

DN NEWSLETTER *issue 36*

Post-weaning nutrition is a challenge for dairy producers around the world. It is essentially a black box in terms of management and nutrition. If you search published literature today, there are about 5x more pre-weaning publications than post-weaning publications.

There are a few key areas for us to manage, and we work with calves after weaning until their first calving:

1. Wean Calves Properly

- The abomasum dominates the calf stomach at birth and the rumen dominates at weaning
- A gradual weaning process is preferred to abrupt as it does not lower total energy intake as much
- Failure to wean calves properly severely compromises carbohydrate digestibility and sets the calf up for failure

2. Gut Health & Weaning Process

Gut Health, properly aided by an appropriate weaning process, is critical. Gut health is also driven by diet at and beyond weaning:

- Calves should be consuming ~18-20% CP at weaning with that inclusion decreasing to less than 15% post-pregnancy
- Calves should be consuming 16-18% NDF at weaning with that increasing to over 50% post-pregnancy
- Calves should be consuming ~3 mcal/kg of energy at weaning, with that decreasing to roughly 2 mcal/kg post-pregnancy
- Fiber content of the diet dictates intake
- Proper trace mineral fortification of the diet (Zn in particular) improves gut health



3. Keep Calves Healthy

The primary disease concerns during this period of life are:

- Respiratory: Monitor air quality, regularly replace bedding, ensure proper ventilation
- Lameness: Proper trace mineral fortification can help reduce lameness
- Mastitis: Heifers that calve in with mastitis have compromised lifetime milk yield



4. Efficient Breeding & Preparation

Prepare animals to get pregnant on time and efficiently by breeding at the correct weight and height

5. Trace Minerals

Ensure a healthy start to lactation by feeding adequate amounts of trace minerals to encourage optimal milk and colostrum production. The last 2 week of gestation and the first two weeks of first lactation are critical for mammary gland growth

For further information, technical support or advice, please contact your local DN Sales Specialist, which can be found on the website at:

www.dugdalenutrition.com/sales

Benefits of Zinpro Performance Minerals				
	Zn Zinc	Cu Copper	Mn Manganese	Se Selenium
Transition	✓			✓
Reproduction	✓	✓	✓	
Immunity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Production and Udder Health	✓	✓	✓	✓
Claw Health	✓	✓	✓	
Feed Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	
Oxidative Stress	✓	✓	✓	✓



Feeding Zinpro Performance Minerals® supports health, sparing glucose for production, improves feed efficiency and will improve your bottom line.

DN Youngstock Feeds

Our range of youngstock feeds have been developed to support calves and heifers from birth through weaning and onto the rearing stage. A range of complimentary products are also available, including a variety of milk replacers, minerals, licks & buckets.

Progressive Rumistart

Progressive Rumistart is a high specification, fully mineralised 3mm pellet designed for feeding to lambs and calves from 3 days of age. Includes Nustart to support rumen development and animal health; Safmannan to support intestinal health and development and support the immune system; and Ammonium chloride.

iStart

iStart is a fully mineralised 3mm starter pellet, which is suitable for all calves from 3 days of age. Contains Nustart to support rumen development and animal health; and Safmannan to support intestinal health and development and support the immune system. Range of starch sources to drive rumen development.

Progressive Calf

Progressive Calf is a fully mineralised 6mm starter nut to support higher intakes. Quality protein sources to support frame growth, includes soya and aminopro. Contains Nustart to support rumen development and animal health and Safmannan to support intestinal health and development and support the immune system.

Pro-Start

Pro-Start is an extremely palatable coarse mix, designed for calves and lambs. Includes ammonium chloride and Nustart to support rumen and intestinal development and health.

Products are available in bulk or 25kg bags for collection or delivery.

