

NDSU Calf Diarrhea Research Program

I. A. Schipper

Though investigations related to calf diarrhea in both dairy and beef cattle have intermittently been in progress at NDSU, no concerted effort was initiated until the mid-70's. In 1979, the project was stimulated through more extensive funding and reorganization. The present organization involves five departments in North Dakota State University, including Animal Science, Bacteriology, Botany, Veterinary Science and the Cooperative Extension Service.

At present we have 13 cooperating ranches, involving over 4,500 head of cattle, concentrated in the Cooperstown-Jamestown area. Also cooperating with the investigation of this project are the Southwood Veterinary Clinic at Jamestown and the Cooperstown Veterinary Clinic at Cooperstown, North Dakota.

The Extension Service has provided us with the expertise of W. D. (Wally) Eide and the county agricultural extension agents at Cooperstown and Jamestown, North Dakota.

We are guided by an Advisory Committee composed of livestock producers from various areas of North Dakota.

Advisory Committee

- 1) Eldon Halvorson, D.V.M., Jamestown, ND 58401
- 2) V. E. Knudson, D.V.M., Cooperstown, ND 58425
- 3) Alan Qual, RR 1, Milnor, ND 58060
- 4) Harvey Wehri, Hebron, ND 58638
- 5) Loren Osteros, Des Lacs, ND 58733
- 6) Irvin Husseth, McLeod, ND 58057
- 7) George Strum, 1325 North 9, Fargo, ND 58102
- 8) Glen Haugen, P.O. Box 1460, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 9) Carlton Wendel, Courthouse, Cooperstown, ND 58425

Dr. Schipper is professor, Department of Veterinary Science.

Cooperators

- 1) Paintner Brothers (John and Dan), Cooperstown, ND 58425
- 2) Dennis Rorvig, McVile, ND 58254
- 3) Myron Hoeckle, Pingree, ND 58476
- 4) Carlson Herefords, Gerald Carlson, Spiritwood, ND 58481
- 5) Van Amundson, Buchanan, ND 58420
- 6) Cross A Simmental, Donald Ackerman, Wimbeldon, ND 58492
- 7) Donald Williams, Eldridge, ND 58435
- 8) Warren Williams, Eldridge, ND 58435
- 9) Bruce Hoeckle, Edmunds, ND 58434
- 10) Richard Hanson, McVile, ND 58254
- 11) Clarence Bednar, Cooperstown, ND 58425
- 12) Leonard Johnson, Cooperstown, ND 58425
- 13) William Rickford, Binford, ND 58416

The primary objectives of this cooperative project have been to attempt to determine the cause of calf diarrhea through field observations of management and laboratory investigations related to nutrition, the infectious agents associated with diarrhea, possible physiological or chemical involvements and immunological aspects. After compiling the first year's work, it is evident that aspects of the various objectives listed above were not anticipated and in all probability play a major role in calf diarrhea. It is the sincere hope of all working on this project that within three years we will be able to present a well documented piece of information related to causes and the prevention of calf diarrhea.

This project has, up to the present, been funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Formula Funds - Infectious Diseases, the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the North Dakota Beef Commission.