



Beef Briefs

The Latest Information on Beef Cattle Nutrition



Beef Update, Spring 2017

For sure, it has been quite a spring with record rainfalls and many areas just getting crops in the ground now being mid-June. With May frosts, the pastures and hay were slow to grow, but the past 3-4 weeks have made a big difference in growth. We are now seeing tremendous hay crops, some of the heaviest ever are comments I have been hearing.



It was quite an easy winter here southwest of London, we only had to push the lane way once, knowing producers north and east had more snow and a few days of serious winter with closed roads and all. Coming into April the weather continued to be wet and cool. This is stressful weather for those producers calving in late March through to early May, stressful for both man and beast!

This stress surely was the cause for many problems, there was certainly more cocci, crypto and scour trouble than in most past years. Cool and wet with mud is a sure recipe for stressed calves and lots of issues. I was busy on the phone with producers and our Veterinary services were busy too. Sunshine and good weather can solve a multitude of troubles and finally the dry weather and sunshine arrived allowing them to pasture, although late because of the wet weather.

It is a difficult situation to discuss, as you know there were guys that lost calves, I have experienced the same, the bounce in your step to the barn every morning is not



Cont. >>

Inside this Issue

Beef Update, Spring 2017
By: Jack McCoubrey

KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP

A HIGHLY-PALATABLE CREEP
FEED FOR CALVES



- Developed to promote feed intake in calves
- Helps increase weaning weights
- Helps achieve and maintain a healthy hair coat
- See results with top sale prices for calves

GETS CALVES OFF TO THE RIGHT START

Volume 10, Issue 2
July 2017

much of a bounce. So, how did this happen?

For sure the weather was a contributor, but maybe vaccinations were a little expired since the last booster. Overcrowding, terrible weather, poor shelter, bedding, housing all play a part. And no surprise to you, nutrition plays a big part! Besides the crypto, cocci and scours, there seemed to be some 'stupid calf syndrome' around. Did weather stress trigger that to? I think more so, mineral deficiencies, lack of sufficient Vitamin E and Selenium brought this on. I know there were producers that battled calves that did not want to suck which is a terrible job. Tubing calves, wrestling with them, and then to have them still die is profoundly discouraging.

I have been involved in many of these cases. The lack of mineral consumption, the lack of Vitamin E and selenium is a recipe for not only 'stupid calf syndrome' but a multitude of other things as well. I have many stories to tell with all of the different calving seasons I have experienced but there is always something new and challenging.

As many times as I have wrote this phrase in previous BEEF BRIEFS, I will write again. "Since 1987, I have fed Kenpal Beef Nurse Cow and have not bought a bag or block of salt, and this is 30 years, other than the salt Mother uses on her sidewalk to cut the ice". Mineral fed as it is designed and as stated on the tag on the bag has a purpose, and it works! MINERAL MATTERS and makes a difference!

As for my own herd, we have gradually converted to fall calving, in 2014 we had 14 fall calves, this past fall we had 36 calves.

I brought cows/calves off the cornstalks on January 12th, the next morning the Thames river had flooded and water was at the corral gate, the result of snow melting up stream and a dose of rain. We did have a good winter grazing stalks, we were feeding daily also. Cows and calves were happy and for sure healthy and we saved quite a bunch of bedding. There were 36 pairs on that day to come home, the youngest calf being born Dec 1st, we had brought all the close-ups home earlier to calve of which there was 16.

Our transformation to fall calving has continued to go very well, I turned the bulls loose late December, with October calving in mind. We certainly observed lots of action prior to our move off stalks, so I predicted a whole bunch of calves in October and early November. During this undertaking of moving our calving season, each breeding season we have recorded a handful of cows moving 60 days, and many have moved 45 days, it takes good nutrition and genetic selection, but, MINERAL MATTERS and makes a difference.

There has been continued issues with cow/calf producers feeding distillers or gluten as a protein source, the toxins are certainly a threat to increasing estrogen levels, which can result in early abortions, and for sure a risk for breeding back. Producers that are feeding these high toxins protein sources should be using a binder in most cases. Bentonite is certainly one of the more economical binders, 60 grams per day at an approximate cost of 2.8 cents per head per day. There are more expensive products also on the market, but with a minimized feeding rate of distillers or gluten, Bentonite should do the job.

Quality of feed is profound for these beef cows of ours. Any kind of mouldy feed will without question cause problems. When I see mouldy, poor quality feed in the feeders and bunks, I shake my head. Moulds will cause abortions prior to calving and suppress cycling at breeding time and upset the rumen function.

Some moulds can be consumed by the cow and she will pass this through the milk and infect the calf, these infections are not good. Mouldy feed may raise the risk for clostridial infections like listeria as such. Been there done that! A few years ago I was throwing mouldy silage that came off the top of the bunker over in the yard, some of the girls liked it I guess, couple weeks later I had a cow with listeria. Hey, don't do that anymore, mouldy silage goes in the manure pile! Another lesson from the 'SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS'!

MINERAL MATTERS! When fed as recommended you should see added performance, boosted immunity, better conception, improved foot health, improved fetus development and healthier, more active, more intelligent calves.

I have observed a major improvement in mineral management, hence producer happiness and their herd health and wealth. As I visit, I mark the 'report card'. Marks have improved, many at 99%! Kenpal producers are doing a lot of things right and the result is absolute!

FLY ALERT!



With this hot weather, flies seem to have surfaced earlier than normal. Eye infections are a real problem and concern from last pasturing season. If you control your flies you'll likely control your eye issues.

My own control is;
A bi-weekly application of LiceX with my little hand sprayer, about every 3rd Sunday morning, easy to apply, wind in your back, just spray a bit on every cows/calves back, works well here.

Pour on Ivomectin, an application through the shute, claims up to 28 days of no flies. Warn the neighbours when you're doing it, because the flies are going some where and they won't be at your place!

Some producers still use fly tag, and with some of the newer tags, they are experiencing good control. I chatted with one producer that tags every year, he tags both calves and cows, both ears and feels that he is experiencing a lot less pinkeye.

Don't forget to check your mineral feeder, MINERAL MATTERS!



MINERAL MATTERS!

KENPAL BEEF NURSE COW

DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR COWS THAT ARE NURSING

- **CONTAINS A HIGH FORTIFICATION OF TRACE MINERALS AND VITAMINS, INCLUDING VITAMIN E AND SELENIUM.**
- **COWS LIKE THE TASTE, AND WILL READILY EAT IT FREE CHOICE.**
- **ECONOMICAL TO USE.**



It pays to use top nutrition!

**CONTACT KENPAL OR
YOUR LOCAL KENPAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE TODAY
69819 London Road, RR#1 Centralia, Ontario, Canada, N0M 1K0
Tel: 519-228-6444 or 1-800-265-2904 • Fax: 519-228-6560
Email: kpalen@kenpal.on.ca • www.kenpal.on.ca**

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

69819 London Road, RR #1, Centralia, Ontario, Canada, N0M 1K0

Tel: (519) 228-6444 or 1-800-265-2904 • Fax (519) 228-6560 • Email kpalen@kenpal.on.ca • www.kenpal.on.ca