



Lionel's News

September 2014

7th Edition

Dear Business Partner

At Lionel's Vet we appreciate that farming with livestock is a passion not only a means to earn an income. Therefore we hope that this newsletter will be informative and interesting to all. We have a dedicated team of sales and technical staff that will provide you with information on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for your support and be assured of our commitment to make further innovations available to you.

Regards

Duncan Stephenson

Visit our website: WWW.LIONELSVET.CO.ZA

Behandel **BLOUTONG** só

Diere wat Bloutong het, het seer spiere, is liggevoelig, koorsig en ontwater. Bloutong stem baie ooreen met griep in mense. Sere in die mond en 'n "blou" tong is nie altyd teenwoordig nie. Siek diere kry dikwels sekondêre longontsteking wat dan die oorsaak van dood is. Goedversorgde bloutong-gevalle oorleef gewoonlik. Die behandeling van Bloutonginfeksie is soos volg (in volgorde van belangrikheid):

- **Stel ontwatering reg**

Diere kan nie loop en drink nie en as dit baie warm is, is hulle gou ontwater.

Gee lammers 1 tot 2 liter glukose en sout-oplossing wat by u koöperasie of veearts verkrygbaar is. Gee volwasse skape tot 5 liter.

As niks anders beskikbaar is nie, gee 'n opgehoopte teelepel sout en 'n opgehoopte eetlepel suiker in 2 liter water.



- **Spoel neus en mond met sterk sout-oplossing uit**

Diere met seer monde en geblokte neuse sal nie eet nie. Sout is 'n goeie ontsmettingsmiddel vir die mond. Meng 'n eetlepel sout in 'n koppie water en gebruik 'n spuit om in die neus en mond op te spuit. Verwyder korste in neusopening met 'n lap, watte of toilet papier.

- **Sit diere in 'n stal**

Onder 'n boom in 'n land is nie goed genoeg nie. Siek skape gaan lê dikwels self in die son. Nagte mag koel wees en dae te warm. 'n Stal of skeerskuur is baie beter vir siek diere. Gee strooi om op te slaap of op hortjiesvloer. Sorg vir kos en water en doseer water indien hulle nie self drink nie. Beheer lastige vlieë en muskiete.

- **Voer lusern na 24 uur**

Skape wat nie vreet nie, sal moeilik herstel as hulle nie energie kry nie. Neem vars lusern of gras en maak fyn in huishoudelike verpulper saam met water. Sif en doseer.

- **Behandel met antibiotika en anti-inflammatoriese middel**

Siek skape se koors het nie verminder met Disprin deur die bek nie. Antibiotika of sulfapille deur die bek dra by tot die afsterwe van die mikro-organismes in die rumen. Langwerkende tetrasikliene maak spiere meer seer en verhoog liggevoeligheid. Antibiotika maak nie die Bloutongvirus dood nie, maar voorkom longontsteking. Gebruik 'n middel wat doeltreffend is teen *Pasteurella* - gesels met jou veearts oor die keuse of gebruik 'n inspuitable sulfamiddel bv Disulf-ox LA (G3441)

Kry inspuitable anti-inflammatoriese middel by jou veearts vir die pyn en koors.

Die inligting wat in hierdie antwoord vervat is, word slegs bedoel as algemene riglyne en u moet altyd u veearts raadpleeg vir advies. Die skrywer neem geen verantwoordelikheid vir enige skade wat mag volg op die toepassing van die inhoud van hierdie dokument op die plaas of in u kudde nie.

Geskryf deur: Dr. Johan van Rooyen, Grootfontein Landbou-ontwikkelingsinstituut, Privaatsak X529, Middelburg OK, 5900

Summer Breeding Tips

Pig breeding company PIC offers tips on how to be cool by being prepared for high summer temperatures.

Does this sound familiar? “The sows aren’t eating much and I can’t keep the temperature down in the barn.” If yes, then read on. If not, read on anyway. Summer is around the corner and unless you plan to move your operation to Alaska, you will need a plan to manage some of the challenges that hot weather brings.

All too often, humidity and temperature rises beyond the point at which anything preventative can be done to ensure adequate pig (and person) comfort and performance.

As temperatures rise, feed usage declines and a lethargic, listless hog inventory languishes in the heat. Often, the challenges associated with summer heat are not addressed until a crisis requires immediate action. Unfortunately, late action can result in a poor outcome. A well planned pre-season review of key summer management practices will help you to avoid a heat-related crisis.

The PIC Technical Services Team has indicated there may be some pitfalls caused by inadequate preparation or equipment. Here are some tips on how to ‘keep things cool’ prior to prolonged periods of hot weather.

Tips on Housing, Ventilation, and Husbandry

- Allow females full access to water in every department of the farm.
- Maintain all ventilation components to ensure proper and efficient air movement.
 - Check fans, louvers and inlets weekly.
 - Check fan belts weekly
- Any movement of pregnant sows to farrowing or weaned sows to the weaning area should be done as early in the day as possible to reduce stress.
- Make sure semen storage units are working well. Monitor with a high/low thermometer inside the storage unit and check often.



Tips on Breeding and Gestation

- Increase gilt flow by 10 to 15 per cent for eight to 12 weeks. On a 2,500-sow farm with 50 per cent annual replacement rate, it equals an additional two to three gilts per week. Do not overcrowd gilts or lower selection criteria when adding animals.
- House P1 and thin sows together at weaning.
- Feed wean sows twice per day.
- Consider culling older (P5+) sows or sows in extremely poor body condition.
- If this will not affect breeding target, heat no service sows that come into heat before day 2 post-weaning and from days 7 to 14 post-weaning.
- Heat-check weaned sows, gilts, and 21-day bred group twice per day.
 - Start boar exposure to wean sows the day of weaning.
 - Leave boars in front of weaned sow after heat check / breeding for one hour.
- Heat check open or opportunity sows once a day.
- Use two boars during breeding.
 - Second boar should be five feet (1.52 metres) behind the first boar for extra stimulation after the insemination.
 - One boar can stimulate four sows at a time. Do not inseminate more than four sows at once.
- Do not over-condition sows in gestation.

Tips on Farrowing

- Maximise lactation feed intake.
 - Full feed from days 2 to 3 after farrowing.
 - Early identification of off-feed sows: take the temperature of sows the day after farrowing and treat those with a temperature of 103°F (39°C) or above.
 - Wet feed can be an option to maximise feed intake but it has to be properly managed.
- Load gilts together in farrowing.
 - Provide gilts with extra attention during and after farrowing.
- Be prepared to assist more sows in the farrowing process than in cooler months.
- Desired farrowing room temp is 65°F (18°C) after day 7 post-farrowing.
 - Manage room to maximise sow comfort.

Early wean young sows that start to lose too much weight in farrowing.



LIONELS VET COMPLETE PIG HYGIENE PROGRAMME

All products are made by CID LINES Belgium, under ISO 9001 : 2008 and GMP certification and traceability.

1. CLEANING OF PIG HOUSES



Biogel

- Unique gel forming detergent.
- Clings longer on surfaces, saves water and time and gives superior cleaning results to ensure a better disinfection.

2. DISINFECTION OF PIG HOUSES



Virocid®

- Full spectrum, non-corrosive disinfectant (approved against PRRS, PCV2, AFRICAN - Swine Fever and PEDv) in Europe and the USA.
 - Can be sprayed, foamed or fogged.
 - Can be used for foot-dips and vehicle disinfection as well.
- "African Swine Fever, PEDv, ..."*

3. WATER LINE CLEANING



Cid 2000™

- Was tested by the University of Fayetteville, Arkansas (USA) as having "the greatest reduction in microbial load".

4. HEAVY DUTY CLEANER



DM Cid S

- Chlorinated cleaner/sanitizer for farm equipment and abattoirs (not on aluminium).

5. SOW WASHING



Keno™ Pro

- Animal shampoo that is skin-friendly and sanitizes the skin before farrowing.

6. SOW DISINFECTION



Kenostart®SD

- Iodine based spraying product to disinfect the sow's teat's, vulva, ...
- Very useful in the battle against streptococcus!
- Contains emollients to condition the skin and helps against Mastitis.

7. PROTECTING AND NURSING



Keno™ Fix

- Very powerful disinfection
- Protective barrier spray
- Anti-cannibalism effect

8. WATER ACIDIFICATION



Agrocid Super Oligo

- Cocktail of organic acids and oligo-elements, enhancing better production results.

9. NEW STANDARD IN CLEANING



Keno™ San

- Unique formula based on new technologies
- Sticky and long-lasting foam
- Extreme dirt penetrating capacity
- Very economical use
- Non corrosive

10. THE MISSING LINK



Keno™ Cox

- Amazing results on cryptosporidiosis 2%, 2 hours contact time
- Unique formula without phenol, patent pending (PCT/EP2009/000789)

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Visit our website : www.lionelsvet.co.za

Hoard's Dairyman:

Is getting cows pregnant getting harder?

Date:

Wed, 09/10/2014

It might seem like it, but tighter management and technology can help.

By Patti Hurtgen, Hoard's Dairyman Online Media Manager

Decades ago, cows gave far less milk and reproduction came easy. Today's cows produce high volumes of milk, but are still expected to calve back consistently. There was a downward trend for fertility until 2001, when a focus on reproductive health reversed that trend. Matt Lucy, University of Missouri, discussed this during the September *Hoard's Dairyman* webinar, "Getting them bred."

Lucy explained that new technology can often be taken for granted. Just two decades ago, the terms ovsynch, resynch, daughter pregnancy rate, sire conception rate, genomics, sexed semen, blood pregnancy tests and cloning were not on dairy producers' radar screens. But, how many of them are used today without appreciating the technology behind them?

"There is not one right way to manage your herd's reproduction," Lucy emphasized. Visual heat detection, tail chalk, synchronization programs and activity monitors all have their place. The key to their usefulness is the employee and facility options you have available. "What works great for your neighbor may not be the best solution for you," remarked Lucy.

A new technology that has not made it to U.S. yet is tracking progesterone levels in milk at each milking automatically. Graphs make hormone cycles very evident. It's easy to determine which cows are pregnant, and those that are not can be put back in the breeding pool quicker. It also clearly demonstrates irregularities, like cystic cows, which can be treated and reset to a normal cycle. Cows that are confirmed pregnant, but then due to unknown reasons lose an early pregnancy can quickly be spotted via their hormone graph.

Diagnosing pregnancies early can help producers identify open cows, which can enter a breeding protocol sooner. However, there is not a general consensus among the industry experts on this practice. Some caution that early diagnosis may endanger the pregnancy. However, "there are some cows that will suffer embryonic loss and there is nothing you could have done to prevent it," explained Lucy.

Lucy shared a few key points on dairy cattle reproduction:

- Breed cows that are in heat.
- Don't breed cows that aren't in heat. (fifteen percent of inseminations are to cows with a corpus luteum)
- Get your heat detection in order. (Have a plan that works for your operation.)
- Be aggressive in heat detection.
- Pregnancy check early if possible.
- When handling repeat breeders, consider giving GnRH at the time of breeding. Those cows might be late ovulators and your regular breeding protocols are not getting semen into the cow at the right time.
- If using monitors, breed 12 hours after maximum (heat) activity
- Seek input of veterinarians and reproductive professionals

Keeping these items in mind, 21-day pregnancy rates in the mid-20s (or higher) are achievable.

To learn more about resynch options, visit www.dercouncil.org

“To make any reproductive system work, it's all about the details,” Lucy summarized.



Gebruik Wesfed Skaap afrondpille en Supergain S konsentraat vir optimale produksie by speenlammers

Geskryf deur: Steyn Pretorius

In die hedendaagse mark waar voer en graan pryse die hoogte in skiet, is dit uiters belangrik om te streef na doeltreffendheid en optimale produksiesyfers. Die optimale uitkoms is om afrond lammers so vining as moontlik op gewig te kry en so min as moontlik voer tydens daardie periode te gebruik.

Wesfed Skaap Afrondpille kan gebruik word as 'n volvoer vir afrondlammers. Die produk bevat verskeie protëin bronne wat hoog in verbyvloei protieë is. Verbyvloei protieë word in die laer spysverteringskanaal afgebreek en benut waar dit 'n direkte invloed op produksie in die dier sal hê. Die insluiting van hoogs verteerbare energie en vesel bronne verseker dat die dier minder energie mors op vesel vertering en meer gebruik vir produksie en groei. Die produk bevat ook 'n reeks gebalanseerde minerale en vitamieë om optimale gesondheid en produksie te lewer.



Die insluiting van 'n sterk buffer help om die PH in die rumen konstant te hou en suurpens te verhoed, PH daling kan drastiese effekte op die rumen mikrobes hê. 'n Daling in PH veroorsaak deaktivering en vertraagde produksie van rumen mikro-organisms wat 'n rol speel in vesel vertering, mikrobiëse proteïen sintese en stysel vertering. Dus is dit van uiters belang om die PH van die rumen optimaal te hou. Die insluiting van ammonium-chloried en ammonium-sulfaat help met verskeie metaboliese steurnisse wat kan plaasvind tydens groei en ontwikkeling. Ammonium-chloried en ammonium-sulfaat help om die uriene onder 'n sekere PH te hou wat verkalking of kristalvorming verhoed. Die metaboliese steurnis staan bekend as Urinary Calculi. Die gebruik van ammonium-chloried en ammonium-sulfaat saam met die regte kalsium tot fosfaat balans, is meer effektief om sulke tipe metaboliese steurnisse te voorkom. Wesfed se Skaap afrondpille is geformuleer om die regte kalsium tot fosfor verhouding te hê. 'n Verhouding van 2:1 is optimaal en hou verskeie voordele in, bv. beter algemene gesondheid, droë materiaal inname verhoging, algemene produksie verbeterings ens.



Die produk bevat ook 'n reeks stysel en vesel verterende ensieme wat die vertering van bogenoemde roumateriale vergemaklik.

Die doel van die volvoer pil is vir boere wat skape in 'n voerkraalstelsel of in 'n kampstelsel so vinnig as moontlik wil afrond. Die Skaap afrondpil is geskik vir boere wat nie meng-geriewe op die plaas het nie, en dus dit meer gerieflik vind om 'n verpilde volvoer te koop. Daar is verskeie voordele verbonden aan verpilling van skaapvoere. Daar is minder probleme soos meel wat weg waai en oog of long probleme veroorsaak as gevolg van meel wat ingeasem word. Die diere kan nie voer uitsorteer nie wat normaalweg 'n probleem veroorsaak as ruvoer nie fyn genoeg gemaal word voordat dit by die meel gevoeg word nie. Die hanteerbaarheid is baie beter en die vermorsing van voer is redelik minder as met 'n meel.

‘n Proef is uitgevoer om die effektiwiteit en doeltreffendheid van die produk te toets en die resultate is belowend. Die lammers is aangepas op die pille vir twee weke, net na speen, en stelselmatig hoër voedingsepele van die pille gegee totdat ‘n maksimum inname van 1.2 kg per lam per dag bereik is, die gemiddelde daaglikse toename is weklíks geneem om groei en winsgewendheid van die produk te bepaal elke lammer is individueel geweeg tydens die proef. Die tabel hieronder is die uitkoms van die proef.

Tabel 1:

	Skaap afrondproef			
	10/31/2013	11/7/2013	11/14/2013	11/21/2013
TOTAAL (kg)	5114	5743.7	6089.2	6460
AANTAL LAMMERS	147	154	154	154
GEM. GEWIG (kg)	34.79	37.30	39.54	41.95
GEM. GDT (g/dag)	156.33	358.23	320.50	43.97

Die lammers is gevoer volgens n kafeteria stelsel en addisionele ruvoer is gegee. Die eerste twee weke se data het gedien as aanpassing en slegs die tweede week van aanpassing is in ag geneem (10/31/2014). ‘n Gemiddelde daaglikse toename van oor die 300 g is opgemerk.



Supergain S skaapkonsentraat is n hoë proteín konsentraat wat gebruik kan word in lekke en volvoere. Met ‘n ru-protiën waarde van 53% en ‘n hoë vebyvloei proteiën waarde afkomstig van ‘n reeks oliekoekes en ander natuurlike proteínbronne, is die produk geskik vir hoë produksie kuddes, waar voer omset vermoë ‘n prioriteit vorm. Die hoë proteiën waarde in die produk beteken dat die insluitingsvlakke in lekke en volvoere redelik laag hoef te wees. Die produk bevat ook ‘n gebalanseerde samestelling van mikro en makro minerale asook die essensieel vitamiene om optimale produksie en gesondheid in die dier te handhaaf.

Die produk bevat ook produkte soos Ammonium Chloried en Ammonium Sulfaat wat help om Urinary Calculi in hoë produksie kuddes te voorkom. Die gebruik van buffers help ook die ruminale PH van die skaap te beheer.

Die doel van die produk is om die rou materiale wat die boer op die plaas tot sy beskikking het, te gebruik saam met die HPK. Die Swartland is bekend vir sy graanproduksie en dus het verskeie boere klaar grane soos korog, gars en hawer tot hulle beskikking. Die produk word dan deur n voedingskundige geformuleer en gebalanseer saam met die rou materiale wat die boer beskikbaar het op die plaas om ‘n lek of ‘n volvoer te meng.

Kontak gerus vir Steyn Pretorius met enige navrae oor die produkte of hulp met formulasies.

Sel: 072 444 2062

Epos: steyn@wesfed.co.za



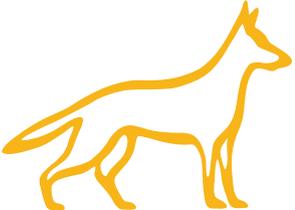
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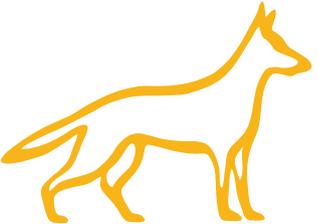
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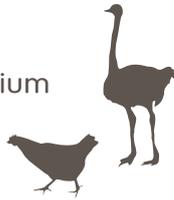
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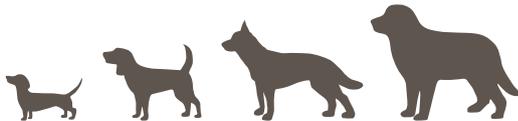


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BOTSWANA REPORT

Timeline

In 2010 a sales representative from LVS established a working relationship with Dr Mahavir Rajbar - Ex Consulting Veterinarian for Bokomo Botswana. Both had a similar vision and idea, to change the way veterinary products were offered to producers with the sole purpose of rendering a better service and offer innovative products and ideas to clients.

Opportunities

In view of how business was conducted it was clear that LVS Botswana had to think out the box. They approached the authorities and revealed their intentions and the ultimate goal of not only supplying products but also contributing a meaningful service to local operations. Doing it this way meant lots of paperwork and ultimately an 18 month delay in trade to get all the necessary approval needed for legal trade. This was an interesting journey for both LVS BW and the authorities. The result of their efforts brought about a healthy synergistic working relationship.



Why Botswana

Botswana offers numerous opportunities for trade in the agricultural industry. The Livestock sector is diverse and offers ample opportunity for trade and supply. LVS prides itself in being different and providing product and services that benefit and contribute to the producers production and daily operation. LVS BW saw a need for this in the local industry and built a business around this need.





Facts and Figures

Botswana is a country filled with friendly accommodating people.

- Population: 2.02144 Mil
- Poultry Broilers: 350,000 / Wk
- Poultry Layers: 400,000
- Dairy: 5000
- Beef: 2.5 Mil

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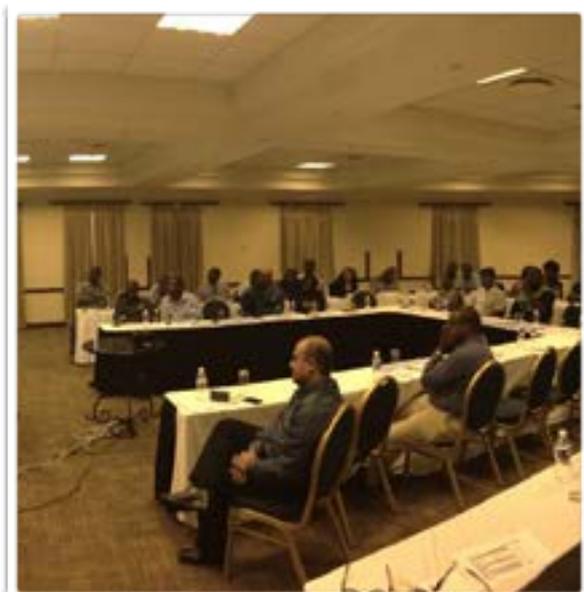
MILESTONE

During the month of October Lionel's Vet Botswana held its first poultry specific information day in Gaborone as well as Francistown. The aim of this day was to spend some quality time with our existing clients, to exchange ideas around their operations as well as share industry specific information with them and welcome new clients on board.

Mr Luc Ledoux from CID LINES attended both these information days as the guest speaker. With 20 years experience in the poultry industry he could share a wealth of knowledge and relate practices from around the globe.

The CID LINES range of products prove to be extremely successful in BW with lots of benefits for the end user.

We had a great turnout and very positive response. We plan to host more information days in the future.



Cape Dairy Experience — Agri Expo

6-8 November Sandringham, Stellenbosch

Come visit the Lionel's Veterinary Supplies booth!



Congratulations with the 10th anniversary of HOG DAY.

May there be many more!



Hog day is a pork producer conference held for the number 2 piggeries group annually .
With 7 international speakers discussing how production can be improved and keeping up with international trends



CALF COLLEGE™ COURSE NOTES

— FEEDING DAIRY CALVES THREE TIMES A DAY DELIVERS BENEFITS —

Historically, young dairy calves have been fed twice a day, often after the morning milking and before the evening milking. But now, research has shown several advantages to feeding milk replacers three times daily. When compared, calves fed a milk replacer three times daily, versus a control group fed the same milk replacer twice daily, were more feed efficient and showed improved average daily gain. Calves fed three times daily grew taller and longer, with added pounds of lean growth. This growth is optimal for dairy calves to help prepare them for desirable breeding weights and freshening at a younger age, leading to greater lifetime performance.

Research Trial Summary

Trials conducted at the USDA Forage Research Center by Don Sockett DVM, PhD with the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory explored the benefits of feeding three times versus traditional feedings of two times daily. Calves were housed outside in individual calf hutches until they were weaned and moved to group pens at 50–55 days of age. Seventy Holstein heifer calves were enrolled in the trial designed to evaluate both the short and long-term effects of feeding a full potential milk replacer diet (28 percent protein, 20 percent fat) either three times or twice a day. Calves were randomly assigned to feeding groups—two or three feedings per day.

Calves were fed the same amount of milk replacer during a 24 hour period. The only difference was the number of meals, two vs. three, offered to the calves each day. All the calves were fed at 8:00 am and 9:00 pm. Calves fed three times a day received an additional meal at 2:30 in the afternoon. Both groups of calves were fed milk replacer once a day for seven days when they reached six weeks of age. All calves in the study were offered free choice calf starter beginning at three days of age.

Calves fed three times per day showed improved growth, measuring 0.67 inches taller at hip height than calves fed two times per day (4.05" vs. 3.38"), weighed 10.36 pounds more at weaning (65.7 lbs. vs. 55.34 lbs.) and had better feed efficiency. They also consumed 26 percent more calf starter (8.36 vs. 10.56 lbs.) during the pre-weaning period when the calves were fed milk replacer once a day. Calves fed three times per day were already taller, weighed more and had better feed efficiency as early as 10 days of age ($p < .01$).

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Research has confirmed calves fed three daily feedings:

- Showed improved growth (hip height and weight) and better feed efficiency
- Consumed more calf starter during the pre-weaning process
- Were more likely to enter lactation than calves fed twice daily.



The researcher noted that three times per day fed calves were noticeably friskier than calves fed twice a day. He also observed that they could tell the difference between the calves just by their attitude as early as five to 10 days of age.

These results are summarized in Figure 1:

ITEM	2X FEEDING	3X FEEDING
Birth Weight Gain (1–42 days), lbs.	55.34	65.70
Hip Height Gain (1–42 days), in.	3.38	4.05
Feed Efficiency Gain/Dry Matter Intake (1–42 days)	0.52	0.61

When it came time for the calves to enter the lactating herd, 97.1 percent (34 of 35) of the calves in the three times a day feeding group entered the milking string. In comparison 80.0 percent (28 of 35) of calves fed two times per day entered the milking herd. This means for **every six calves fed three times a day**, one additional heifer entered lactation. Calves fed three times per day also averaged 1,136 pounds more of milk and calved 16 days earlier.

These results are summarized in Figure 2:

ITEM	2X FEEDING	3X FEEDING
Number weaned	32	34
Number lactating	28	34
Age at first calving, days	734	718
Milk production, ME305 lbs.	28,776	29,912

Applicable Considerations for 3x Feeding

- **Improved feed efficiency.**
Research indicates conversion of feed to gain was better for calves fed three times daily.
- **Healthy rumen development**
Calves fed at more frequent intervals have demonstrated more calf starter intake, a critical factor in early, healthy rumen development.
- **Increased profit potential**
With heifers reaching breeding weights earlier and calving earlier, three times per day feeding can increase milk production per cow, improve herd longevity, and increase the number of replacement heifers raised and available for herd improvement.
- **Labor costs may be offset**
The labor costs associated with an extra feeding per day may be offset by reduced treatment costs and labor associated with sick calves. Automatic calf feeders can further aid in reducing labor costs.

Three time a day feeding is an excellent management protocol to help deliver a full potential plane of nutrition to calves. Full potential diets have been proven to increase first lactation and lifetime production levels in dairy cows.

Facts based on 2011 research: D. C. Sockett* 1, C. E. Sorenson 2, N. K. Betzold 3, J. T. Meronek 3, and T. J. Earleywine 4, 1 Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2 United Cooperative, Sauk City, WI, USA, 3 University of Wisconsin–Madison, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, Madison 4 Land O’Lakes Inc., Cottage Grove, WI



One drop of milk is enough

A long-awaited pregnancy test using individual cow milk samples has arrived. After highly accurate trials, the test is now being launched globally by diagnostic company, IDEXX Laboratories. Recommended for both early pregnancy detection (from 28 days post breeding) and confirmatory follow up to early veterinary pregnancy diagnosis, this new test is hassle free for producers and veterinarians alike. Just picking up one or two lost pregnancies in a typical herd will justify the cost involved.

For more information on the working of IDEXX's pregnancy test, click on the link below and listen to Dr Tertius Gouws.

http://www.rsglandbou.co.za/mp3/sep_14/328%20Dr%20Tertius%20Gous%20Milkolab%20Melktoets%20vir%20dragtigheid%2009%20September%202014.mp3

Milkolab

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IDEXX
LABORATORIES

Why is Everyone Talking About Mycotoxins?

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

While mycotoxins are nothing new, the damage posed by them to cattle is recently becoming apparent, warns a Scottish nutritionist.

Everyone in the cattle industry seems to suddenly be talking about mycotoxins, according to Charlie Maclaren, cattle nutritionist at the National Beef Association.

He advises UK farmers that Zealalenone is most prevalent this year in forages, grains and straw and that beef farmers may have a harder time in catching cases early.

The following is a discussion of what to look for this winter and a break down of advice on what to expect from wet, spoiled feed.

What are Mycotoxins?

In very simple terms; they are the waste product of Fungi, they are not a living organism.

Where do they come from?

These fungi are found naturally on grasses, straw and most living plant life, and are found throughout the growing season.

How to identify Mycotoxins?

Mycotoxins are microscopic, and cannot be seen in forage so it is impossible to identify them with the naked eye, writes Mr Maclaren. However, you will be able to spot tell-tale signs that the forage been eaten contains Mycotoxins by watching the cattle.

If you have milking dairy cows the signs are easier to spot; a sudden drop in milk being the most obvious, or cows not achieving expected milk yield. In the main, these symptoms affect newly calved cows more aggressively, resulting in very loose dung and a rapid loss in weight.

These same symptoms will affect beef cows, causing a mixture of calving problems including still born calves, and a variety of other problems all connected with the animal's immune system. These problems will show themselves in many different forms.

"It is worth noting," says Charlie, "that a suckler cow's diet is based predominately on silage unlike the modern dairy cow so the effects can be even more severe."

This year Zealalenone is the most prevalent Mycotoxin and is being found in forages, barley and straw. The clinical signs are:

- Abortions
- Decreased embryo survival
- Infertility and mammary gland enlargement of virgin heifers
- Oedema and hypertrophy of the genitalia in pre-pubertal females (Water retention)
- Vaginitis (swollen)
- Vaginal secretions (Discharge)

- Feminisation of young males (Tactical infection)
- Infertility of young males

Ways to Confirm You Have Mycotoxin Issues

Until now testing for Mycotoxins has been expensive and tests were never terribly effective as there are hundreds of different Mycotoxin strains and you had to state which toxin you wanted the lab to look for.

Now there is a simple test which will test for the two most commonly found toxins, Zearalenone and Deoxynivalenol, commonly known as Zon and Don.

This can be completed when sampling your silage for feed value or at any other time with a pit-face sample. This method highlights the potential problem before it becomes one.

The other method, commonly used by dairy farmers is to add a Mycotoxin binder to the cow's diet at 50gms per day. Within a few days you will see usually an increase in milk and a firming of the dung.

To Conclude Charlie said: "It is so important that we get in front of these toxins as if you try to play catch-up you will be too late."

The common effects of Mycotoxins are:

- Variable feed intakes
- Inconsistent milk yield
- Reduced fertility
- Scouring
- Acidosis-type symptoms
- Lethargy
- Impaired immune function/poor response to disease or infections
- Poor rumen function
- Muscle tremors
- Bloody faeces
- Lower leg / teat swelling
- Unsettled cows
- General poor performance without any alternative explanation

- See more at: <http://www.thebeefsite.com/articles/4064/why-is-everyone-talking-about-mycotoxins#sthash.PNj0dyFG.dpuf>

Ontmoet die Lionels span



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