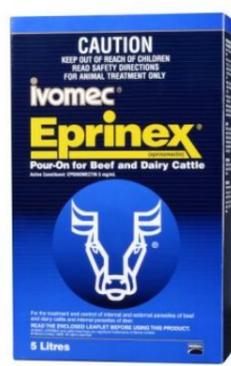


|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Drive Washing Powder 11kg<br/><b>\$55.00</b></p>      | <p>Blundstone Weatherseal Gumboot<br/><b>\$46.00</b></p>  | <p>Deltasec 25kg<br/><b>\$60.00</b></p>             |
| <p>Texxon Chain &amp; Bar Oil 5L<br/><b>\$20.00</b></p>  | <p>Stalosan F 15kg<br/><b>\$56.00</b></p>                 | <p>Polymaster 5 Teat Feeder<br/><b>\$155.00</b></p>  |
| <p>Eprinex 5L<br/><b>\$500.00</b></p>                  | <p>Cobber Working Dog<br/><b>\$37.00</b></p>            | <p>Maun Fencing Pliers<br/><b>\$88.00</b></p>     |
| <p>Turbo Braid 525m<br/><b>\$140.00</b></p>            | <p>Ring Top Post Single<br/><b>\$6.30</b></p>           | <p>Pre Round Reel<br/><b>\$139.00</b></p>         |



Chris Lawton Nutrition & Sales

### Liquid Gold - Colostrum

Recently Dr Gemma Chuck PhD gave a presentation on colostrum at the Australian Association of Ruminant Nutritionists (AARN). Dr Chuck works for Apiam Animal Health in Bendigo.

There are some important take home messages on colostrum to get the full benefits of this miracle feed.

- Calves are born with no defences to disease and must receive colostrum to survive
- An Australian study showed that 38% of calves sampled for IgG (immunoglobulin) which is in colostrum and protects against disease- had "FPT" or failure of passive transfer- meaning that they were not protected against disease
- They either received not enough colostrum or it was not of high quality.
- Two thirds of herds sampled had more than 25% of calves with FPT!
- Colostrum not only increases resistance to disease and death- but good transfer of IgG helps weight gains right through to mating
- This appears to be because other factors in colostrum are important too- the cell walls of the gut are enhanced and so the calf digests better and grows better!
- Calves with better IgG levels from quality colostrum also produce more milk when in the herd as adults (this is where the weight gain/gut health abilities of colostrum appear to come into the equation)

### The 3 "Q's" of Colostrum

- Quickly -**
- The first colostrum feed should be asap after birth
  - The cell walls of the calf's gut close and the ability to absorb IgG is reduced within 24 hrs of birth
  - First 2 feeds must occur within 6 hours of birth
  - Collect calves from calving area twice daily and feed colostrum immediately
  - The second feed should be within 6 hours
  - Record on a white board that all calves have had two colostrum feeds
- Quality -**
- Good quality colostrum is defined as being at least 50 mg of IgG per ml
  - Poor quality is less than 30 mg IgG per ml
  - Colostrum is highly variable with regard to quality!!
  - A Brix refractometer is used to measure colostrum quality on farm.
- Quantity -**
- A cut off of 22% Brix is used to denote 50 grams/litre of IgG so samples of >22% Brix are of good quality
  - So...Grade1 = >22% Brix and Grade 2 = < 22% Brix
  - Colostrum quality declines rapidly after calving so cows need collecting from the calving area twice daily to ensure the best colostrum is used.
  - How much is fed to the calf depends on the quality!
  - If the colostrum is > 22% Brix then 2x 2 litre feeds fed within 6 hours of birth is excellent.
  - Or- 4 litres once in larger breeds
  - If only poor quality colostrum is available <22% Brix then calves will need a larger amount to avoid becoming a casualty of "FPT" –failure of passive transfer!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Liquid Gold - Colostrum
- Feeding byproducts - Benefits & Pitfalls
- Fodder Source for Close Up Cows
- Hay & Grain Report



Trudi Hammond of Melaleuca Park pays strict attention to ensure all calves are feeding and have received enough quality colostrum

*The golden rule of feeding calves is Consistency- try to avoid changes of feeds or changes of nutrition as this can upset the balance and lead to problems*

## Feeding Byproducts - Benefits & Pitfalls

As farms are running out of silage and hay and quality oaten and vetch hay becomes scarce and expensive, many farmers are looking at other options. Some are worthwhile – some aren't so this seems a good time to discuss some of the by products available.

Please note- NONE of the by-products mentioned here can be fed without fibre anyway. But... they can be used to "pad" out and conserve what long stem forage you have to allow it to go further.

### Potatoes -

- High in starch-( 50.1 %) be careful of acidosis
- High ME (14ME)
- High in moisture (Only 24% Dry matter)
- LOW in fibre (NDF 22%)
- Protein is low (10.8 P)
- Introduce SLOWLY- feed no more than 3 kg wet and make sure there are buffers in your ration and fibre
- Balance for Ca:P ratio
- Useful addition /fed carefully when added to a mixer wagon (Watch for choke)
- Fed mainly for starch component

### Almond Hulls -

- Low protein (5%!)
- DM 88%
- Adequate energy (10.5 ME)
- "Fibrous" -but not long stem fibre. Must be fed with silage/hay . (45% NDF)
- Sharp edges can cause gut injury so need fibre to "Pad"
- Useful tool for extending silage that is available (add at 5% to silage)
- Limit intake to 1.5- 2.75 kg at the most

### Brewers -

- 23% DM- so wet feed
- Good protein (20%)
- Good energy (11 ME)
- NDF 49%
- Please note- check the cost of spuds and brewers on a "Dry matter basis" ie if the brewers is \$85 a tonne and roughly 25% DM then its 4 times that cost (\$340)
- High in Phosphorus and low in Calcium so must be balanced in the shed

### PKE (Palm kernel meal) -

- Higher DM than brewers or spuds. (90%)
- 16% protein (but not all available due to insolubility of that protein- more like 12%)
- High Phosphorus- needs balancing
- ME of 10.5-11 ME
- NDF is high- 63%! So cows cannot eat much before they are full. If you are looking for milk production then this is not the product for you! Feed spuds or brewers!
- \* Same applies to DDG or dried distillers grains

All of the above by products can be useful at times but need to be balanced within the ration to get the maximum benefit. Your Browns tech staff can do this for you as part of our service

## Fodder Source for Close Up Cows

Because hay is in short supply and expensive, Browns have decided to purchase a product they sold about 5 years ago when conditions were dry. This is a fully wrapped fibre/energy product consisting of Oaten hay/wheaten hay/ citrus pulp/ almond hulls/brewers etc and is a great long stem fibre & energy source for close up cows. (See pictures) It promotes dry matter intake as it is sweet and the cows will eat it all- and assists gut stretch before calving so that capacity is better in calved cows.

The DCAB is currently being tested and we feel it will be perfect for feeding to reduce milk fever in calving herds. Protein and ME are comparable to the best oaten hay (which is impossible to get now!). Round bales are 400 kg and 100 on a truck. Bales are 65% DM- so at \$280 plus GST delivered at present it is \$350 a DM ton which is a better price than straight oaten hay on a DM basis. Talk to your Browns tech staff to discuss if this is the right product for you.



## Hay & Grain Report

### Hay

Vetch hay is scarce and any available is now of lesser quality. There will be some around at excellent quality but the price will be in the \$400 tonne vicinity. Oaten hay is also becoming hard to find. Browns have wheaten and oaten hay available and the wheaten compares favorably with oaten for close up cows and to balance milker feed. And as discussed earlier we also have the TMF oaten/wheaten/citrus mix available for close up cows in round bales.

### Grain

Grain prices will remain high as rain is desperately needed in the grain region. Canola has been dry sown and requires further rain by Mid to late June or harvest will be poor. Unfortunately we envisage grain prices will remain bullish for the near future.

At Browns we do not use poor quality low starch products in our grain mixes (like DDG or Palm kernel or almond meal) .We feel that the small cost saving made by using these products is negated by the lack of milk production that occurs. As milk is worth money in June/July it makes sense to get fresh cows producing as well as they can and continue to do so when pasture growth occurs. Farmers can then cut back feed in the shed and use more pasture to even out costs.

## Customer Snaps



Above: Peter & Wilma MacKay's close up cows.

Below: Jeff & Haillie McCauley's Milkers.



Above: Chris Lawton's Angus Holstein Heifers.

Below: Stud Bulls from Merlewood Angus. Using a custom Beef Mix made by Chris Lawton.



Above: Steve Russell & Lisa Thompson's cow just calved.

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Call one of our nutritional team direct or contact the office to have one of our nutritional team contact you to discuss further

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