

Once - a - day feeding Shines with Rotbunt calves

Last year the cows on James Murphy's farm in Glenville Co Cork produced an average of 3.8% protein and delivered 520kgs milk solids/cow on 800kg of meal and plenty of grass.

The results from a recent Herdplus report show that while James is in the top 2% for kilograms of fat and protein produced per cow he had the highest milk protein % and received the highest milk price paid to farmers. This is down partly to his herd of pure bred Rotbunt cows and also to his excellent management. In 2007 James had the highest EBI ranked herd in Ireland. As well as milking 75 cows he also rears all the bull calves from his dual-purpose herd selling some bulls for breeding and finishing the rest

“ calves are more content, are easier weaned, take less work and cost less.”

as bull beef. The bulls are sold at 16-17 months of age at liveweights exceeding 650kg.

James calves 50% of his cows in 6 weeks and has had 20 sets of twins out of 160 calvings in the last two years so his hands are really full. Last Spring he was getting a bit of scour with his calves when feeding cows milk so James decided to try Gain Shine Once-a-day, which he bought from his local Glanbia branch run by Francis and Eamon Sweeney.

In the past James had tried once a day feeding with ordinary milk replacers but felt the calves fell back. So he was delighted when he found a huge reduction in calf scour and calves seemed to be doing better eating a lot more dry feed and developing rumen activity earlier.

James commented ``I expected the calves to go backwards as a result of once a day feeding but it was a very pleasant surprise to find calves fared much better than on cows milk fed twice a day``. He added the Gain Shine Once-a-day formulation has really nailed calf nutrition and once a day feeding.

James went on to say that Gain Shine Once-a-day has to be fed according to the feeding recommendations which are very easy to understand but care has to be taken in changing calves over from cows milk to Shine.



the Rotbunt breed is a dual-purpose breed and the herdbook is over 125years ago. The 18 month old bull above is out of a cow with an EBI of 154 (7000L at 3.9% protein) and by the AI bull Daniel.



Some September born Rotbunt calves (incl. 2 sets of twins) being admired by. Brian Doccey, (Glanbia business manager) James Murphy (farmer) Joe Murphy (Bonanza) Carol Power (Glanbia Business manager), and Eamonn Sweeney (Glanbia)

With over 15 years experience of advising farmers feeding once-a day Joe Murphy (no relation) of Bonanza Calf Nutrition outlined the best way to do this is to give calves a half feed of cows milk/colostrum on the evening before the change. Then in the morning feed 2 ½ litres/day of mixed milk replacer (500g powder). Calves should then be increased to 3-3 ½ L per day of mixture over then next 4-5 days. As is the practise on James Murphy's farm Joe emphasised the importance of having fresh good quality dry feed, straw and water available for calves at all times. Once-a-day can be fed in the morning, afternoon or evening once it is done at the same time each day.

James concluded that the skim milk and yeast products added to Shine are the secret to its success and Joe explained that the type of fat and levels used are also critical in ensuring that calf performance is maintained and dry feed intakes are maximised. Farmers using Gain Shine Once-a-day, even with cow's milk, find that calves are more content, are easier to wean, take less work and cost less to rear.

For more information contact your Glanbia branch or phone Joe Murphy on 087 2588394