



We at Tatura Vet Clinic have recently been informed of the development of treatment for the prevention of coccidiosis and feel this information could be of benefit to you and your farm.

Coccidia is a protozoa (*Eimeria bovis*, *Eimeria zuernii*), transmitted by ingestion of oocysts from a faecal contaminated environment.

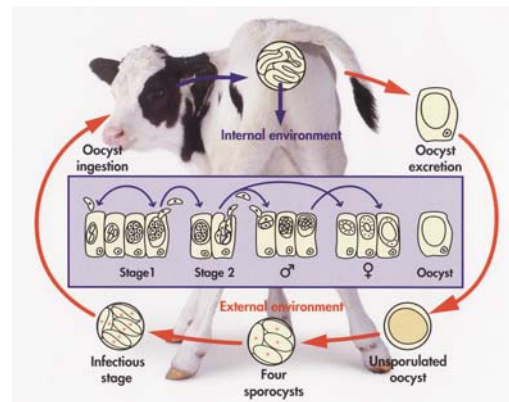
Apart from the well recognized bloody scours **clinical** coccidiosis also causes;

- dehydration
- depression
- loss of appetite
- retarded growth
- increased risk of secondary infection
- death in rare cases

This however is not the whole story as 95% of coccidial infections are subclinical meaning there are no symptoms displayed. **Subclinical** infections may be costing you money by;

- reducing the ability of replacement heifers to convert feed
- decreasing growth rates
- delaying sexual maturity
- increasing time required to get in calf
- decreasing average lifetime milk yield

Coccidiosis is transferred by the faecal-oral route which means oocysts (the immature coccidial form) are excreted in the faeces of other cattle and ingested by individuals. The oocysts then implant in the villi (the lining of the intestines) where they mature and destroy the villi and are once again passed out in the faeces. Oocysts are stable in the environment and can withstand freezing and most disinfectants.



Insuring against the risk of coccidiosis is a vital measure to enable a dairy herd to reach its productivity potential. Treating all 'at risk' calves before the onset of clinical disease makes good sense, as it will improve the health status of replacement heifers. The time of treatment will be farm dependant based on when coccidia cases usually occur. The majority of cases will occur 10 days after a change in diet from medicated calf pellets to a grass-based diet. Preventative treatment should therefore be started one week prior the expected onset of clinical signs in the herd. Once clinical signs are present it means intestinal damage and the resulting stunted development has already occurred.

Baycox comes in an easy to use, single dose, oral drench form. It suppresses the excretion of oocysts for over 42 days therefore not only reduces clinical symptoms but also the number of new cases. Expected cost per heifer is \$5, this will depend on weight and age of heifers at treatment.

If you have any further questions on Baycox or the management of coccidia in your replacement herd please don't hesitate to call.