

# MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 6.30PM SUMMER CLIENT BBQ (PTO FOR DETAILS)

## Calf milk replacer assessments (Ben)

After Claire and I went to the recent AHDB dairy meeting at Marshalls Farm about calf growth rates we wanted to maintain the momentum and look into the milk replacers that our clients are using and compare energy content and potential growth rates. Why bother? Well, it has been well proven that the growth rates during the milk feeding period are one of the key determinants for milk yield in the first lactation – the better you start them off, the better they will milk in that 1<sup>st</sup> lactation. Some of our clients are getting growth rates of over 1kg/day to weaning which is setting the future of their herds the best possible start.

Our aim is to offer a service to all of you that are feeding milk replacer to determine the potential growth rates depending on environmental temperature and quantity of milk replacer that is fed. The difficulty is that there is no requirement to quote the energy content of milk replacer so we have to do some calculations. Megan and I have crunched the figures and come up with a spreadsheet that will allow us to create a table for your farm with feed rates for growth rates and temperatures. All we need you to do is to send in a photo of the constituent analysis on your bag of milk replacer to [me-gan@livestockvets.co.uk](mailto:me-gan@livestockvets.co.uk) and we will send you our analysis back. This will give you an indication of what sort of growth rates you should expect depending on the amount of powder fed and the ambient temperature of the calf's environment. Those that send us their information before the end of August will be entered into a prize draw to **WIN A BRUX REFRACTOMETER** to help you better assess the quality of your colostrum, to ensure that your calves get the best possible stuff.

We look forward to getting your photos of calf milk replacer labels!!

Milk replacer for calves as complete feed	
<b>Guarantee</b>	<b>Additives</b>
23.00 % Crude protein	Guarantee I.U. per gram/mg
18.00 % Crude fat	per kg:
7.10 % Ash	<b>Nutritional:</b>
<0.10 % Crude fibre	25.00 I.U. Vitamin A (E672)
1.00 % Calcium	3.00 I.U. Vitamin D <sub>3</sub> (E671)
0.80 % Phosphorous	273.00 mg Alpha-tocopherol ***
0.60 % Sodium	50.00 mg D-alpha-tocopherol ****
1.80 % Lysine	6.00 mg Vitamin K
0.53 % Methionine	10.00 mg Vitamin B <sub>1</sub>
0.24 % Cystine	8.00 mg Vitamin B <sub>2</sub>
1.07 % Threonine	7.00 mg Vitamin B <sub>6</sub>
	20.00 mg D-Pantothenic acid
<b>Composition</b>	500.00 mg Choline chloride
Skimmed milk powder	0.07 mg Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>
Whey powder	35.00 mg Nicotinic acid
Vegetable fat	0.50 mg Folic acid
Whey powder, partly de-sugared	0.10 mg Biotin
Premix *)	150.00 mg Vitamin C (E300)
*) Premix containing the guaranteed additives, mixed in wheat starch, pregelatinized.	154.00 mg Mn as manganous sulphate, monohydrate (E5)
** 300 mg vitamin E per kg	304.00 mg Fe as iron sulphate, monohydrate (E1)
***175 mg natural vitamin E per kg	39.00 mg Cu as copper sulphate, pentahydrate (E4)
<b>Production No.:</b>	274.00 mg Zn as zinc sulphate, monohydrate (E6)
See print on bag	0.77 mg I as calcium iodate, hexahydrate (E2)
<b>Packing:</b>	0.88 mg Se as sodium selenite (E8)
25 kg	
<b>Best before:</b>	<b>Technological:</b>
See print on bag.	Citric acid (E330), calcium formate (E238), BHT (E321)
Manufactured 6 months before expiry date.	
<b>Further information:</b>	

## Antibiotic resistance (Maarten)

Antibiotic resistance is now seen as one of the major global threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Resistant bacteria can and have spread from humans to animals and vice versa. For years we have, as a practice, been pushing for responsible use of antibiotics on farms. We have not only managed to reduce the amount of antibiotics used by tackling mastitis, pneumonia in calves and selective dry-cow therapy but we have also virtually eliminated the use of antibiotics that are classed as critical for human medicine. We are encouraged that most of our clients have embraced these issues rather than giving us the cold shoulder when we bring them up.

During 2016 the SAC has tested E coli isolates from parasitology monitoring samples to see how many isolates were resistant to a wide range of different antibiotics. The samples came from healthy sheep and cattle in Scotland but up to 28% of isolates in cattle and 19% of isolates in sheep were found to be resistant to antibiotics. The highest level of resistance were recorded for commonly used antibiotics in livestock: tetracycline, amoxicillin and amoxicillin with clavulanic acid. This demonstrates to me the selective effect of antibiotic treatments very similar to that of worming treatments that have resulted in the wide spread anthelmintic resistance in sheep. And for this reason we should avoid the use in animals of those antibiotics that are classed critical in humans like 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> generation cephalosporines, fluoroquinolones and long acting macrolides. This includes products such as Excenel, Naxcel, Cobactan, A180, Cephaguard DC, Zuprevo etc.

## NOTICE BOARD

**THE LIVESTOCK  
PARTNERSHIP**  
SUCCESS THROUGH HEALTH

the liVeStock  
partnership Ltd

Market Square,  
Petworth

Tel: 01798 343538

### Summer BBQ (Claire)

Kindly hosted by the Foote Family.(Church Lane Farm, Brown Candover, Alresford. SO24 9TW)

Come and see a progressive, family run expanding 200 cow dairy herd, new quick release parlour, hutch and cubicle reared heifers, three times a day calf feeding and milking, tip over crush...

If all that doesn't float your boat, come for a burger and a sausage!

Please contact the office to reserve your place: 01798 343538 or [info@livestockvets.co.uk](mailto:info@livestockvets.co.uk)

### Third instalment of Farming outside the UK! (Bruce Braithwaite, Crouchlands)

Dairy farming in South Africa is an industry which survives without any government subsidies or protection. The average herd size in South Africa is 560 cows in milk and the average farm size is just over 800ha. In the lower winter rainfall areas TMR herds are more prevalent due to the lack of suitable grazing and water for irrigation. The biggest TMR herd is just over 6000 cows in milk with the average TMR herd size just under 1000 cows. Most cows are milked on rotary parlours with a farm in the Cape Province being the first in the world to install a composite table made of carbon fibre and fibreglass. We have just over 1.3 million dairy cows with the majority being Holsteins followed by jersey/Holstein crosses, Jerseys and then Ayrshires (we have the largest Ayrshire herd in the world). In the Kwa-Zulu Natal midlands (known as the last British outpost) we share very similar vegetation and topography as West Sussex the biggest difference being that we have summer rainfall. The ambient temperature in the midlands varies from around a maximum of 40 in summer to a minimum of -12 degrees centigrade in winter. Most herds in Natal are pasture based with a mixture of annual and perineal rye grass varieties being grazed all year round with kikuyu utilised in summer. All pastures are irrigated with centre pivots at a rate of about 20mm a week in winter with supplementary irrigation during the hotter summer months, we have an average rainfall of 1400mm. Maize silage is made on most farms with yields varying from 45t/ha to 96t/ha depending on whether irrigation is employed or not. This is fed as a buffer on covered feed pads throughout the year or partial TMR rations are mixed during times of drought. Most herds employ artificial insemination and there are no companies like Genus so insemination is done by farm staff. To this end you will be hard pressed to find a commercial herd not using heat detection software and most have ALPRO or AFIKIM management systems.

TB has been eradicated in South Africa although it is still compulsory to have every cow checked annually. The most significant diseases we have in South Africa are tick borne diseases such as Red water and gall sickness. Red blood cells are attacked after an animal has been bitten by a tick and the animal becomes anaemic and if untreated will result in death. Another interesting fact is that we have the oldest continuous running, Agricultural show in the world known as THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW, which has been running for the past 167 years with the Queen of England named as one of the patrons.

### Grassland meeting success! (Sarah)

Thank you to all who came to our very successful grasslands meeting last month with Charlie Morgan speaking on how to make the most of them in our grass based systems. Nearly all our sheep clients made it to the morning meeting, which was absolutely fantastic! Many thanks again to Andy Hodgkins and his fiancé Laura for hosting the morning on the beautiful downs. Wool sacks provided very comfy seating, the cakes went down well and best of all everyone really tuned into what Charlie had to tell us! In the afternoon Lewis Edge kindly hosted us at Renwicks family farm, and we were able to walk the farm and see how some particular grazing problems could be improved or managed. It was wonderful to see so many of you really engaging, and asking lots of questions meaning it was a very useful session. Highlights of the day for me were considering how some of our grasses now have a nutrient value (ME value) of 12, which is equivalent to some concentrate feeds. It is by far the cheapest, most efficient feed when managed properly. We considered which was more economical to feed; clamped, square or round bale silage and it seemed there were vast differences between each. Charlie was an advocate of the round bale, as



they came out the most economical in terms of weight and DM (dry matter) content. He reminded us that we should be viewing silage as a by product from our well managed grazing systems, not necessarily a 'crop' taking up fields that we end up barely grazing. The benefits of rotational grazing systems were explained with case studies from farmers that Charlie had worked with. Another interesting fact of the day was how topping was not actually that helpful to grassland health or management, mowing is what we should be doing instead when possible.

We invest a lot of time and money organising meetings as a practice, and they are only worthwhile when you turn up and engage. We were so pleased with the feedback from this type of meeting, so please let us know if there are other topics you would like us to look into for you.