

Daily labour saving of one hour thanks to Shine Once-A-Day

A family dairy farming partnership is saving an hour a day on calf feeding since using a once-a-day milk replacer.

The Miller family milk a 260-head high yielding herd three times a day and, at the peak of calving, feed up to 40 calves a day.

They were keen to make savings on time and labour and that's why they started using Shine Once-A-Day milk replacer.

Michael Miller, who runs the business at Greville Farm, Cheltenham Road, with his wife, Shan, and their four children, admits he was sceptical when they first used the powder in February. "It was extremely cold and I didn't think it would be good for the calves to get just one feed a day," he says. "I had to eat my words because the calves have thrived on it. I am pretty sure that we are getting better calves at 8-10 weeks than we were when they were fed twice a day."

Newborn calves get colostrum for three days and then cow's milk before they move onto Shine Once-A-Day at 10 days old. They are reared individually in hutches.

The Millers are planning to expand the herd to 350 cows and says this is another reason for shifting to once-a-day feeding.

"If you have to stop at 5pm to feed 40 calves it takes an hour out of the day. We don't have to do that any longer and it's also a bonus having to feed them only once at weekends," says Michael Miller.

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Once-a-day feeding: Amy Miller with the calves at Greville Farm

He aims to calve heifers as two year olds and to achieve the right finishing weight, it is vital to give them the best possible start, he says. "We feel the most important part of a calf's life is the first 10 weeks, if we want to be calving at two years the growth rates have got to be right from start to finish," he says.

**For more information visit the Bonanza Calf Nutrition website
www.bonanzacalf.ie or ring Joe Murphy on 07500 944581
To find your local stockist freephone 0808 1781017**