

Calves and Bicycle Wheels

[Part 6 of a six-part series]

In a short provocative article Ryan Leiterman and Lorrie Meister (Crystal Creek Natural) make the case for considering every aspect of calf care (the spokes in the bicycle wheel) to optimize calf health and growth. A perfectly round wheel depends on all spokes being strong. When one or more of six key spokes become weak the chances of delivering well-grown, healthy calves goes down.

Let's look at spoke Number 6 - Sanitation

The authors recommend evaluating the strength of this spoke by:

- Check cleaning protocol effectiveness – have a consultant use an ATP meter to swab “clean” surfaces.
- Use “cleanliness” estimates to identify areas that need improvement or recognize times of the year that are more challenging to maintain cleanliness.

If you are not using these two approaches, your risk of having a “weak” spoke may be high.

I recommend:

- An effective protocol for washing equipment that comes in contact with either milk or colostrum is found [HERE](http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/WashMilkContProtocolR1915.pdf) or at this URL: <http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/WashMilkContProtocolR1915.pdf>.
- Suggestions for using a luminometer (ATP meter) can be found [HERE](http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/LuminometerUsingtoAchieveSanitationGoalsN19186_1.pdf) or use this URL: http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/LuminometerUsingtoAchieveSanitationGoalsN19186_1.pdf.
- Chlorine Dioxide is widely recommended as a disinfectant. Click [HERE](http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/DisinfectingusingChlorineDioxideR1960.pdf) for more on this or use this URL to go there: <http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/DisinfectingusingChlorineDioxideR1960.pdf>.
- Why do we have problems with sanitation? Go to this resource on BIOFILMS to get the scientific scoop on why sanitation has to be a consistent practice – click [HERE](http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/BiofilmsThreatenCalfHealthR19107.pdf) or use this URL to go there: <http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/BiofilmsThreatenCalfHealthR19107.pdf>.

Reference: “Calves and bicycle wheels: A systematic approach to troubleshooting pre-weaned calves” by Ryan Leiterman and Lorrie Meister. Click [HERE](https://crystalcreeknatural.com/comparing-calves-to-bicycle-wheels-a-systematic-approach-to-troubleshooting-pre-weaned-calves/#more-8192) to go to the article or use this URL <https://crystalcreeknatural.com/comparing-calves-to-bicycle-wheels-a-systematic-approach-to-troubleshooting-pre-weaned-calves/#more-8192>.

[The full six-part series is posted at www.atticacows.com, click on the Resources drop-down menu and select “Calf Management Newsletter.”]