

Welcome to the first edition of The Scoop. This newsletter will keep you informed on the latest news in the calf and heifer industry. There will be articles from prominent people in the calf industry and also from Town and Country's own calf and heifer specialist, Amy Sprunger.

In case some of you do not know Amy, she grew up on a dairy farm in Dalton, Ohio and enjoyed showing dairy cattle in 4-H at the Wayne County Fair. Her family still operates the family farm and she helps out when she can. She received her bachelor of science degree from The Ohio State University and has been working as a calf and heifer specialist for Town and Country since November 2006.

If you would like Amy to visit your farm to evaluate your current management practices, troubleshoot challenges, or provide new insight in the calf and heifer industry please contact her at 330/465-0659.

One of the latest issues to affect the calf industry is the FDA's changes to the level of NT in milk replacers. The following will explain what the changes are and suggestions from Amy and Town and Country.

Calf Milk Replacer Bulletin: FDA Change of Status of Neo-Terramycin (NT)

Situation:

- The FDA has changed the rules regarding NT in milk replacers.
- NT will no longer be allowed at a 2:1 ratio of Neomycin to Oxytetracycline as of August 13, 2010. Until then, the FDA is allowing retailers to use up their inventory.
- Based on previous year's sales history of calf milk replacer, Land O' Lakes Animal Milk's current supply of the 2:1 NT will run out in February of 2010.
- Two options for NT at a 1:1 ratio Neomycin to Oxytetracycline have been approved:
 - o LOW/FEED EFFICIENCY LEVEL: To provide 0.05 -0.1 mg/lb of bodyweight daily (for increased rate of gain and improved feed efficiency)
 - o HIGH/TREATMENT LEVEL: To provide 10 mg/lb of bodyweight daily. Feed as a treatment only for 7-14 days (for treatment of bacterial pneumonia and scours)
- Neither of these is a good choice for the calf in our opinion. Feeding a high plane of nutrition will provide better gain and feed efficiency than using the low/feed efficiency level of antibiotic. Although the high level of NT is an approved treatment, it will require stocking two milk replacers. Continuous feeding at the high/treatment level can lead to kidney failure and abomasitis according to Dr. Don Sockett, D.V.M., M.S., Ph.D., Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Wisconsin.

Recommendations:

1. Feeding a Full Potential or Performance Calf Nutrition Program meets a calf's requirement for growth and proper immune function more effectively than feeding a medicated milk replacer.
2. The following research and market technologies are featured in a full potential or performance feeding program to promote calf performance and health.
 - a. Architect Formulation System: Immune enhancers are included in the Architect formula, Cows Match and Amplifier Max
 - b. Amino Acid Advantage: Maxi Care Plus
 - c. Ampli-Calf Technology
3. Supplement the feeding program with health solutions from the Land O' Lakes Calf Care line.
4. Choose viable calf milk replacer additive options based on impact on calf performance and health.
 - a. Bovatec is the option Town and Country has chosen.
 - i. Will help with coccidiosis and clostridia.
 - ii. Continue to feed the milk replacer the same way you always have.

