

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

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Your future herd...

Raising replacements represents 15 to 20% of the cost of producing milk on most US dairy farms. It is important to understand the growth potential for calves and heifers, since this has an impact on the time of first breeding, and their age and body weight at first calving. Quality management at this early stage will target for heifers to begin cycling by 13 months of age, to be bred and to conceive at 15 months, and adequately developed for a full lactation at or slightly before 24 months of age.



What factors can help to achieve these benchmarks of growth and ultimate success? It is important to have a well-defined nutrition and management program in place for calves and heifers ~ a program that is oriented to meeting the nutritional needs, while promoting specific goals in their growth and development. Calves are essentially monogastric for the first 4-8 weeks of life, with their rumen beginning to develop and function sometime around 2-months of age. This requires special attention to their entire diet from day one onwards!

Immediately after birth, it is critical to provide adequate amounts of high quality colostrum. This provides nutrients and antibodies necessary to the calf in early days, as they begin to acclimate to new surroundings and variable conditions. Colostrum is sometimes fed to calves through the second or third day after birth. Don't underestimate the importance of colostrum on calf growth and development. This should be followed with sufficient quantities of a well-formulated milk replacer and calf starter. There are many options available, depending on your program and specific needs. I can help you review available Renaissance products that would fit your program and goals for growth and development. Weather considerations may also impact your decision as to which product(s) to feed. Starting calves right can yield years of productive, profitable participation in the lactating herd.

Monitoring feed intakes is also important, ensuring calves and heifers have plenty to eat and clean up what they are given. Move calves from a starter ration to a grower ration after weaning. This will help in meeting the increased nutrient needs of fast-growing animals. Also, offering forage after weaning is helpful in developing rumen capacity. Introduce forages gradually to the ration. Make sure that forages are clean and of high quality, and do not feed forages (or feed) that are refusals from dry cows or the lactating herd.

There has been much research on calf nutrition and management, as well as diseases, economics and other variables from birth to 4 months of age. Get the facts and continue to evaluate your calf management and feeding programs. Healthy, thriving calves can grow into productive and profitable members of the lactating herd. I can help you review (or design) a quality calf and heifer program. The future begins... with calves! *(Edited from materials by Jud Heinrichs, Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Extension)*

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Feeding for fall & winter -

Feeding cows is somewhat different in the fall than during the spring and summer months. The challenge of balancing rations this time of year can be big, due to the variability of forages. It is important to have your silage analyzed, giving adequate time for the entire fermentation process to take place. Depending on a number of factors, submitting samples for analysis on a timely basis can signal necessary changes to rations, which then impact on productivity, health and profitability.



Across the nation, this harvest season will inevitably show significant variation in forage quality, nutrient composition and yield. There are locations that have had frost and temperatures in the low-to-mid 30's (F)! Other areas have experienced a wetter than normal season, which impacts on crop growth and maturity. Some places have enjoyed almost a perfect growing season and will harvest a bumper crop, given the right conditions this fall. It is important to assess your crops before harvest time and to plan accordingly: cut length, use of a preservative or inoculant, nutrient analysis, forage inventories for fall and winter feeding, etc. This can help to ensure your cows get a balanced ration that can yield results throughout the coming seasons.

Making the most of your home-grown forages is important. And finding out what it can contribute to the ration is even more valuable, as you seek to feed a balanced ration that is geared toward results today... and through the coming months of cold winter weather.

PRESERVE FORAGES. GET RESULTS

⇒ **KEMIN & BIOTAL** ⇐

QUALITY... with RENAISSANCE!

Plan for spring 2005!

It's time to consider seed options for 2005! That's right. We haven't even got the 2004 crops harvested and there is talk about the next growing season. We offer top hybrids that are research-tested for results. This includes excellent silage hybrids from WOLF RIVER VALLEY SEEDS and MYCOGEN! Get all the facts before you purchase. Check out some of the new and exciting hybrids we have to offer... and consider what these quality hybrids can bring to your feeding program. Call today. Order today! Make the most of our discount program.

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 9 – September 2004

RENAISSANCE... geared for success!
Working hand-in-hand to make it happen

A great investment!

Here are two unique medications that can make a difference in calves or when shipping/ receiving stock –

AUREO S-700 & AUREO 4G

Added to rations these can make a real difference in the health and development of calves. **AUREO S-700** is an extra strength product, so you feed less and appreciate its effectiveness. Dosage for **AUREO 4G** is based on indication for use. Be sure to read the label(s) prior to use. Check it out! Ask me today for more details and to order these products. It will be an investment in your future herd.

AUREO S-700 & AUREO 4G

A difference to appreciate!



WHAT'S IT LIKE AROUND THE FARM?

When it comes to cow comfort there are many choices available, choices that affect behavior, health, longevity, productivity and profitability of your operation. For instance, fear and stress predispose cows to unwanted and abnormal behavior, along with the risk of disease. These are benchmarks for gauging cow comfort. Diseases, for instance, that may directly or indirectly relate to a cow's comfort include such things as lameness, hock and neck injuries, mastitis, milk fever, ketosis and displaced abomasums. Cow behavior can best be observed during times of resting, eating, walking or simply occupying stalls in order to gain added insight into cow comfort. Attention to cow comfort and the interaction the herd has with caregivers can lead to improved performance and bottom line profit. Here is one 'tip' worth considering: in comfortable stalls: cows lie down for 60% of the day, seldom perching or standing idle. How comfortable are your cows?

(Neil Anderson, DVM, OMAF, Fergus, Ontario, Canada)

A POINT TO PONDER...

School has started and fall activities are underway! Life takes on a whole new look when these activities begin. Remember, it is important to practice road safety all year-round. However, extra care should be taken when driving around school areas – children at play, recess time, after school and all with a carefree and innocent attitude. With the increased pace of life, take time to relax and enjoy family and friends... enjoy the fall colors that brush our landscape this time of year... enjoy crisp morning and evening air that invigorates and refreshes! Fall is a time that passes quickly. It is a short pause after the heat and rigors of summer, and before the dull days of winter.



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Getting ready for fall!

Investing in productivity & profitability...

CHECK IT OUT.

