

Who is most likely to contract Cryptosporidiosis?

ANIMALS

1. Calves that are less than 6 months of age.
2. Calves that have or have had high stress levels.
3. Calves with compromised immune systems.

HUMANS

1. People who are exposed to infected calves or contaminated surfaces.
2. Children and older adults.
3. People with compromised immune systems.

How can Cryptosporidiosis be treated?

ANIMALS

1. Give fluid therapy to prevent dehydration.
2. Administer bovine hyperimmune colostrum.

Additional Resources for more information regarding Cryptosporidiosis

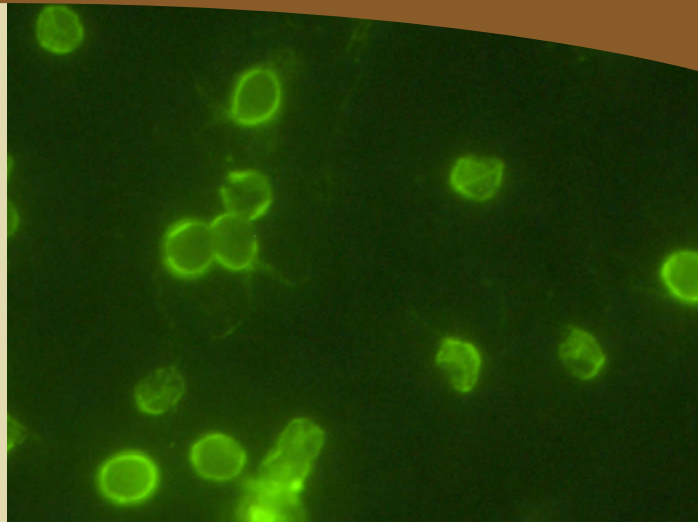
- cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease.php?name=cryptosporidiosis&lang=en
- cdc.gov/parasites/crypto
- fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Livestock/Bronson-Animal-Disease-Diagnostic-Laboratory-BADDL/How-to-Submit-a-Sample-to-the-Bronson-Animal-Disease-Diagnostic-Laboratory

Who can you contact?

In Animals - Contact your veterinarian.

In Humans - Contact your physician, your county health department, or the Florida Department of Health.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM IN DAIRY CALVES



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

What is Cryptosporidium?

Cryptosporidiosis is a disease that can affect humans and animals causing diarrhea as a common illness. It is caused by a parasite called *Cryptosporidium parvum*, better known as “Crypto.” It is very common in younger calves who are less than 6 months. Because *Crypto* is resistant to many medications and environments, it can be spread easily. Improper sanitation practices can lead to contamination of water, food, surfaces and people, especially on dirty hands.

How is Crypto spread?

Contact with contaminated food, water, surfaces, and feces (manure.)

How can Cryptosporidium be detected?

Send stool sample to a diagnostic laboratory for a Cryptosporidium Fecal Direct Fluorescent Antigen Test (DFA).



How can I protect myself and my dairy calves?

ANIMALS

1. Good sanitation (regular cleaning)
2. Disinfection
3. Treatment of concurrent diseases or stressors
4. Good nutrition and management (the provision of adequate colostrum, avoidance of overcrowding)
5. Cleaning with hot water followed by drying
6. Keep sick animals away from those that are healthy
7. Clean and disinfect areas where animals have been ill or had diarrhea

HUMANS

1. Good hygiene
2. Hand-washing with soap and water (after using the toilet, touching animals, and before handling or eating food)
3. Use of personal protective equipment (wear gloves)
4. Water treatment (use of commercial water supplies, boiling, or filtration)
5. Humans should not eat or handle food until after washing hands if they have been handling animals, gone swimming in lakes or streams, or are visiting day care facilities
6. When visiting sick persons, the visitor should exercise good biosecurity such as hand-washing

What are the most common symptoms?

ANIMALS

1. Mild to severe watery diarrhea
2. Dehydration
3. Weight loss
4. Anorexia
5. Lethargy/Debilitation
6. Death
7. Adult cattle can reduce milk production
8. Immunosuppressed animals and neonatal animals are more susceptible to severe disease

HUMANS

1. Watery diarrhea
2. Abdominal cramps
3. Weight loss
4. Anorexia
5. Nausea or Vomiting
6. Flatulence
7. Low grade fever
8. Immunosuppressed: can end in death. It may cause pancreatitis, nasal discharge, coughing, and dyspnea

