

Milk replacer is key to Johnnes control in dairy herd

Rearing calves on a milk replacer is helping a Wiltshire dairy farmer control Johnnes disease in his pedigree herd.

Nick Tyler had been buying-in stock to expand his milking herd and this, combined with feeding waste milk to calves, created a major Johnnes problem. Around 10% of the cows are infected with the disease. One of the steps Mr Tyler has taken to control the problem is to change the feeding system for his calves. After three days on artificial colostrum or colostrum from non-infected cows, the calves are fed two litres of Shine milk replacer twice a day.

This, together with rearing in hutches, has boosted calf health. “We started using Shine 12 months ago, the powder has got to be better for their long term health,” says Mr Tyler, of Home Farm, Heddington, Calne. “We had been feeding high cell count milk to the calves but now they only get Shine twice a day.”

Mr Tyler is milking 400 pedigree Holstein cows but, because the herd has been under bovine TB movement restrictions for 12 years, he is rearing both his heifer and bull calves.

He aims to calve the heifers as two year olds so needs them to gain the necessary weights by then. “I like to calve the heifers at 600kg so it’s crucial they get the maximum daily liveweight gains from an early age. I’m pleased with the results we have achieved since using Shine,” he says.

Meanwhile he is hopeful that this feeding policy will help him get on top of the Johnnes problem.

“better for their long term health”



Nick Tyler feeding Shine Milk replacer

“It is going to take time to get rid of the disease but I think we are moving in the right direction by identifying infected cows and not using any milk from these cows,” 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