

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

Doug Adams, PAS
PromiseLand Feed & Seed
9187 Myersville Road
Myersville, Maryland 21773
301-293-8444 or 301-964-6154
E-mail: advadams@erols.com
WEB: www.rennut.com

Maximizing herd potentials...

Proper feeding and management of your fresh cows can be challenging. However, it is important to feed and manage this group of cows so they improve production, maintain profitability and remain healthy throughout lactation. Feeding a well-balanced ration to your pre-fresh and dry cows is also important in ensuring a healthy and productive lactation. It is critical that these cows maintain a good appetite right up until calving if your goals are to be achieved. Most metabolic disorders reduce performance, defeating your efforts and negatively impacting the lactation cycle.

Do you have the ability to segregate your fresh cows? Numerous benefits have been observed when creating a fresh cow group, in which cows are placed for several weeks after calving. This includes such things as being able to more closely monitor feed intake and performance, and helping to reduce stress from overcrowding or competition with more dominant cows. It will also permit you to fine tune their ration, prior to being placed in a more general group of cows following the fresh period. Remember, when considering fresh cow nutrition, that rations too high in energy (starch) might lead to acidosis, while rations too high in neutral detergent fiber (NDF) can reduce intakes. I can help you feed a balanced ration that can make a difference in your fresh cow group and help to jump-start them toward a more productive and persistent lactation cycle.

During and after calving, a cow goes through significant changes as she transitions from a dry to a lactating animal. Feed intake is low at the same time her nutrient demands are high. It is important to get the cow on feed as quickly as possible after calving. Success in early lactation is critical to improved peak production and subsequent reproductive performance. If the cow is not eating... she cannot perform!

Maximum dry matter intake usually lags a couple of weeks behind peak production during early lactation. She requires more energy at this time in her cycle than she is able to consume, in order to make more milk and maintain reasonable body condition. It is normal and expected for a cow in early lactation to lose weight. However, the degree of loss can become a real concern. The goal is to keep the cow from losing more than ¼ of a body condition score during the first six weeks of lactation. Stimulating her appetite will help to achieve this goal. It will also help her to make more milk, promote health and keep her from getting into a significant negative energy balance. Consequently, feed intake during the fresh period is a balance of both good nutrition and management practices.

Make sure your fresh cows have access to plenty of fresh, clean water and feed at all times. Additionally, a higher fiber diet for fresh cows can sometimes help stimulate appetite and reduce digestive problems such as displaced abomasum and rumen acidosis. High quality forage is suggested for fresh cows, since dry matter intake is still low immediately after calving.

(summary of article by Dr. B. Harris, U of Florida – retired)



Quick thumb rules for fresh cows -

Here are a few "thumb rules" for managing fresh cows, so they perform to their genetic potential.

- Calve with a body condition score ideally between 3.25-3.5 (not too fat - not too thin!)
- Feed a balanced ration after calving
- Feed good quality forage to help stimulate appetite and increase dry matter intake
- Use research-proven products to strengthen the ration
- Review entire fresh cow management protocols and procedures, such as mastitis control and

cow comfort... making changes that enhance performance, health, etc. It might include creating a separate fresh group.

I can help review your entire fresh cow program, working with you to maximize their productivity and profitability. This can impact your current (and future) bottom line.

Calves and winter feeding strategies...

A newborn calf's thermoneutral temperature zone (TNZ) is about 50-80°F. In this TNZ, calves generally do not have to expend extra energy to maintain a normal body temperature. Factors do exist, however, that can affect the TNZ. These may include:

- Wind exposure
- Breed
- Hair coat condition (wet, rain, snow, mud, manure)
- Thickness of hair (adaptation)
- Bedding type and condition

By a month of age, a calf's lower critical temperature is around 32°F. Young calves may need 1/3 more energy when temperatures drop from 55°F to 25°F. The extra energy required is not used or available for growth or support of a developing immune system – but is diverted to maintenance of core body temperature. What are the ways to maximize or increase energy intake during cold weather?

- Feed a 20% fat milk replacer, or
- Increase liquid feeding rate 25-50% - an extra pint AM & PM
- An extra 1/2-1 bottle at noon to calves <3 weeks of age
- If limited by bottle size to a specific liquid amount, increase milk replacer powder feeding rate by 25-35%, and then feed normal amount of liquid; do not exceed 20% solids in the mixed milk replacer and keep water available free choice
- Keep liquid water available if at all possible - calves consume considerably more starter when water is available
- Don't forget the "warm soup effect" – warm fluid feeding can warm moderately chilled calves

(edited from article by Milk Products, Inc.)

QUALITY HYBRIDS – EXCELLENT RESULTS EARLY ORDER DISCOUNTS UNTIL DEC. 15TH!

Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or feel you need to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! My goal is to help you. That's Renaissance's commitment to you!

VOLUME 2 – Number 12 – December 2003

RENAISSANCE NUTRITION
RESULTS? WE DELIVER.

**BALANCED RATIOS? RESULTS?
RENAISSANCE!**

Season's Greetings!

*W*ishing you and your family the best this Holiday Season and throughout the coming New Year! Thank you for your business and support this past year. It is my pleasure to work with you.

Doug Adams and Family



WHAT ARE YOUR COWS TELLING YOU?

If your cows could sing, would they celebrate the Holidays with a song like this: "The weather outside is frightful... but our stalls are so delightful"? Winter weather brings cold and often damp, wet conditions. Whether your cows are in a free stall facility or in tie stalls, the environment in which they live is critical to their health and ability to produce at an optimum level.

Take time to evaluate your facility this winter before the cold really sets in.

The goal of this evaluation is to ensure your cows are in a draft-free, well-ventilated building with clean, dry bedding. Cows can handle cold weather, as long as they are kept comfortable and well-fed! Wet conditions in a facility can also contribute to air quality concerns, which may lead to health-related problems, particularly respiratory disease. This winter, keep your cows' well-being in mind. They are, after all, an essential part of the farm. When cows are comfortable – they perform time after time! And if they could sing, they would serenade you with carols of content... and sounds of making more milk.

A POINT TO PONDER...

The Holiday Season will soon be here with its festivities and glitter! Yet, all around are individuals and families less fortunate than us ~ people that cannot enjoy the opportunities of joy and celebration! Their pain, sorrow, hurts and tears are lost in the sights and sounds of this season. This Holiday, think of someone you can encourage - do something for a person (or family) who is less fortunate. By reaching out to someone else, our own blessings are quickly multiplied. Celebrate the Holiday Season – take time to care.



RENAISSANCE NUTRITION, INC.

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

Volume 2 – Number 12 – December 2003

9187 Myersville Road

Myersville, Maryland 21773

www.rennut.com



Season's Greetings!

The complete picture...

Nutrition, management and more.



CHECK IT OUT.

