



Jones

FEED MILLS LTD.



THE CALF GUY

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



@TheCalfGuy

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Summer Checklist ✓

With summer just around the corner, it is important to remember to take some time to consider your calf management protocols.

Some of the things that should be checked with the changing of the seasons are **bedding, ventilation, nutrition, and vaccinations.**

- **The best bedding to use is straw.** In the winter deep straw is required to help calves to stay warm. However, in the summer less straw can be used. A great way to keep your use of straw to a minimum is to lay down a foundation of bedding that is more absorbent. Jones is happy to offer products that can be laid down below the bedding that will absorb most moisture, allowing less use of straw.

- **Ventilation** is crucial through the entire year, regardless of the weather outside. During the spring to summer transition, it is important to stay on top of the weather as the temperature can fluctuate drastically. Ensuring that the environment is free of drafts and has good clean air is extremely important for the growth and well-being of your calves!

- **Nutrition** is another important consideration as we enter a new season. **Firstly, if you feed higher volumes of milk during the colder season, bringing that volume back to a lower rate can help** with weaning transitions, as well as better, and quicker development of the rumen. This will save time and cost and produce superior calves. **Additionally, using a lower molasses calf starter** can help with fly control in the summer months. **Colostrum** quality is also something that should be closely monitored during all seasons.

- **Vaccination Protocols** are extremely important. This is something that you should discuss with your vet. Calves may experience periods of heat stress through the summer and it is important that they are well equipped to deal with these extremes.

GPS 2.0

Growth Prediction System (GPS) 2.0 is a software used to predict the outcome of your heifers' growth based on a wide variety of criteria. On your farm, it is important to have growth goals to know how your heifers are performing so that you can fully understand and take full advantage of the investments you make. **GPS** will help you to make informed decisions on how to raise your calves and which nutrition program best benefits your calves and heifers.

Talk to your Jones Dairy Sales Rep, or contact Tom Mosterd (The Calf Guy @ 519-807-3870) today to have your calf herd assessed!

Got Calf Questions?

Call The Calf Guy!

Tom Mosterd

Mobile/ Text: 519-807-3870

Email: tommosterd@jfm.ca

Are You Feeding Whole Milk?

If you are feeding whole milk, there are some specific additives that can be considered to maximize a calf's health and growth. **THRIVE** is a product that contains **NeoTech4** (known as Lipids 4 Life) which is an Amino and Fatty Acid balancing technology. This product provides better rumen development, better growth, and a 12 % reduction in scours. Thrive only requires a low feeding rate and is very economical to use. Also when using whole milk, it is recommended to consider adding a coccidiostat. Even if the starter that you are using includes a coccidiostat, the amount of starter that a calf consumes in the early stages of life will not be enough to provide adequate protection.

JFM offers the milk soluble coccidiostat **Deccox-M**. **Deccox-M** is an easy way to provide your calves with protection, while still using whole milk. Talk to your Jones Dairy Sales Consultant or The Calf Guy to learn more about Thrive and Deccox-M today!



The Three “Must Haves” of A New Facility

With increased quota, along with herds increasing in size, the subject of new or renovated calf barns is being talked about more and more. While there are many different designs and strategies to build new facilities, I would like to suggest three major criteria be considered to build a successful calf rearing facility. These three criteria are ventilation, ability to clean/sanitize and drainage. These are all critical elements that need to be in order when designing a new or updated calf facility.

Ventilation – There are many different schools of thought when it comes to ventilation. Some endorse positive pressure while others don't. Regardless of which principle you choose, make sure that you can move the required amounts of air through all of the seasons. Poor air quality can have major affects on calf performance. Jones Feed Mills has access to ventilation experts that can help with these decisions.

Cleaning/Sanitizing Ability – However you design your calf rearing facility, you are going to have to clean it. Cleaning is an important part of breaking the cycle of disease. With this in mind, it is important to consider how easy it is to clean your facility. Some things to keep in mind are the width of your pens, the material that lines the walls, the floor, and the pens themselves. The width of the pens should be conducive to tractor buckets. Additionally, pen walls should be easily moved to facilitate moving the calves, and cleaning the pens. There are many different companies that provide pen systems for these purposes. The walls are also important to consider when trying to make a facility that is easy to clean. Using plastic siding that is smooth and durable is a good material choice. This material is easier to clean and disinfect.

The floor of your facility should be level. The ideal floor would facilitate a tractor bucket being able to clean the whole surface. Ideally the pens should all be able to be moved easily so the whole facility can be completely cleaned out.

Drainage is the final criteria that will be addressed in this article. One of the easiest ways to keep your calves clean is to keep them dry. While adequate bedding is necessary to keep calves dry, drainage can do a great job of keeping the bedding dry and in turn, the calves. Consider having a portion of the floor gravel, with a tile underneath. Bed with sand above the gravel then straw (as normal) above that. This will provide the required drainage. A negative to this strategy is that the sand will eventually need to be replaced.

Keeping these things in mind will be very important in developing a calf rearing facility. Jones Feed Mills and Tom Mosterd (The Calf Guy 519-807-3870) are happy to assist you in any facility designs that you may be making in the future.

Are you using a Robot Feeder?

During season changes, it is important to have your robot calf feeder re-calibrated. Differences in humidity and temperature have an affect on the machine's ability to distribute the desired amounts of milk replacer. Remember to call your robot supplier rep to learn about how to calibrate your machine between every season change!

Are You On Social Media?

Jones Feed Mills and The Calf Guy are too! Find us on Twitter:

@TheCalfGuy &

@Jones_Feed , Facebook
Jones Feed Mills Ltd, and on
Instagram JonesfeedmillsLtd.

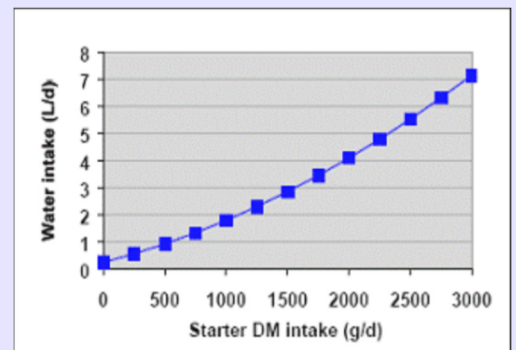
Let's be Friends!

WATER

Water is of vital importance at all times of the year, but especially during the summer.

It is proven that water intake will influence starter intake. As shown in the graph on the right, starter intake is directly related to water intake. Therefore, the more water they drink, the more starter they drink, and if the environment is properly managed, the calves' growth will increase.

Clean water needs to be offered as soon as possible in the calves' life. Water that is within milk replacer does not apply to the water intake.



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