

Talking Scours Prevention



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Veterinarians and cattle producers across much of the Great Plains and Midwest battled scours last winter, due to severe weather throughout the region.

In a recent survey¹ of 50 veterinarians and 151 producers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, 40 percent of veterinarians reported seeing a greater incidence of scours during the winter of 2006/2007 – and 100 percent blamed the brutal weather.

Indeed, scours vaccines were put to the test last season.

Scour Bos® withstood tough challenge

Survey results found 97 percent of veterinarians who used Scour Bos said it met or exceeded expectations, despite the severe weather conditions (See Fig. 1.) Likewise, 91 percent of producers said that Scour Bos met or exceeded their expectations. Veterinarians and producers cite its effectiveness, convenient dosing and broad scours protection. Given how well Scour Bos performed last season, it's no surprise that Scour Bos is the leading vaccine that veterinarians will recommend for the 2008 calving season. Forty-seven percent of veterinarians reported they plan to use Scour Bos, 37 percent plan to use ScourGuard® and 8 percent plan to use Guardian® (See Fig. 2)

Scour Bos 9 provides outstanding passive protection. Calves receiving colostrum from dams vaccinated with Scour Bos 9 show impressive levels of protection against four major causes of neonatal calf scours: coronavirus, rotavirus, *C. perfringens* Type C and *E. coli* K99.

Scour Bos 9 also provides broad coverage with three different rotavirus strains, one coronavirus fraction, four isolates of *E. coli* K99, plus *C. perfringens* Type C. Scour Bos is the only three-way rotavirus vaccine. It is confirmed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to contain serotypes G10, G6 and G8.

How scours vaccines compare

Vaccine Feature	Scour Bos® 9	ScourGuard® 4 KC	Guardian®
Number of antigens	9	5	7
Number of <i>E. coli</i> isolates	4	1	1
Number of rotavirus isolates	3	2	2

Preg-check and protect

And when it comes to convenience, only Scour Bos 9 lets you prevent scours at the same time your clients are running cows through the chute at preg-check.

In the first year, Scour Bos 9 can be administered to pregnant cows as early as 16 weeks prior to calving. A booster with Scour Bos 4 (rotavirus and coronavirus) should be given four weeks prior to calving. In subsequent years, simply revaccinate with one dose of Scour Bos 9 up to 10 weeks before calving – that's sooner than you can with any other product.

Other management practices

As effective as Scour Bos is, you know as well as I do that scours management cannot be obtained in a bottle. An effective scours prevention strategy has to include other steps designed to lower the challenge from scours and raise resistance to scours, such as:

- Effective biosecurity
- Environmental hygiene
- Proper nutrition
- Colostrum management

There is no easy out, especially when we're dealing with a disease that's caused by a variety of different pathogens, and one that gets worse with bad weather.

Since we can't control the weather, we need to be ready for the worst that Mother Nature can give us and control the scours. That being the case, it's no surprise that 96 percent of veterinarians surveyed say they'll recommend a scours vaccine for pregnant cows prior to next calving season and 99 percent of producers say they'll use one.

The question is, will the vaccine you recommend provide the best possible protection?

97 percent of veterinarians and 91 percent of producers who used Scour Bos reported that, despite the challenging weather conditions, Scour Bos met or exceeded their expectations.

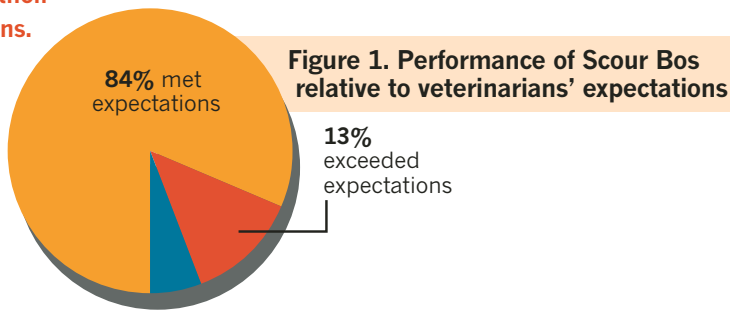
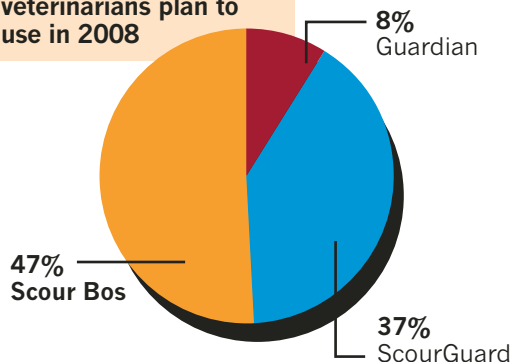


Figure 2. Scours vaccine veterinarians plan to use in 2008



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1. Scours vaccine study. May 2007. Research conducted by Marketing Horizons Inc., St. Louis, MO. Interviews were conducted between April 30 and May 14, 2007.