

Calf & Heifer Raising

What's Your Weak Link?

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MSU - Extension

Meeting Agenda

- Will not be - how to do everything
You already do things, 95% right
- Where do things go wrong?
- The Root Causes of what goes wrong
- Latest information on Calf Raising

Where do things go wrong?

- Calf born dead or dies soon after birth
- Calf dies before weaning
- Slow growth to breeding
- Calving late and or at small size
- Cost to produce heifer too high

Root Causes

- Calf born dead or dies soon after birth
 - Dystocia – Too Big
 - Hostile Environment
 - Too cold/wet
 - Injury
 - Nothing to eat

Root Causes

- Calf dies before weaning
 - Scours
 - Lack of colostrum
 - Poor sanitation
 - Environment stress
 - Disease exposure
 - Pneumonia
 - Same as above
 - Other

Root Causes

- Slow growth to breeding
 - Poor Pre-weaning Growth
 - Ration low in energy / protein
 - Too much competition
 - Disease/ Parasites

Root Causes

- Calving late and or at small size
 - Ration low in energy / protein
 - Too much competition
 - Lack of timely breeding program
- Cost to produce heifer too high
 - Poor performance
 - “Buying” performance

Latest information on Calf Raising

- From Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference
 - Dr. Tom Earleywine- Land O'Lakes
- Best Management Practices
 - For
 - Building Tomorrow's Herds

Colostrum 111

- 111 =
 - First milking in first hour
 - One gallon of colostrum (ck quality)
 - In First hour of life
- Use CLEAN esophageal feeder
- Colostrum Replacer
 - 100 gr of IgG in one dose (150~ 200 better)
 - Cost should be \$25 per dose

Value of Colostrum

- Increased ADG to 180 days
- Increased milk & fat at first lactation
- Earlier to first calving

- | | 2liters | vs | 4liters |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----|---------|
| ADG | 1.76 | | 2.27 |
| Age /conception mo. | 14 | | 13.5 |
| Survival thru 2 nd lact. | 75.3% | | 87.1% |
| Milk thru 2 nd lact. | 35,297 | | 37,560 |

Immunity/Susceptibility

- Low point at 3 weeks
- Maternal protection declining
- Calf protection just building
- Calf is most susceptible at this time.

Colostrum Keys

- Quantity
- Quality
- Quickness
- “Queenliness”
 - Keeping things clean

Calf Starter

- You can increase starter intake with
Clean water
- Feed no hay
- Wean when 1.5# intake for 3 days

Milk Replacer

- Cow's Milk- 25 % protein 31% fat
- Milk Rep. - 20 % protein 20% fat
- ADG: Milk = 1.00#/day
Replacer = .77#/day

Cost per Pound of Gain

● Product	cost/bag	ADG	Cost of Gain
● 2.5# milk rep.	\$60	1.97	\$1.52
● 1.8# “ “	\$60	1.02	\$2.12
● 20/20 “ “	\$45	wt. loss	??

3 Advantages of Higher Nutrition

- Lower cost of gain
- Increased milk production
 - Mammary development
 - Size of heifer
 - Earlier in to milking string
- Immune Response and Calf Health

- 8 University Trials
 - 1000~3000# more milk with better nutrition in first 8 weeks
- Need good gain everyday,
not compensatory gain

Jersey Trial

1# of 20/20 vs 1.47# of "Cow Match

Wt. gain	41.7#	56.5#
Med cost	\$2.42	\$1.68
Mortality	33.7%	16.3%

Jersey Trial

- Additional feed costs \$33
- Value of additional Gain \$37
- Gain + decreased mortality \$110

Calf Health

- Dairy calf
 - 6.5% still born
& dead at 48hrs
 - 7.8% 48hr ~ weaning
 - Total loss 14.3%
- Beef calf
 - 2.1% born dead
 - 1.1% dead at 24hr
 - 2.3% 24~ weaning
 - Total loss 5.5%

Parting thought

“We’ve been doing it wrong for so long
we thought it was right”

Take Home Points

- We may have been underfeeding calves
- Better gains=
 - Better survival
 - Lowers cost of gain
 - Has long term \$\$ benefits
- Look at -Total Heifer Development Program
- Identify YOUR weak LINK – Take ACTION

Thank You

- Your - Questions / Discussion

- What do you want to learn more about?