



# Jones FEED MILLS LTD.

## THE BI-MONTHLY BAWL



**THE CALF GUY**

Jones Feed Mills Calf Update – Published by Tom Mosterd— Mobile/ Text: 519-807-3870



@TheCalfGuy

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### Ventilation and Fluctuating Temperatures

At this time in Southern Ontario we are seeing vast fluctuations in our temperatures, and we can expect to see this continue. Regardless of the temperature fluctuation, the temperature remains under 10 C. As the temperature fluctuates calves are more susceptible to illness. The best way to combat this susceptibility is to give them calf coats. With calf coats they will be able to maintain body temperature more easily, which will allow them to use energy for growth. Jones Feed Mills has a special on calf coats through the end of the month of January. Talk to your Jones Dairy Sales Consultant or call the order desk at 1-800-265-8735 for details!



Another very important consideration in times of temperature fluctuation is air quality. When the temperature drops, we often close the barn up as an attempt to keep in the warm air. While this may be effective for warmth, the air quality should not be compromised. Good ventilation provides clean air into their environment while not creating any drafts. This winter consider air quality and drafts in your barn.



### Got Calf Questions?

Call The Calf Guy!

Tom Mosterd

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### How's Your Colostrum?

Colostrum is the only thing giving your calves immunity to environmental challenges that may exist on your farm! Testing colostrum quality should be a regular practice in your calf rearing protocols. If you would like to have your colostrum tested, call Tom Mosterd today! 519-807-3870



### Are Your Calves and Heifers Performing?

As a producer, it is important to know how your calves are performing, and to set goals for growth and production. Jones Feed Mills is pleased to introduce a new software: Growth Prediction System 2.0 (GPS 2.0.) GPS effectively accounts for an extremely large variety of nutritional and environmental factors, and predicts the performance that you will see out of your calves and heifers. Using this tool, we can make adjustments to management and nutrition to achieve all of your calf and heifer growth goals. If you are interested in using GPS on your farm, talk to your Jones Dairy Rep, or call Tom Mosterd today 519-807-3870. More on GPS in future issues of the Bi-Monthly Bawl.



### Don't Miss Out!

For more tips and updated information, follow "The Calf Guy" on Twitter —

@TheCalfGuy



## Navel Dipping and Sanitation

We often talk about colostrum when we are trying to prevent disease in calves, and colostrum is certainly the best way to give your calves immunity against environmental challenges. However, it is important to also ensure that we control environmental factors to ensure that every calf has the best chance at remaining healthy. The two management factors that I want to address here are sanitation and navel dipping.

Calves are the most susceptible animals on the farm. Newborns have just been through an extreme period of stress (birth) and will not have any immunities until they absorb colostrum. In the first period of their life they can contract disease from just about anything including wet bedding, manure, or even disease passed on through the colostrum or milk. This is why it is important to control these sources of concern.

Calving pens should be clean and dry to avoid any possible issues for the calf. Additionally, colostrum should be monitored regularly.

Calves also have a vulnerable access point for infection or disease; the umbilical chord. This opening provides easy access into the calves circulation. Additionally, infection of the chord can result in bacteria entering the blood which could result in rapid death.

The best way to ensure that the navel is not an access point for infection or disease is to disinfect it at birth. Using iodine to dip or spray the navel can effectively prevent infection. Be sure to use a strong tincture of iodine to treat the navel (at least 7% iodine) but not a teat dip.

If you are using a spray, ensure that you cover the entire area well. The iodine acts a seal for the navel as well so you need to make sure that the area is well covered.



Use a dip or spray as soon as possible after birth, when you move it to a hutch, and again at 12 to 18 hours later. Closing the navel to infection early is crucial in lowering calf morbidity, mortality, and reducing treatment cost.

If you would like more information on early-life calf practices such as navel dipping, contact Tom Mosterd 519-807-3870

Source: Dr. Jim Quigley Calf Notes: Navel Dipping. (14 May 1997). c2001

## Calf Audits!

If you would like the Calf Guy to come and do an audit on your calves or calf facilities, talk to your Jones Feed Mills Dairy Rep today or call Tom Mosterd 519-807-3870  
Audits include: facilities, colostrum, performance monitoring, troubleshooting, and more!

## Laughing Calf

Q: Why did the cow cross the road?

A: To get to the udder side!

Q: What did they call the calf who got Knighted?

A: Sir Loin!

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Cows go.

Cows go Who?

No, silly. Cows go MOO!

Q: How does a farmer count the number of cows he has?

A: He uses a cowculator!



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