

## **Antibody Products vs. Vaccinating Newborn Fawns**

- To overcome the challenges of newborn fawn vaccination, USDA-approved antibody products are recommended.
- Concentrated antibody products can be fed to fawns at the same time as colostrum so there is no interference with maternal antibodies and no waiting for a response from the fawn's immune system.
- It also means less stress because the fawn does not have to divert its precious energy reserves from maintenance and growth to mounting an immune response.
- Consider using a product like Optimizer Gel

## **Vaccinating Does Prior to Fawning**

- Vaccinating does prior to fawning to prevent health issues may be the best solution:
- Fall vaccinating of does doesn't offer the best coverage to newborn fawns - vaccine wears off over time
- Spring vaccinating of does will increase antibodies being passed on to the fawns through the colostrum
- Can safely vaccinate pregnant does as late as the first part of April
- Concentrated antibody products can be fed to fawns at the same time as colostrum so there is no

## **DNA Samples**

- Pull hair for DNA
- Best place to get hair sample is the white hair under the tail
- place in a small mailing envelope
- Write the fawn's tag number on the envelope and sire and dam
- Keep the sample in a dry place and it is good for ever
- Don't throw the samples away even after the doe is sold or dead!
- Concentrated antibody products can be fed to fawns at the same time as colostrum so there is no

## **Sick Fawns**

- Get fecal sample (if scouring) or tissue samples from dead fawn to Newport Labs ASAP for culture
- Need results to know what drugs to use for future sick fawns
- Fawn scours kill fast so act fast
- Noticing problems are much easier with bottle fed fawns
- Not eating well at one feeding may be nothing to worry about, but two feedings are a sign of problems
- Check consistency of fecal matter - if scouring act accordingly
- Sick fawns left on their mothers are much harder to identify
- Checking pens on a regular basis and knowing each fawn and their behavior are important factors
- Warm nose – fawn is healthy; cold nose – fawn is sick; cold nose & mouth – very sick

## **How to prevent fawn health issues**

- Make sure fawns get enough colostrum and/or antibodies at birth
- Keep aggressive/mean does grouped together
- Move does that get picked on to another pen
- Group yearling does together
- Any does that don't take to AI should be moved and grouped together – late born fawns don't do well mixed in with early born fawns

- Overcrowding of pens will cause the most health issues
- Provide shelters for newborn fawns if you tend to have inclement weather (cold/rain) and if there is not natural hiding habitat for fawns available

## **Treating Sick Fawns**

- Check temperature of fawn - normal temperature is 101
- Digital thermometer is a necessary item
- Too cold - get warm fluids in them first and then warm them up (the reverse will hasten their death)
- Fawns get weak and do not have enough energy to control their body temperature
- Too warm - give Banamine to reduce the fever (Caution: over use of Banamine can cause kidney damage)
- Ice packs between the arm pits and groin area work well to bring the fever down
- Examine thoroughly before administering drugs
- Check the inside of the mouth for infection
- Is the fawn scouring?
- Is the fawn exhibiting signs of pneumonia?
- No signs of diarrhea or pneumonia...what to do then?
- Sick fawns do not feel good so they stop eating and quickly become dehydrated
- Re-hydrating is crucial to their survival - here are ways to re-hydrate them
- Lactated ringers under the skin may be necessary
- Quick energy source - Dextrose or Karo syrup (never give Dextrose under the skin)
- Pedialyte is a good electrolyte to use - electrolytes designed for calves are high in sodium and not desirable for fawns
- Probiotics help to put good bacteria back in the gut system

## **How to tube a fawn**

- If fawn won't suck, it may be necessary to tube
- Measure the tube before inserting from the mouth to the last rib cage so you know how far to insert
- Be careful not to insert liquids in the lungs when tubing
- Inserting tube to the last rib cage will prevent drowning
- Feel for the tube on the left side of the trachea to know that it is correctly inserted into the esophagus

## **Fawn scours can be treated with a multitude of different drugs – that is why cultures are so important**

- Always consult with your herd veterinarian when treating sick fawns.
- One time a particular treatment will work and the next time it does not.
- There are so many different causes of scours and no one treatment works for all.
- Why scours occur; weather, stress, unclean conditions, crowded pen space, etc.

## **Treating Scours caused by Ecoli**

- ½ cc of Baytril under the skin - once daily for 3 days (Baytril in the muscle can cause severe lameness especially if given in the hind quarter so avoid this area.)
- Exceed works best on my farm for treating Ecoli. ½ cc under the skin - Safe to use in combination with Baytril so if in doubt you can use both
- A pinch of SpecLinx-50 (LS 50) in the bottle for at least 3 feedings

## **Clostridium issues**

- Many times fawns will show no sign of scours and other times there will be blood in their fecal matter:
- Fawns can die quickly from Clostridium so, act quickly.
- Clostridium can be caused by too much milk at one feeding or a change in diet
- Clostridium organisms are always present in the fawn's gut and usually cause no problems because they pass out through the feces. The gut activity needs to be stopped by something else, such as Ecoli, to give these bugs a chance to build up sufficient numbers to cause Clostridium issues.
- A fawn that is sick from Ecoli can quickly turn into issues with Clostridium as well

## **Signs of Clostridium**

- Fawn is bloated
- Fawn is lying flat – looks like a dead fawn from a distance
- Usually no sign of diarrhea – blockage in the intestine therefore the bloat look
- Sometimes the fawn will stumble and fall
- If in doubt, treat

## **Treatment for Clostridium**

- I use a rubber fish net to catch sick fawns
- 3 cc of Penicillin down the throat –once a day for 3-5 days – I quit treating when I can't catch them anymore
- ½ cc Banamine in the muscle kills the pain and cuts inflammation created by the toxins
- Never substitute Dexamethasone for Banamine as it will shut down the immune system
- Vitamin B 1-give 4cc per 100# IM every 12 hours anytime a fawn has a digestive problem

## **Treatment for infections in the mouth**

- Nuflor DOES NOT work on my farm for these infections
- 3 cc Penicillin squirted right on the infection and then the remainder down the throat
- 1-2 treatments is usually all that is necessary
- I usually can't catch the fawn after 2 treatments

## **Scours caused by viruses, Cryptosporidium (Crypto) and Campylobacter**

- Use Optimizer Gel when fawn is born to prevent Rota Virus and Corona Virus
- Calf Guard – vaccine for Rota Virus and Corona Virus
- Keep fawn hydrated by using Pedialyte and colostrum as listed above
- There are NO antibiotics that treat viruses or Crypto
- Any use of antibiotics will only prevent secondary infections
- Trimethoprim has been recommended for Crypto

## General Herd Health Tips

- Parasites can be your worst enemy
- Check fecal samples regularly and worm accordingly
- Parasites weaken the immune system
- Many health issues stem from parasites
- Proper worming requires a second treatment 21 days after first dose
- 1<sup>st</sup> dose kills the adult worms
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose kills the larva that hatch from the eggs laid by the adult worms prior to the first worming
- higher dosage usually required for deer than for cattle

## Safeguard Wormer

- Use on any deer that you don't run through the handling facility such as bucks during antler growth
- Add Safeguard to the feed
- 2 doses 21 days apart
- Fenbendazole is in Safeguard and is one of the few wormers that will kill Strongyle worms

## Ivomec Plus or Cydectin

- Ivomec can be poured on the feed during summer months - supposedly helps to prevent EHD-keeps the midges from biting
- Administer spring and/or fall
- 2 doses 21 days apart
- Do not inject IM
- Higher dosage required for deer than for cattle

## Longe Range Wormer

- Longe Range wormer is an extended release wormer and is best administered in spring
- Requires only one dose that lasts 100-150 days
- Provides long enough protection to break the parasite life cycle and reduce parasites in the pasture
- DO NOT double the dosages; use according to label
- SQ only

## Coccidiosis

- Not treatable with regular wormers
- Use Corid in the water or pelleted Corid in the feed
- Albon or a variety of other sulfa drugs
- Deccox in the feed helps to prevent Coccidiosis-I always add it to my feed in the spring – add in fall if necessary

## **Diarrhea Treatments in Adult Deer**

Diarrhea caused by Ecoli (dark in color):

- Use 3 cc Exceed or 3 cc Baytril in a dart
- Follow up with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in 1-3 days works best
- Bloody diarrhea requires Baytril or Exceed ASAP.
- SpecLinx-50 (LS 50) in the water also works great for Ecoli
- Also treat for Coccidiosis just in case

## **Chronic diarrhea and bacterial scours**

- Deer doesn't act sick – continues to eat but has diarrhea
- Gallimycin in the water for 5 days
- Chronic diarrhea usually reoccurs every 6 months or so – retreat with Gallimycin every time it reoccurs
- Safe to treat all deer in the pen
- Gallimycin is also a respiratory drug

## **Pneumonia - Watch for signs**

- Isolating themselves from the rest of the herd
- Watch the eyes – the eyes are the key
- Not eating; not chewing their cud
- Rough hair coat – hair stands on end instead of lying flat
- Hunched back
- Weight loss – sunk in look behind the rib cage
- Droopy ears
- Hasn't lost winter or summer hair like the rest of the herd
- Wet nose, flared nostrils, increased respiratory rate, tail switching
- Foam around mouth or wet looking mouth
- Stumbles when walking – bucks with antlers struggle to hold head

## **How to help prevent Pneumonia**

- Chlortetracycline (CTC) in the feed-spring (if needed) and late summer
- Sulfa drugs add to the water starting in late summer-especially useful in preventing pneumonia in fawns prior to and after weaning
- After January 1, 2017, feed companies will no longer be able to add any drugs to the feed without a script from your herd vet
- Free choice liquid molasses

## **How to treat Pneumonia**

- Send in tissue samples from dead animals to determine best antibiotic treatment
- Must request sensitivity report to know what drugs are resistant and susceptible
- 3cc Nuflor in a dart – 1-3 treatments depending upon how sick
- Or tranquilize and treat Nuflor in combination with Draxxin -Nuflor one dose in the muscle, one dose under the skin (slower release), and one dose Draxxin under the skin
- Exceed has been the drug of choice for my farm lately

- If sick deer isn't showing improvements, switch antibiotics
- Vitamin B-helps with stress, gives them energy, stimulates appetite and immune function
- Dexamethazone helps to heal the lungs – do NOT give to pregnant does as it can cause abortion

## **Things you can do at Weaning**

- Administer wormer
- Vaccinate if you regularly vaccinate in fall-don't forget the booster shot 2-6 weeks later according to directions
- 1 cc antibiotic of choice (fawn dosage) -prevents pneumonia from the stress of weaning
- Pay attention to any fawns experiencing signs of pneumonia, coughing or diarrhea prior to weaning and give them extra meds when handling them.
- Vitamin B – helps with stress
- Administer official ID if not done at birth
- Collect DNA if not collected at birth

## **Deer being sold or moved**

- Administer wormer (breeding stock sales and hunt bucks if directed by buyer)
- Vaccinate breeding stock if booster is needed at least 2 weeks prior to movement
- Zuprevo or antibiotic of choice – prevents pneumonia from the stress of moving
- Vitamin B – helps with stress

## **Fusobacteria**

- Watch for any unusual lumps
- Check the inside of the mouth on any fawn that doesn't act right
- Foot rot
- Fusobacteria can also advance to the lungs and cause pneumonia
- Vaccinating does with Fuso Guard in April prior to fawning helps tremendously to prevent abscesses in fawns
- Nuflor works great on my farm for treating most Fusobacteria except for legs and feet
- Infected feet and knees – hard to treat - Penicillin works best for my farm.

## **Treatment for Foot Rot**

The following treatment works if there is an open wound.

- Tranquilize animal
- Use 1 pint of peroxide, 1 pint 7% iodine mixed with 1 quart water – heat to 110-120 degrees
- Add antibiotic such as Gallimycin to this mixture
- Soak foot for at least 30 minutes
- Help to prevent foot rot by spreading Copper Sulfate around feeders-can be toxic so don't use more than a quart at a time

## **Treatment for foot rot if there is no open wound and for infections in the knee**

- 3 cc penicillin in a dart for 3-5 days
- 3 cc Exceed in a dart every other day

## **Antler Infections**

- Watch for antler damage
- Watch for flies swarming around damaged antler
- Watch for buck showing signs of irritation
- If damage occurs during cold weather, flies may not cause a problem if the antler damage has time to dry down
- Blood draws the flies – flies lay eggs – maggots burrow into antler

## **Watch bucks that start to shed velvet but don't finish shedding**

- Is it antler infection that makes them sick?
- Or are they sick and that is why they don't finish shedding velvet?
- I don't have that answer
- Antler infections enter the body's blood supply and can kill quickly
- Treating with the wrong medication can be critical
- Treat for antler infection or pneumonia?

## **Antler Infection Treatment**

- Cut antlers to remove the infection (breeder bucks or young bucks) or peel the velvet off (trophy bucks)
- Use tourniquet to stop the blood before cutting
- Spray with Catron to keep the flies away
- Give Baytril (only drug that gets to the brain) and Exceed
- Vitamin B
- Ivomec Plus wormer

## **Flies and Midges**

Flies cause stress & antler damage

Midges bite and infect deer with EHD & Blue Tongue – prevention works better than treatment

- Garlic in the feed at a rate of 25-40 lbs. per ton of feed-helps keep flies and midges off deer
- Misting systems or foggers help to eliminate flies and midges
- Golden Malrin Fly Bait to control flies-only use where other animals cannot get at it; very toxic
- Maxforce Fly Spot Bait is a newer product that is actually a bait, but is diluted with water and sprayed. Use Maxforce Fly Spot Bait anywhere flies land. When the flies land on it, it kills them in seconds.
- Keep water holes at a minimum to eliminate breeding holes for midges
- Wormers to keep midges from biting?