

Calf scours

Calf scours are common at this time of the year and many samples are assessed at laboratories and at the pen-side in order to detect causative pathogens. Bear in mind that neither test is 100% accurate. Specificity is relatively good with few false positive results occurring, whereas sensitivity of the tests is modest unless the calf is shedding large numbers of organisms at the time of testing. Some calves shed small to moderate numbers of organisms throughout infection and pathogen numbers can wane by as early as four days in some cases.

