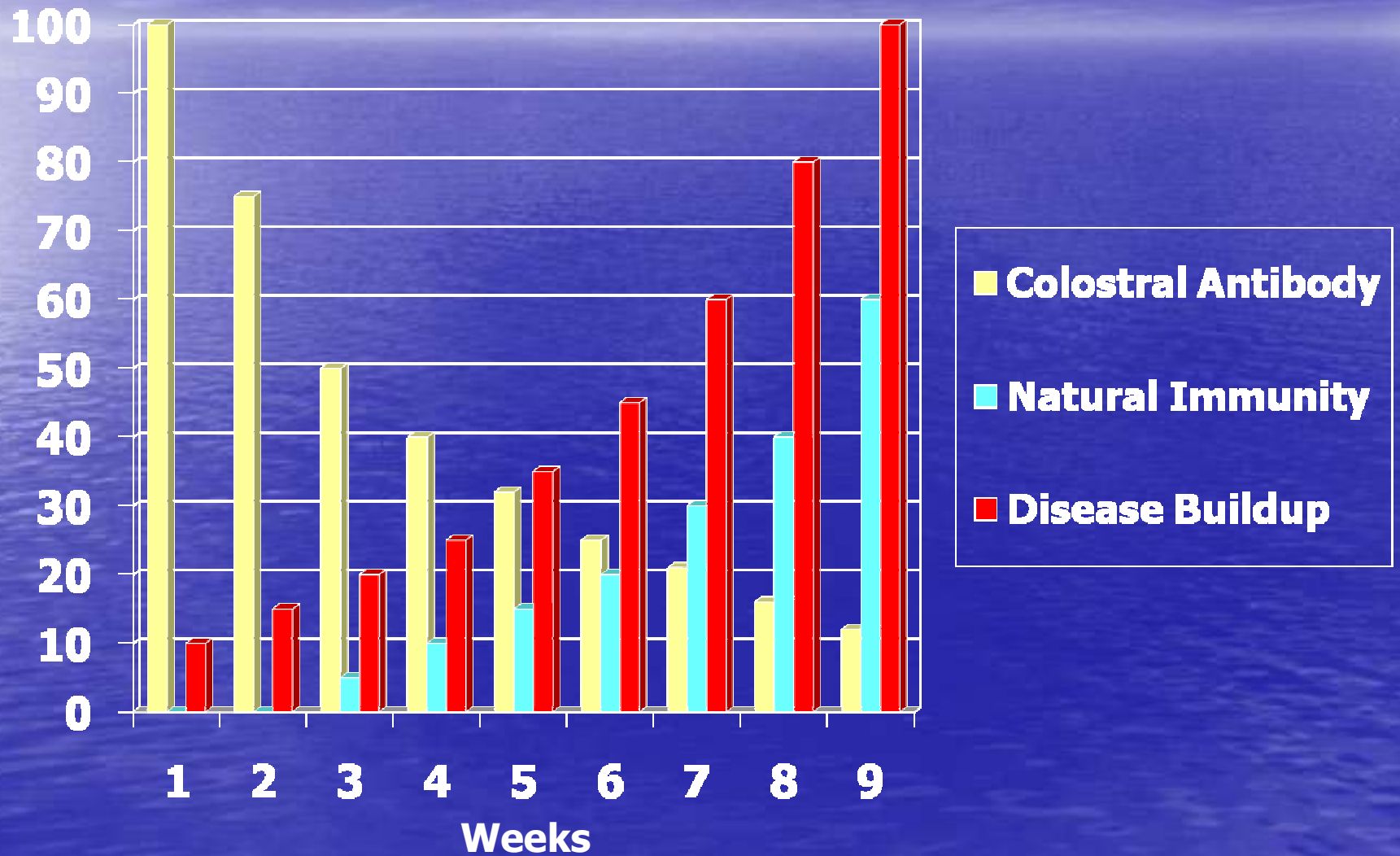
Disease vs Immunity



Disease vs Immunity



Disease vs Immunity



Scours Management

- Carrier cows exist in the herd
- Older calves serve as disease amplifiers which infect young calves



Scours Management

Sandhills Calving System

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8

Sandhills Calving System

- Objective: Keep older “amplifier” calves away from newborn calves
- Will reduce or eliminate scours problems, irrespective of the causative organism
- Will minimize the number of calves involved if a scours break occurs

Protecting against Scours

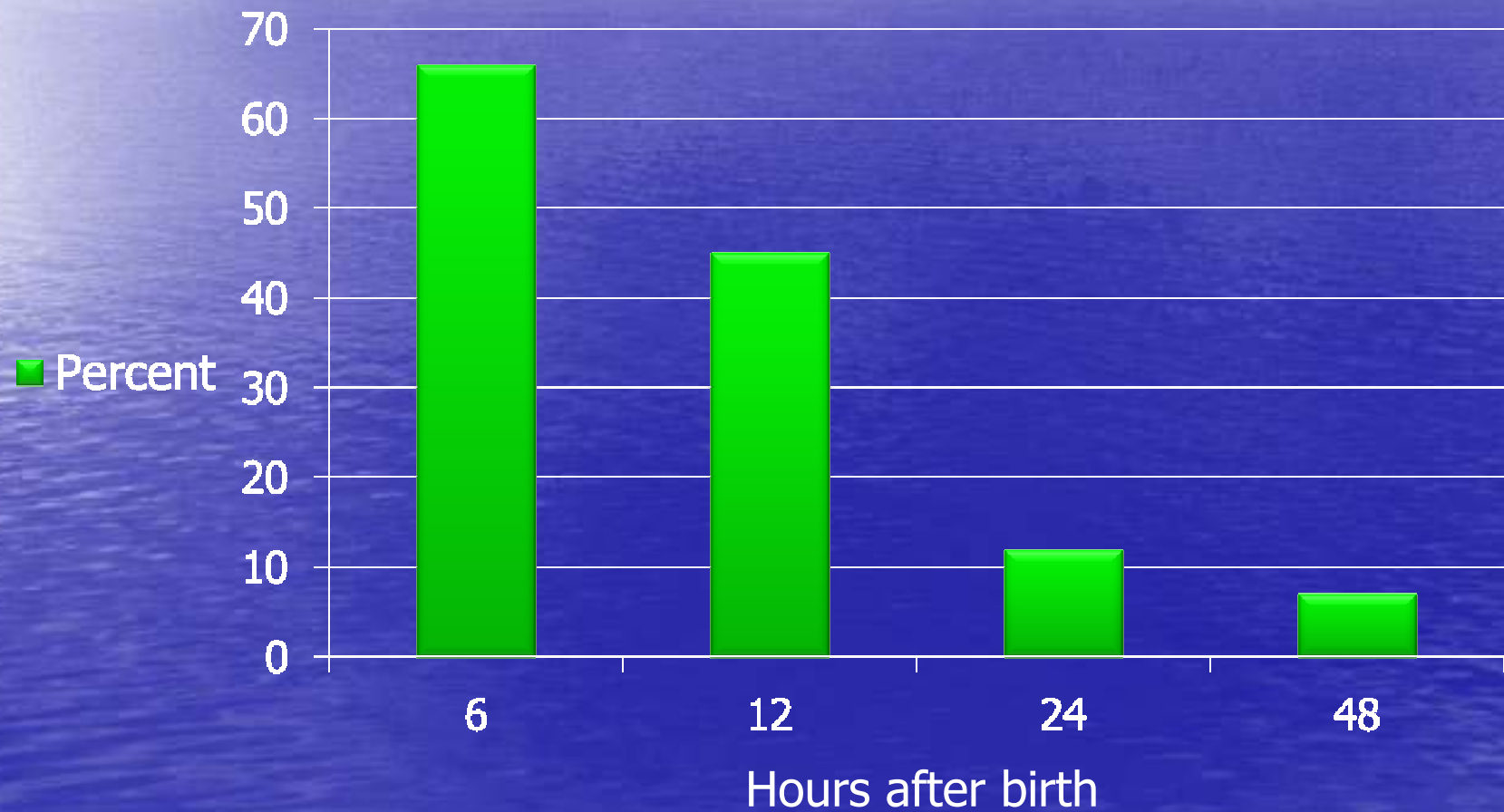
- “Mothering up”
- Adequate colostrum intake is critical to protect the calf against diseases that it may be exposed to at or shortly after birth



Colostrum

- In the first 24 hours of life, calves absorb antibodies directly through their gut wall and into the blood stream
- This capacity of the gut wall to absorb antibodies diminishes rapidly over time
- The gut wall effectively “closes” by 24-hours after birth

Effect of time of colostrum feeding on % IgG absorption



Colostrum Management

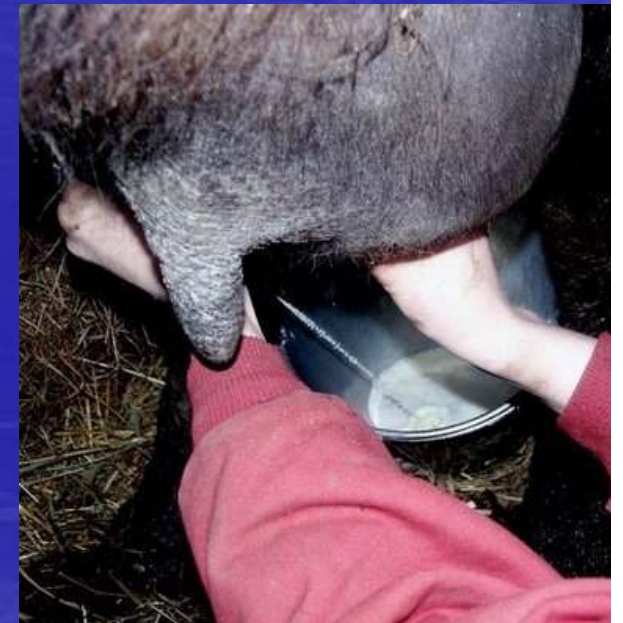
Timing:

- Within first 2 hours of life is best
- Within first 6 hours of life is imperative

Colostrum Management

Volume:

- It is critical that calves receive adequate colostrum
 - 10% of the calf's body weight
 - 0.5-1 gallon



Inadequate Colostrum Intake

2-year study @ US-MARC

- 263 crossbred calves
- 23% had inadequate colostrum intake
 - <10 g IgG/L serum

Inadequate Colostrum Intake

Results of inadequate colostrum intake:

- Birth to weaning
 - 3X more likely to get sick
 - 6X more likely to get sick during first 28 days
 - 5X more likely to die
 - Weighed 35# less at weaning

Inadequate Colostrum Intake

- Feedlot
 - 3X more likely to get sick
 - Gained 24# less over 242-day feeding period

Pre-Breeding

- IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
 - MLV if possible
- Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
- Lepto
 - hardjo-bovis
 - Pomona

Pre-Breeding

- Mark cows that are in poor body condition
 - Probably will not breed back
 - If they breed back, may calve too late
- Mark cows that you want to cull as soon as possible (save bull power)
- Plan to early wean their calves

Bulls



Pre-Breeding

At least 60-75 days pre-breeding:

- Breeding soundness evaluation
 - Physical exam
 - Eyes
 - Feet and legs
 - Scrotum
 - Penis
 - Rectal exam
 - Semen evaluation
 - Trich test



Pre-Breeding

- IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
- Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
- Lepto
 - hardjo-bovis
 - pomona
- 7- or 8-way clostridial (Blackleg/Tetanus)
- Deworm

Preg Check

Don't forget the bulls!!!

- Vitamin A (?)
- Deworm
- External parasite control

Replacement Heifers



Heifer Calves @ Branding

- IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI₃-BRSV vaccine
 - MLV if possible (cow status?)
- 7-way Clostridial (Blackleg)
- Test for BVD PI

Heifer Calves @ Weaning

- 2-4 weeks pre-weaning
 - IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI₃-BRSV vaccine
 - Pasteurella bacterin/leukotoxoid
 - 7-way clostridial
 - Brucellosis (Bangs)
- At weaning
 - IBR-BVD (type 1 & 2)-PI₃-BRSV vaccine
 - 7-way clostridial
 - Deworm / lice control

Repl. Heifers @ Pre-Breeding

60 days pre-breeding:

- IBR, BVD Type 1 & 2
 - MLV if possible
- Campylobacter fetus (Vibrio)
- Lepto
 - hardjo-bovis
 - Pomona
- Repeat Vibrio – Lepto 3 weeks later



Heifer development sets the
future for your cow herd!

Questions ?

