




Jones FEED MILLS LTD.



THE CALF GUY

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

 @TheCalfGuy

March, 2017

Double the Birth Weight by Eight Weeks?

We have all heard it before; the goal for raising calves is to double the birth weight by eight weeks. This is certainly an attainable goal, and it is a decent growth goal to strive for. However; when we consider what goals we are aiming for, it is important to look at a bigger picture.

At eight weeks, we do see how the animal has been performing since birth, but it does not give us an indication of how that animal has been doing as far as overall developmental well being. For example; even though that animal may have doubled it's birth weight by eight weeks, it may not have any rumen development, which would indicate that it is heading towards a major slump once the weaning process begins.

This is why we should be challenging the standard of weighing at 8 weeks. A much better understanding of how we've done raising these calves is attained by measuring their weight at 16 weeks. The reason that this measurement is useful, is because it takes into account the weaning process, and any post weaning slump that may have occurred. Additionally, from this weight, we can begin to deduce how well the rumen was developed in the early stages.

This information is crucial. With so many different sources of information talking about so many different ways of raising calves, it is important to have a standard program to compare to. A standard program will allow you to fully understand how well your program is working.

If you would like to know more about what you calves should weigh at 16 weeks, or if you would like The Calf Guy to come out to your farms to do a calf audit, call Tom Mosterd at 519-807-3870.



Got Calf Questions?

Call The Calf Guy!

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Don't miss out on news and updated information! Follow the calf guy on Twitter! @TheCalfGuy



Keeping Water Fresh

Water intake mirrors starter intake! Fresh water is of vital importance to growing calves. To ensure fresh— not frozen water, offer water after feeding milk. Leave water in buckets for an hour, then dump the water out. This will keep that water from freezing. In the summer, because freezing isn't an issue, leave water in the pails so they always have access to water. However; be sure to dump out the water once a day **at the very least**, and replace with clean water. More water intake means more starter intake!

How Soon Can I Feed A TMR

This is a fairly common question that I come across, and my answer is "it depends." It really depends on how you spent your time in the early part of each calf's life. For example, spending a lot of time on getting that early growth in the hopes of reaching a heavier weight early on will not yield good results in regards to how well developed the rumen is. In that case you would need to wait longer to feed that calf TMR as it needs to spend time catching up. However, if you spend your time earlier in that calf's life trying to prepare the rumen quickly then you will be able to feed that calf TMR earlier.

The trick is to wait long enough to feed TMR so that the calf can take advantage of very efficient growth from grain after weaning, but to continually be working toward the goal of that calf being able to efficiently use TMR.

So what's the answer? If you spend your early time wisely, and have adequately developed the rumen, then at approximately 110 days, begin to feed a blended combination of grower and TMR. Feed this mix for 1-2 weeks then subtract the grower. If you have any questions on how to make best use of the early weeks in a calf's life, call Tom Mosterd, The Calf Guy, - 519-807-3870.

Research Road Trips! In the last two months, The Calf Guy has taken two group down to the Akey Research Center in Ohio.



Above: Akey Farm Manager along with Calf Specialist Dennis Wood speak to one group on the research barn's design and how it lends itself to the research.

In January, 9 producers travelled to Ohio to the research farm. One day was spent between the research barn itself and the research center, where we were shown the best practices in nutrition and management and the research that supports it. On the second day the group toured a 2,000 cow dairy that utilizes the Akey/Jones Program with amazing results!

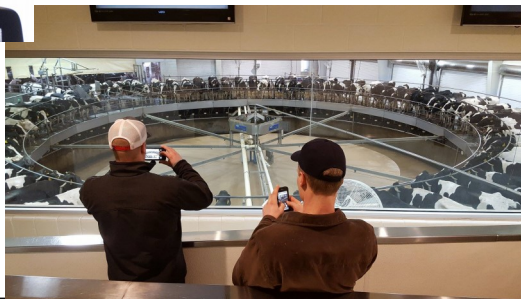


Right: Dr. Mark Hill of Akey, discusses the benefits of appropriate ventilation with producers.



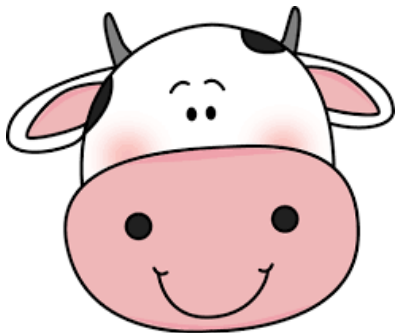
At the end of February, 3 producers travelled with the Calf Guy to the research center in Ohio to see how research is conducted at Akey, and also to learn more about what research Jones Feed Mills has to offer through Akey.

Additionally, the group had the privilege to travel to Fair Oaks Dairy Farm in Indiana, a 32,000 cow dairy that utilizes the Akey calf program which produces great results! If you would like attend one of these trips call your Dairy Rep or the Calf Guy for more information!



Growth Prediction System 2.0. (GPS 2.0)

With the new season creeping up closer, it is a great time to evaluate where you hope your herd is going. Jones Feed Mills and The Calf Guy are proud to provide Growth Prediction System 2.0. (GPS 2.0) This software takes into account many of the different variables on your farm including nutrition, management, and environment. The software then creates a prediction on how your calves should perform based on those criteria. If you would like to have your calves and heifers evaluated, talk to your Jones Dairy Rep. or call The Calf Guy, Tom Mosterd at 519-807-3870.



The Laughing Calf!

Q: What is the cow's favourite steak?

A: MOOO York Strip Loin

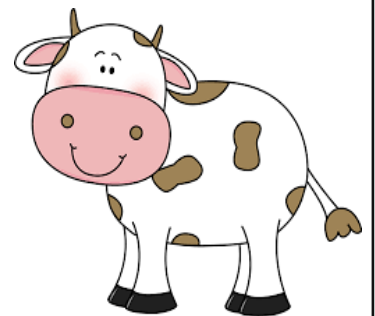
Q: What do you call a cow with a twitch?

A: Beef Jerky!

Q: What is a cow's favourite subject in school?

A: Cow-culus!

Deja Moo: The Feeling that you've heard this bull before!



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