

# Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

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## Cold Weather & Cows -

Temperatures across the US have plummeted in recent weeks, serving as not-so-subtle reminders that winter is here! The very thought of cold weather can tempt even the hardest among us to retreat to the warmth of home and hearth. But the reality is that livestock need care and feeding each and every day... and a little extra time to observe how they are doing. In addition to shelter and protection from drafts and dampness, it is important to remember that feed and water are the fuel that will keep dairy cattle (and all livestock) healthy and productive throughout cold weather. Dairy cattle increase their feed consumption, in part, by increasing the rate at which feed moves through their digestive system (JW Schroeder, NDSU). Although the digestive system is not as efficient at the accelerated rate, it is able to obtain more nutrients for production and energy to maintain body heat. Schroeder recommends that if it is at all possible, not to cut back on the amount of feed you give your cows in cold weather. "Growing heifers, dry cows and lactating cows all need their full rations to handle the stress of cold weather." Calves also benefit from higher-fat milk replacers and/or additional feedings, which can supply necessary energy.

One of the headaches of winter is frozen pipes and water tanks. While livestock may try to lick (or bite) the ice, they cannot take in enough fluid to meet their bodily needs. It is critically important that a plentiful supply of fresh, clean water is available at all times. As more feed is consumed the need for water also increases. A lack of water may depress feed intakes and compound weather-related stress. If possible, replace frozen water at least once a day to ensure animals are able to access the water they need. This also applies to calves, which have a need for water along with a quality milk replacer and starter/grower product such as the Renaissance GET MILK! product line.

I would be happy to review your rations and entire winter feed and management program, helping to make the most throughout this season of cold and snowy weather.

(edited from an article by J.W. Schroeder, North Dakota State University)

## Keep 'em warm!

How warm will your calves be this winter? It is important to keep calves in a draft-free, dry location, out of direct exposure to winter conditions. When shelter is provided, the need for additional protection may not be as crucial, with the exception of very young calves. Using a calf blanket during the first few days after birth and when temperatures become extremely cold is recommended. This, along with a quality milk replacer and starter will help to keep the calf warm, while encouraging continued growth/development. If you are looking for a quality calf blanket, call me! It is an investment in your future herd!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR... from RENAISSANCE!**



## Planting for the future...

Fall and winter months are usually the time when we consider what hybrids to plant the following year, glean information on what each hybrid has to offer and taking advantage of early order discounts that might be available. What you plant is important to your feed and ration program next year, impacting productivity and profitability. None of us can control or predict climatic conditions in the coming growing season. However, we can gain insights on the hybrids we selected and carefully select those that can improve our feeding program.

Knowing what to plant is as important as making the actual purchase. It is also important to plant more than one hybrid, helping to ensure a better end-result. Today's hybrids are the result of many years of research and trials, offering numerous traits and benefits that can assist a wide range of soil and climatic situations, management opportunities and nutritional goals. Along with these advances comes the difficulty of knowing what is best for your operational needs and management program. I can help you review what is available, as well as which hybrid(s) might best fit your goals and needs in the future.

There have been significant advancements in silage-specific corn hybrids in recent years, hybrids that provide improved starch and fiber digestibility... hybrids that can help to improve the productivity and profitability of your herd. These are available in a wide range of day-maturities, helping to meet almost any growing situation, need or goal. Get the facts BEFORE you purchase seed and ensure what you plant will provide a quality forage source for your livestock.

**PLANT FOR RESULTS IN 2006  
MYCOGEN ♦ WOLF RIVER**

*Hybrids for Results!*

*Early Order Discounts Available Now*

**CALL ME FOR DETAILS**

*Plant for milk!*

## Mycotoxins in forage!

Do your forages contain harmful mycotoxins, molds or yeast? Frequently this is the case. Testing for specific "types" is often very costly, and determining precisely what it is present may be like finding a "needle in a haystack." Any of these (mycotoxins, molds and yeast) may be harmful to your livestock, causing numerous health and production-related concerns. I'd be happy to talk with you about this and to carefully review your ration(s) in the near future.

*Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Looking for research-tested corn hybrids for the coming year? Call me! My goal is to help you. That's Renaissance's commitment to you!*

**VOLUME 5 – Number 1 – January 2006  
RENAISSANCE MEANS RESULTS.**

# Winter Challenges!



**WHAT ARE THE COWS TELLING YOU?** Winter weather creates a number of challenges around the farm ~ from frozen pipes and slippery floors, to feeding a balanced ration, good ventilation and a healthy, productive herd. Maintaining healthy teats can be a challenge

when the thermometer plummets! However, there is a real temptation to eliminate post-dipping teats when extreme cold hits. Cold weather can cause cracked or chapped teats, making them prone to infection. Cracks harbor bacteria and offer an entrance for infection. Continue to pre- and post-dip regardless of the temperature, allowing 30 seconds of contact time after dipping. Then, use a clean, dry towel to blot the teats dry. It is important to dry the teats. Remaining moisture may cause the teat to freeze, creating additional chapping and cracking. The time you take to do this in extremely cold weather is an investment in your cows throughout the winter months. Do not allow the dip to freeze, since this may reduce the effectiveness of the product.

**A POINT TO PONDER...** We turn the calendar to 2006 and a New Year full of opportunity, possibility and challenge yet to be discovered. It is the time of year when we hear a lot about "resolutions." Sadly, most of these are forgotten within days, returning to what may be more "habit" than desire for change. As we look ahead, we need to accept the fact that we live "one day at a time," considering the vast opportunities and abundant blessings that are ours each and every day. There will inevitably be lessons to learn and trials to endure. But if we take time to maintain a healthy perspective, a sense of community, and the bonds of family and friends we can move forward... together.



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## Happy New Year!

from Renaissance Nutrition!  
Helpful information inside.

