Fatal Non-Responsive Diarrhea in Beef Calves 6 to 8 Weeks of Age
Radostits et. al. 1991

- Sixty head cow-calf herd in Saskatchewan, Canada
- Thirty percent mortality rate in spring-born calves
- Weakness and recumbency, followed by diarrhea and dehydration
- Average plasma tocopherol in 25 untreated calves – 1.0 µg/ml
- Average plasma tocopherol in 2 treated calves – 3.82 µg/ml
- Plasma selenium status was normal - .125 to .252 ppm
- Pathological findings – Nutritional muscular dystrophy, elevated CPK

This case study showed the effects of vitamin E deficiency in spring-born calves. Weakness and diarrhea resulted in 30% mortality. Average plasma alpha-tocopherol was deficient in un-supplemented calves, while supplemented calves had adequate vitamin E status.

Lack of fat-soluble vitamin intake during gestation, especially during winter months and drought conditions, resulted in colostrum and milk being deficient in fat-soluble vitamins. The vitamin E status of nursing calves was deficient due to the lack of mammary transfer.

Recommend injecting spring-born beef calves with VITAL E-Newborn.