Rivalea
AUSTRALIA

TERRITORY MANAGER UPDATE

Currently we are seeing a prolonged dry period at time of writing but a break is surely close, which we are all looking forward to after a hot period. At Rivalea it's the usual enjoyable juggle of being on farm with our clients, attending industry events and managing the day to day to ensure we are all going onwards and upwards.

Cows have battled the heat through the transition period and farmers are looking to get new pasture seed in the ground. Everything seems to happen at once with new Autumn calves expected to hit the ground shortly.

On the marketing front we have bright new Optimilk bulk bag and 20kg pre-calving packaging in store with our rural merchandiser partners. Advertising continued our V8's rev up theme with a 'fuel-up' focus for pre-calving.

To switch to the livestock world of sheep and beef, we have been working with Riga Angus Stud at Mansfield and Geddes Pastoral at Holbrook. It is always amazing how generous our clients are with their comments about our stockfeed and willingly give their time to be 'up in lights.'

We hope you enjoy this edition.

MARCH

25-28 Easter

APRIL

8-26 School Holidays

19-21 Dairy on PAR field days

21 Tallangatta Farm and Water Expo

MAY

12-13 Dairy Industry Association of Australia - Victorian Division Conference and 2016 awards of excellence

18 Farmer Insight Event - Barooga Sports Club, Barooga - STAY TUNED!

25 Farmer Insight Event - Huon Hill, Wodonga - STAY TUNED!

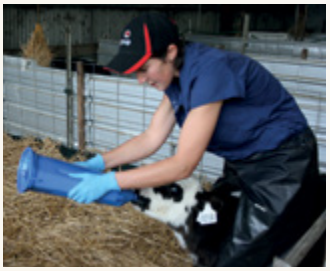
JUNE

28-30 Victorian Winter Fair - Bendigo Exhibition Centre

Rivalea
AUSTRALIA

EXPERT ADVICE

UDDERLY PERFECT



Gemma Chuck

EXPERT CALF ADVICE FROM VETERINARIAN GEMMA CHUCK

The hygienic collection, storage and subsequent feeding of colostrum to newborn calves is a multi-step process. It's a process that is not only time-consuming but also allows many opportunities for contamination of colostrum with harmful pathogens. Along with the direct disease-causing effects of these pathogens, this contamination can interfere with the absorption of colostral immunoglobulin (antibody) by the calf, thus reducing the immunity transferred from colostrum.

Typically on farm, colostrum is collected from freshly calved cows and stored in buckets or similar (plastic or stainless steel). But there may be many more steps before this colostrum is actually fed to the calf such as the transfer to other buckets, smaller containers, tube feeders and teat feeders. A study in the US showed that very little bacteria was present in colostrum taken directly from the udder, and that it is during the collection process that colostrum can become heavily contaminated with bacteria. In the study there was nearly four times the bacteria present in colostrum from the dairy-floor bucket compared to that taken directly from the udder. Possible sources of contamination could include the teat skin, milking cup liners, hoses or the bucket itself. The study demonstrated that the collection of colostrum is a significant control point for contamination. Sub-optimal cleaning of collection buckets, tube feeders and teat feeders will exacerbate this problem.

Storage of colostrum, either in the refrigerator or frozen, allows convenient availability at all times. A shortfall of fresh colostrum may arise at the beginning of calving when heifers may calve before the cows: heifers commonly give low volumes of colostrum and thus supply may be limited. However, storage of colostrum is not without its challenges and our clients often tell us that the collection of colostrum, transferring into a container, freezing, defrosting and then transferring into a tube feeder, is a slow and inefficient process. All these steps increase the risk of contamination.

The Perfect Udder colostrum management system allows colostrum to be transferred directly into one bag, which can then be refrigerated, frozen, thawed, reheated or even heat-treated before being fed directly to the calf. The thawing process of frozen colostrum in a system with Perfect Udder® bags is up to four times faster than conventional bottles.

We thank Gemma for her contribution to this newsletter.

Gemma completed a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the Royal Veterinary College, London UK, and is currently close to completing a PhD in her area of expertise, calf rearing, as well as practising as a vet with The Vet Group based at Timboon.

She was recently elected to the Board of WestVic Dairy in October 2015 and Rivalea Brand Manager, Alex Campbell, has been conversing with Gemma around calf rearing in light of the strategic growth and development of Veanavite®.

veanavite
The foundation for a lifetime of performance

Getting your calves off to a good start!

Failure of passive transfer of immunity from cow to calf occurs in about 35-40% of calves on Australian dairy farms. The consequences of this are significant, for example increased risk of disease and death pre-weaning, increased deaths up to 6 months of age, reduced growth rate, poor feed conversion efficiency, restricted mammary gland capacity and therefore lower overall milk yield.

Successful passive transfer of antibodies from cow to calf depends on how many hours lapse between birth and colostrum consumption, the total volume of colostrum consumed, the Immunoglobulin (IgG) concentration of that colostrum and the percentage of IgG absorbed.

For best results, feed 2 litres of colostrum with an IgG concentration of at least 50mg/mL within the first 12 hours after birth, then another 2 litres of colostrum within the following 12 hours.

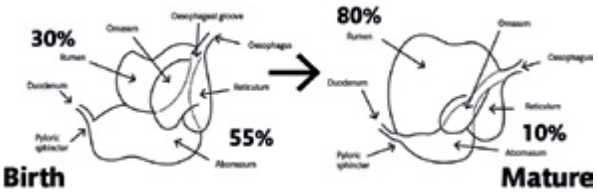
Factors that affect colostrum quality are the length of dry period (shorter than 60 days will compromise quality), delayed milking after calving, volume of colostrum at first milking, age & breed of cow, high cell count, leaky cows and early calvers.

On most dairy farms, calves are fed 10% of their bodyweight in milk or calf milk replacer (CMR), for example 4 Litres/day to a 40kg calf. However recent research suggests that you can increase first lactation milk production by up to 750 litres by feeding up to 20% of their bodyweight in milk per day.

The particular milk feeding system you use is not of crucial importance, as there are a wide variety of regimes that are used successfully, however it is vital that calves are observed and monitored very closely during their first week, as this is when they are most vulnerable. The temperature of the milk is also something that is not crucial, however the consistency of the temperature is very important.

There is some conjecture as to whether feeding milk from a teat or a bucket achieves better results, however either method can work just as well. The teat method allows the calf to exhibit its natural suckling reflex, however it does not determine the formation of the oesophageal groove. It appears that the formation of the groove is stimulated by sensory means rather than the method of feeding, so bucket feeding does not seem to inhibit this.

Water is an integral part of every cell in the calf's body. It helps to prevent dehydration and scouring in calves, and is essential for rumen function. Early access to water encourages early consumption of concentrates, and therefore improves liveweight gain. Water must be clean and easily accessible at all times.



Rumen Development

A successfully weaned calf will have a developed rumen that functions well.

Rumen Development is driven by the chemical breakdown of grain and grain based concentrates. **Rumen Function** is driven by optimal fibre intake.

Requirements:

- Energy from a grain base to achieve **12.5MJ ME/Kg DM**
- High quality protein to reach a total ration average of at least **18-20% CP**
- A rumen modifier to promote feed conversion efficiency and to reduce the risk of coccidiosis
- Vitamins and minerals to aid in carbohydrate metabolism and muscle function

Clean, fresh straw should also be offered ad-lib as well as adequate access to clean water.

Veanavite No 1 pellets have been proven over a number of years. With the highest protein level available, they promote intake, develop the rumen and form the building blocks for a foundation of a lifetime of performance.

PLEASE TURN OVER