

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

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A Successful Calf & Heifer Program

Your future herd begins with a successful pre-partum cow program, along with carefully planned and managed calf and heifer programs. A calf, at birth, represents a future with potential. The magnitude of this potential relies, in part, on her genetics. However, good nutrition and management will substantially impact her future productivity and profitability. Getting her off to a good start is vitally important. Here are a few tips on helping your heifer calves grow and mature into productive members of the lactating herd. You might consider integrating them into your current program, or ask me about these and many other possibilities that can help you move your operation forward.



- Develop a vaccination program for the entire cow herd, which will help with the production of quality colostrum. Check with your herd veterinarian for recommendations.
- Make sure the cow will calve in a clean, dry and well-bedded pen. This area should allow for frequent observation and be free of excessive noise. Sanitation is critical at all times, including a handler's hands and arms. Use of disposable plastic sleeves is recommended if the cow requires assistance during calving.
- After birth, dip and soak the umbilical cord in a 7% tincture of iodine solution. It is also important that the calf is properly dried. This is critical especially in colder weather.
- Feed the calf colostrum from its dam. This is preferably given from a bottle, rather than directly from the cow. This will help reduce the incidence of disease and allow you to control the volume of colostrum fed.
- Ensure the calf receives sufficient colostrum during the first several feedings (4 quarts by 12 hours of age). Colostrum provides valuable antibodies needed by calves in the early weeks of its life.
- For calves older than 24 hours the value of feeding colostrum is greatly reduced. At this point calves should be placed on a quality milk replacer. I can recommend a milk replacer that best fits your operation!
- Observe calves closely for the first 3-5 days, watching closely for signs of scouring or other symptoms of disease. Any health problems that are observed should be immediately addressed. A few hours in delay can mean loss of the calf. She should also have available a high caliber calf starter, such as Renaissance's **GET MILK!**
- The introduction of starter feed within one week of the calf's birth is important.
- Raise calves in individual hutches, which are kept clean and dry at all times and out of drafts, wind and inclement weather conditions. Calves should not be group together until after weaning.
- Ensure good sanitation at all times, including hutches, bottles, buckets, etc. This is important in helping to reduce the possibility of infection and spread of disease.
- Implement a vaccination program for all replacement calves. Your veterinarian can assist you with this.

The goal of a quality calf/heifer program is to have them calve in 22-24 months and join the lactating herd as productive and profitable cows. More management tips will be presented in the April issue – looking at the weaned calf and beyond. I will be happy to work with you in reviewing your entire calf and heifer program, as well as what you have in place for dry cows and the lactating herd. Contact me today and let's work as a team to **GET MILK!** It all begins... at calving!

Purchased seed for the 2004 planting season yet? Renaissance offers the best.

⇒ **Quality Hybrids** ⇐

⇒ **Excellent Results** ⇐

⇒ **Research-Tested** ⇐

Want results? Turn to Renaissance. WOLF RIVER VALLEY ■ MYCOGEN AGRICULVER SEEDS

Turn forages into milk... when you plant with Renaissance! I can recommend varieties and hybrids that can complement your entire feeding program. Renaissance's agronomy office is also available to help address your questions and needs. Order seed today... and invest in your bulk tank.

Looking ahead... Springtime!

Winter holds on tightly, with cold and wet weather continuing to plague many parts of the country. But, we know that spring is coming and with it the rigors of soil preparation and planting. Even though the temperatures remain cool (or cold), it isn't too early to start planning ahead for times of heat and humidity. The impact of heat stress can be substantial on any cow. Take time to review your management strategies for dealing with heat this spring and summer. This also includes your ration program! Call today and let's take time to plan ahead before the thermometer rises. It can make a difference!

Still having mycotoxins concerns in feed?

Reports from many areas of the country are continuing to show that last year's forages may contain mycotoxins, due to weather-related issues. It is important to minimize the potential risks associated with mycotoxins. Consider the benefits of adding **MTB-100** to your rations. This product can help reduce the risk of mycotoxins in feedstuffs. Get the facts today and ensure your cows are protected. It's an investment that can pay many dividends. Ask me for details.

Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! My goal is to help you. That's Renaissance's commitment to you!

VOLUME 3 – Number 3 – March 2004
RENAISSANCE... the winning team!
The TEAM for results.



WORKING IN 3 WAYS TO HELP YOUR LIVESTOCK

- **Attaching to Pathogenic Bacteria** ■
- **Improving Immune Function** ■
- **Improving Nutrient Absorption** ■

Here's a unique supplement that can help to bind pathogens in the gut, thereby enhancing the animal's immunity. It is effective for calves and heifers ~ in fact it can benefit your entire herd. Additionally, research on **BIOMOS** shows improvement in weight gains when added to rations! It's also excellent added to milk replacers... giving calves a boost when they need it. Get the facts and order today.

BIOMOS... naturally good!



WHAT'S IT LIKE AROUND THE FARM?

Have you ever thought about doing a "safety check" around the farm? This includes in- and outside the barn, loafing areas, passageways, and any areas frequented by people or livestock. Often, there are places that can become a danger zone, impacting the health, safety and well-being of farm workers and cows alike! As temperatures begin to moderate (and in some areas the snow begins to melt), it might be a good idea to check out your entire farm to ensure it is a safe place – free from debris and potentially harmful things such as bits and pieces of metal, wood and glass, nails, misplaced equipment, plastic bottles, etc. Also, look out for protruding and potentially harmful objects such as pipes, lumber and electrical items. This can help make your farm safer for everything and everyone! Spring cleaning provides an opportunity to help prevent injury, while making your farm a more comfortable and enjoyable place. Your cows will appreciate a safer place to live, walk, lie down... and produce.

A POINT TO PONDER...

I'm ready for spring... pleasant, balmy days, more daylight, and the opportunity to get outside and enjoy a variety of opportunities. After a long winter, spring adds a hint of refreshment and renewal. Use March to complete your preparations for spring: the tractor is ready; the planter cleaned and repaired; seed is purchased and planting planned; and forage inventories are calculated to carry us through. Prepare for spring and set aside time to enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. Take time to breathe in the fresh air and be thankful for the blessings that are yours each day – all year 'round!



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Get Milk!

*Spring is coming! Are you ready?
Prepare for spring with Renaissance.*



CHECK IT OUT.

