

WHY DOES MILK MATTER TO SCOURING CALVES AND LAMBS?



Milk matters **before** scour:

Adequate colostrum intake is hugely important for preventing scour:

- **Calves** should receive 4 litres or 10% of bodyweight (equivalent to ~20 mins continuous sucking from dam) within the first 4 (preferably 2) hours of birth. A further 2 litres should be received within 12 hours of birth
- **Lambs** should receive 210-290ml/kg bodyweight within 24 hours of birth. The first feed should be within 2 hours of birth



Milk matters **during** scour: Milk:

- Is the best energy source for weight gain
- Provides fluids
- Contains the building blocks (glutamine) for gut repair
- Contains immunoglobulins to help build immunity against disease
- Has antimicrobial effects
- Maintains abomasal pH levels for optimal digestion



Milk matters **after** scour: **Unrestricted milk feeding during the early months of life has been shown to:**

- Increase average daily weight gain across the period until weaning and therefore increase bodyweight at weaning⁵
- Reduce the age at first calving*
- Stimulate mammary gland development⁶
- Increase yield in first lactation⁷

*as increased ADG is linked with reduced age at first calving⁹

Rehydion can be used during scouring, or as a proactive measure when animals are potentially at risk of stress or infection:

- When colostrum quality may be poor (e.g. due to poor dam nutrition)
- If slow to suckle after birth
- When in contact with other scouring animals
- Around weaning or when feed is changed
- Around transport/moving/handling

Calves	Lambs
2 feeds a day for 2 days	
20ml per litre of milk, per feed	1ml per kg, per feed
4 x 10ml pump per feed	1 x 2ml pump per 2 kg lamb, per feed
1 bottle = 8 feeds	1 bottle = up to 160 feeds



For further information visit www.makingmilkmatter.co.uk

References:

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2. DAIReXNET, Calf Diseases and Prevention, 16th August 2019 <https://dairy-cattle.extension.org/2019/08/calf-diseases-and-prevention/>
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4. Garthwaite et al. Whole Milk and Oral Rehydration Solution for Calves with Diarrhea of Spontaneous Origin. J Dairy Sci 1994; 77:835-843. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022030294770181>
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7. Soberon et al. Prewaning milk replacer intake and effects on long-term productivity of dairy calves. J Dairy Sci. 2012 Feb;95(2):783-793 [https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(12\)00031-8/fulltext](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(12)00031-8/fulltext)
8. Brickell & Wathes. The effect of growth rate on age at first calving, fertility and milk production during the first lactation of Holstein-Friesian heifers on UK dairy farms. Presented to the British Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting, March 30 to April 1, 2009, Southport, UK. <https://bsas.org.uk/articles/animal-bytes/increased-early-heifer-growth-reduces-age-at-first-calving-and-offers>

For more information, please contact your Territory Manager or: Ceva Animal Health Ltd
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RYD42 Jan24 update



rehydion[®]
Gel



MAKING MILK MATTER AGAINST SCOUR



Oral rehydration therapy for scouring calves and lambs



SCOUR IN CALVES AND LAMBS:

Scour is a clinical sign of a problem, not a disease.

Scour can be the result of numerous pathogens or nutritional issues and may be exacerbated by:

- Inadequate colostrum intake
- Environmental pressure
- Stocking density
- Concurrent disease
- Compromised immune system

Scouring animals rapidly lose fluids and electrolytes

DEHYDRATION AND ACIDOSIS

Death
Scour is the most common cause of death in young calves^{1,2}

Reduced weight gain
Reduced long-term productive and reproductive performance³

Replacing fluid and electrolytes is key to supporting a scouring animal



TREATING SCOUR:

Milk matters.

Milk is the best source of energy and fluid replacement for scouring calves and lambs.

Stopping milk has been shown to have no impact on the resolution of scour.

In fact, calves left on milk can continue to gain weight.⁴

Oral rehydration therapy (ORT) is essential to correct the dehydration and acidosis that scour causes, giving the animal the best chance to recover and maintain weight.

Effective ORT must:

	Replace fluids	Rehydion allows continued milk feeding , as it does not affect milk clotting. Milk clots prevent scour getting worse and are essential for optimal digestion.
	Replace electrolytes	Rehydion is the only oral rehydration therapy gel that contains sufficient electrolytes per dose to correct acidosis and allows continued feeding of milk. Rehydion contains alkalising agents to correct the deficit of a scouring calf.
	Be easy to administer	Rehydion can be mixed (and stays mixed) with milk , using the simple calf dosing cap, or it can be administered directly using a dosing pump/syringe.
	Not risk worsening scour	Rehydion not only allows milk to clot , it also does not contain excessive glucose , which can make scour worse by causing osmotic diarrhoea.