



Field Demonstration:

The Impact of Fresh Cow YMCP® on metabolic disorders and milk production during lactation when given at calving.

In August of 2009, the manager of a 3,600 cow dairy located in the I-29 Corridor, and Dr. Dan Smith, Veterinarian for the dairy, began a trial to review the effects of Fresh Cow YMCP, a supplement given to cows after calving, to help reduce metabolic disorders and maximize milk production during lactation. The trial was conducted among a group of 373 fresh cows. Odd numbered cows were given the Fresh Cow YMCP powder in a 5 gallon pail of warm water immediately following calving, and even numbered cows were the control group for the trial.

| Event | YMCP Group | Control Group |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Retained Placenta | 12.0% | 16.3% |
| Metritis | 9.3% | 15.3% |
| Displaced Abomasum (DA) | 1.1% | 2.1% |
| Sold/Died | 3.8% | 7.9% |
| Ketosis | - | - |
| Milk Fever | - | - |
| Milk Production/Peak Milk | | |
| Lactation 1 | 76 lbs. | 75 lbs. |
| Lactation 2 | 106 lbs. | 104 lbs. |
| Lactation 3 and greater | 111 lbs. | 108 lbs. |
| Average | 97 lbs. | 95 lbs. |
| ME 305 Milk | | |
| Lactation 1 | 24,658 | 24,499 |
| Lactation 2 | 27,849 | 26,282 |
| Lactation 3 and greater | 25,996 | 24,884 |
| Average (weighted) | 25,986 | 25,088 |

Metabolic Diseases

The SD dairy found that the cows in the YMCP Group had fewer cases of metabolic diseases. This same group showed a decreased cull rate and handled their overall transition successfully. Refer to the chart to the left to see the beneficial impact YMCP had on animal health and milk production during this trial.

As you can see, the YMCP Group showed a 26% reduction in Retained Placentas, a 40% reduction in Metritis, reduced Displaced Abomasums by 50%, and showed a 52% reduction in death/cull rate.

Past herd records have shown that metabolic disease/transition problems have always been low for this dairy. The manager explained "I found it interesting to see a further reduction in metabolic disorders, since that hasn't been an issue for our herd in the past." Even though this dairy experiences few metabolic problems, they still found an added value when using Fresh Cow YMCP.

Milk Production

Not only was the reduction of metabolic diseases seen when Fresh Cow YMCP was administered to the herd, but milk production significantly increased as well. The cows in the YMCP Group, which consisted of 183 of the total 373 cows in this trial, averaged a 2 pound peak milk advantage, with the advantage being enhanced in second lactation and mature cows.

ME 305 Milk

ME 305 Milk adjusts the current production record for the cow to what she would be producing at 3+ years lactation or greater as a mature cow. During the YMCP Trial, the ME 305 Milk seen in the YMCP Group averaged 25,986 lbs, and the Control Group averaged 25,088 lbs.

After reviewing the results of the YMCP Trial, Fresh Cow YMCP has been added to the Fresh Cow Protocol. Every fresh cow is given either a tube of YMCP Paste, or given 1 pound of YMCP Powder in a 5 gallon pail of warm water immediately after calving. The manager said, "I decided to add Fresh Cow YMCP to our Fresh Cow Protocol after seeing the significant increase in milk production during the trial, especially the comparison of ME 305 Milk between the two groups. YMCP pays for itself over, and over again. The added reduction seen in metabolic problems was a bonus."

Cost Factors

As shown in the chart below, which appeared in the Hoard's Dairyman publication, the average cost of metabolic disease treatment can be a sizeable transition cost for many herds. Because of these costs, using products like Fresh Cow YMCP as a preventative after calving, can reduce herd health costs for dairies.

| Transitional Problem | Average Animal Health Cost | \$ Saved with YMCP |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Ketosis | \$232* | N/A |
| Displaced Abomasum (DA) | \$494* | \$988 |
| Retained Placenta | \$315* | \$2,835 |
| Milk Fever | \$275* | N/A |
| Metritis | \$106** | \$1,272 |

* Source: Cost guidelines based on data from Chuck Guard DVM, PhD Cornell University Veterinary School~ CVC Central Veterinary Conference Proceedings (update 10/1/08) and Hoards Dairyman (original 1/10/98). See www.cvccentral.com

** Source: Risco CA, Hernandez J. Comparison of ceftiofur hydrochloride and estradiol cypionate for metritis prevention and reproductive performance in dairy cows affected with retained fetal membranes. Theriogenology 2003; 60:47-58.

Based on the costs highlighted above and the trial results reported, the YMCP Group saved over \$5,000 in vet costs, due to the reduction of metabolic problems experienced.

Dr. Dan Smith, DVM

Dr. Dan Smith, a veterinarian at the Montrose Veterinary clinic in Montrose, SD has recommended the Fresh Cow YMCP product to his dairy clients for years. According to Dr. Smith, "Fresh Cow YMCP is a product that is easy to administer, and when given to fresh cows, can make a difference in their transition into lactation." Dr. Smith oversaw the YMCP Trial at the SD Dairy, and in conclusion to the trial adds "I was surprised by the increase in the ME's and milk production, I would recommend this product to producers, especially for use in mature cows."