

# PROACTIVE FRESH-COW PROTOCOL ONE

DEVELOPED BY VETERINARIAN EARL AALSETH, PILCHUCK VETERINARY HOSPITAL

## Day 1 (day of calving)

- Milk fevers at calving, IV\* with calcium/dextrose solution, 1-2 bottles as needed.
- Drench with a fresh-cow drench that includes 1 lb. calcium propionate, 0.5 lb. epsom salt, 0.25 lb. potassium chloride, 0.125 lb. salt, 12 oz. propylene glycol in 5 gallons of warm water.

Day 2 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 4 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_  
Rectal palpation of uterus - normal or toxic

Day 5 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 6 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_  
Rectal palpation of uterus - normal or toxic

Day 7 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 8 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_  
Rectal palpation of uterus - normal or toxic

Day 9 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 10 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_  
Rectal palpation of uterus - normal or toxic

Day 11 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_

Day 12 Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Health status \_\_\_\_\_  
Rectal palpation of uterus - normal or toxic  
If normal, send to milk string.

# FRESH-COW TREATMENT PROTOCOL TWO

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Normal Cows	Temperature	Visual
<b>Protocol A</b>	101-103 F	Looks normal, eats normal, ears normal: recheck health status daily for 12 days
Sick Cows	Temperature	Visual
<b>Protocol B</b>	Less than 101 F	Looks sick: (low calcium/magnesium) If severe shock, IV* calcium/dextrose solution, one-two bottles as needed. Follow IV calcium with fresh-cow drench as described in protocol one. If toxic metritis, proceed to protocol F.
<b>Protocol C</b>	Greater than 103 F	Looks normal: has a toxic uterus, temperature is 103-104 F, and last ECP injection was given more than three days ago — give 2cc* ECP IM* to improve uterine health if not more than 12 DIM. If fever doesn't decrease over next one-two days, switch to protocol D or E as prescribed.
<b>Protocol D</b>	Greater than 103 F	Looks fairly normal: If toxic uterus, temperature is from 103-104 degrees F, and last ECP injection was given less than 4 days ago, treat with maximum label dose of Excenel SQ for at least 3 days. If the fever/toxic uterus does not improve, examine the cow for other diseases and switch to protocol E for toxic metritis.
<b>Protocol E</b>	Greater than 103 F	Looks sick and/or temperature is greater than 104 F and uterus is toxic: treat with Polyflex or have your veterinarian prescribe penicillin for at least three days. Flunixin meglumine may be given per prescription to reduce fever and toxic effects. ECP may be given again if more than four days since previous injection and the cow is not more than 12 DIM. Treat with B vitamins at 40cc IM for three days for appetite. Fresh-cow drench also may be given.
<b>Protocol F</b>	Less than 101 F	Looks sick: has cold ears and toxic uterus, temperature is variable. Follow Protocol B which includes oral calcium, plus or minus IV calcium. Also follow Protocol D which includes antibiotics and/or ECP.

All milk and meat withholds must be respected for the drugs used. Obtain veterinary prescription as required.

ECP use requires prescription. With these protocols and especially the use of Excenel very few cows need to be taken off line.

\*Key for all protocols: DIM=days in milk, IV= intravenously, IM=intramuscularly, cc=cubic centimeter, SQ=subcutaneously