

Calving Shining At Askham Bryan College



Mike Patch, Andrew Reilly (Askham Bryan), Dan Heath (Thompsons of York) and Tom Warren (Shine calf milks)

Almost 12 months ago Askham Bryan College took the decision to expand and commercialise its dairy unit but keep it as an important educational resource. The current herd of 150 cows is split in two and with the main herd milked through a 20:20 Delavel rapid release parlour and the remaining 35 cows milked using a robotic milking parlour. The plan is to expand the herd to 250 cows in total and push yields up by 1000L /cow

One of the areas they are very happy about is calf rearing. Two years ago the college invested in calf hutches as housing space was a premium especially in the spring with lambing taking place and, as

always happens in these situations, calf health suffered.

They also changed over to Shine milk replacer after discussing calf rearing with Dan Heath of Thompsons of York. Shine with its butter milk and skim milk base has seen calves perform with no upsets and weaning is achieved at an early age keeping rearing cost down. Shine unlike the majority of calf milks available today forms a cheese curd in the calf's stomach

so digestion takes place right throughout the day.

All calves are introduced to Shine after 3-4 days and get 250g of powder in two litres of mixture twice a day. Calves are weaned when consistently eating 1 kg of dry feed/day. The five oils included in Shine encourage dry feed intake, as they are highly digestible whereas many milk replacers include high levels of fat that results in lower intakes of dry feed. Whey based powders especially those containing high levels of vegetable protein often contain high levels of fat to overcome poorer digestion which also reduces dry feed intakes. Trials have also shown that calves reared on cow's milk take a week longer to

wean increasing the farm workload and overall rearing costs.

The calves at Askham Bryan are offered Thompsons Starter Pellets from 4 days of age. Thompsons Starter pellets contain 21% protein and most of the protein is UDP to ensure the calf can start to utilise the protein even before its rumen is developed. Thompsons also include a high level of fibre from sugar beet in their Starter pellets to encourage intake and to offer the rumen microflora a great source of fibre to help maximise microbial protein production and maintain a stable pH.

Working with the right raw materials is important in any expansion or development. So ensuring the calves are performing is vital for the achievement of the goal the College have set for the years ahead.



Calf hutches



We sure could use \$250,000 Pa!

We'll never catch that calf. It was reared on **Shine Milk Replacer!**



For more information contact Joe Murphy on 07500 944581, Stuart Fry on 07917 210 737 or **Freephone: 0808 1781017**

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