

DIPPING NAVELS

£309 Profit per 100 Cows

Benefits:

- Lower death loss – Calves without navel disinfection (navel dipping with 7% tincture of iodine solution) have a 11 percent higher death loss than those that are disinfected. For every 100 cows, that means an extra 5 deaths among heifer calves. **The value of extra death losses avoided due to properly disinfecting navels at birth, depending on the replacement value of a week-old heifer calf come to: @£45 = £225, @£60 = £300, @£75 = £375 per 100 cows.**
- Lower rate of treatment for pneumonia – Calves without navel disinfection have a 14 percent higher rate of treatable pneumonia than those that are disinfected. For every 100 cows, that means treating an extra 6 calves. Including drug and labor costs, **that comes to £44.30 per 100 cows in extra treatment costs avoided due to properly disinfecting navels at birth.**
- **Total savings per 100 cows when a calf is worth £60 is £344.**

Costs:

- Navel dip. The recommended dip is 7 percent tincture of iodine solution. This is a brown, alcohol solution that both dries the tissue and kills germs. Assuming about 50ml of dip is used for each calf, then the cost per calf is about 2p. **That comes to about £9.2 per 100 cows.**
- Labor for dipping – Assuming £6.70/hour and 5 minutes to dip each calf, then the cost per calf is about 55p. **That comes to about £25.40 per 100 cows.**
- **Total cost per 100 cows is £35.**

If a heifer calf is worth £60, then profit is £309 per 100 cows

Reference: Table 2. Effect of disinfecting vs. not disinfecting navels on calf mortality and health. University of Wisconsin Calf Survival Study. Feed Management Vol. 51, No. 2 pg. 22.

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