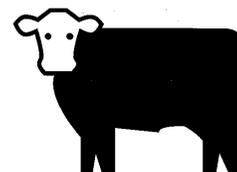


BABY DOLL NUTRITION NEWS

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Feedlot Series Number 1

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Off to a Good Start: Receiving Cattle

Getting Off to a Good Start Pays Off for the Entire Feeding Period!

Receiving feeder cattle is one of the biggest challenges facing the cattle feeder. Research has shown that performance during the critical first 28 days are the best indicator of performance for cattle during the entire feeding period! Proper nutrition and management during the first 28 days can reduce mortality, morbidity, and improve your bottom line. This paper will provide you with management practices and procedures that will help you get your cattle off to a good start.

It is important to realize that any shipment causes stress to cattle. Most transit shrinkage occurs during the first 100 miles. Auction barns, order buyer collection stations, and trucks cause stress and expose cattle to disease organisms in the environment and other cattle. New surroundings at your feedlot cause stress. Cattle from many sources need to become acquainted with a new pen and new penmates.

Be Prepared BEFORE Cattle Arrive!

Make your plans and preparations before the truck arrives. Discuss receiving procedures with your nutritionist and veterinarian. Plan accordingly. Pens should be clean. Medium quality grass or mixed hay should be in the feed bunk with hay sticking out of the bunk and into the pen when the cattle arrive. Even cattle that never consumed concentrate feed or silage will often have prior experience with hay and will eat some of it from the bunk. Provide 16-24 inches of bunk space per head during the receiving period.

Waterers should be cleaned just prior to cattle arriving. Adjust the float so water is flowing and the cattle can hear it. Waterers along the fence line are preferable to waterers placed in the middle of the pen since cattle typically circle the fence line after arriving in a new pen. Fence line waterers are easily found by newly arrived feeder cattle. Clean bedding should be in the pen if needed.

Shortly after the cattle are placed in the pen, concentrate feed should be fed on top of the hay. Processing should be delayed until the cattle have had a chance to eat and rest. Usually, cattle arrive in the evening or during the night. Put newly received cattle

in their pens, feed them, and process them the next day.

Normal processing includes ear tagging, branding (if needed), deworming, tail bobbing, implanting, vaccination, checking temperature, and administration of preventative antibiotics. Cattle that are visibly sick should go to the sick pen directly. Many feedlots use an antibiotic such as LA-200 in all cattle with body temperatures lower than 104.0°F and Micotil® in all cattle with temperatures higher than 104.0°F at processing. Recent research confirmed the benefits of administering a preventative dose of Micotil® to all the cattle at processing. This practice reduces mortality, improves feedlot performance, and reduces total health costs in feedlot cattle. Discuss these practices with your veterinarian.

Nutrition Critical to Receiving Cattle for Managing High Stress/Low Intake

Stressed feeder cattle, particularly calves, consume less feed than they would without shipping stress. Studies have shown that rumen function is reduced after shipping. Recent research has shown rumen function is reduced because cattle have not eaten for a period of time. If we can entice the cattle to consume feed, rumen activity will increase to ferment the feed consumed.

Stressed calves consume only 0.5 - 1.5% of their body weight per day during the first week in the feedlot. It's important to realize that not all calves will eat every day when they first arrive. In fact, only about 22% of the calves eat on the first day, 36% on day 2, and about 68% on days 3-7. Most studies show that on day 4 intake usually increases. A particular calf, however, may eat one day but not the next day. This adds to the amount of stress the cattle experience. Each group of cattle is unique and we must be flexible in our management to accommodate variation between groups of cattle.

It is important to encourage cattle to find the feed bunk and eat feed from it. Feeding concentrate feed on top of hay several times per day helps keep the feed fresh and encourages cattle to eat. Providing hay in the bunk and sticking out of the bunk into the pen will help the cattle find the bunk. Feed three times per day or more for the first 10 days to encourage feed consumption and to help prevent over-consumption at one time. Our goal is to be consistent and bring the cattle on feed in a controlled manner. A calf that hasn't eaten in 2-3

From the code of the old west:

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

days that finds the feed bunk may overeat if all the feed is consumed at once. By feeding in 3 or more feedings, intake is more controlled, and the feeder may spot sick cattle that do not come to the bunk to eat when the pen is fed. Stay ahead of the cattle. Keep them coming to the bunk when they are fed.

Sick Cattle: Pull, Treat, and TLC

We must identify, pull, and treat sick cattle as soon as possible. Cowboys should ride or walk the pens several times each day to find sick cattle and treat them as soon as possible (ASAP).

It is important to keep good records with sick pen cattle. Use drugs that last 24 hours so changes in their condition will be evident the next day. Symptoms when pulled should be noted as well as symptoms when examined each subsequent day. Cattle with body temperature higher than 104°F when pulled should have a 2°F drop in body temperature or drop below 104°F if the antibiotic is having an effect. Cattle with body temperature less than 104°F should have a visible improvement in symptoms if the antibiotic is having an effect. If cattle do not improve in 24 hours, switch to a different antibiotic until improvement is seen. Cattle should appear near normal for 2 days before being returned to their home pen. Work closely with your veterinarian to develop a treatment program for your operation.

Make Every Mouthful Count

The receiving diet needs to be very high in nutrient concentration since intake is low. High energy rations are needed to provide enough calories to maintain body weight. Most feedlots utilize receiving diets with 65-80% concentrate. Crude protein, potassium, vitamin E, and many other nutrients are increased to help cattle recover from shrinkage and stress. Many of the vitamins and minerals are involved with immune system response, tissue maintenance, and proper rumen function and must be supplemented. The high nutrient density receiving ration is critical to getting cattle off to a good start.

BABY DOLL Receiving Supplement contains Aureomycin and Sulphamethazine to help control respiratory disease associated with shipping stress. BABY DOLL Receiving Supplement also contains *Poly-Plex™* polysaccharide complex organic trace minerals and high levels of vitamin E to improve immune system response. High levels of protein, potassium, and vitamins A and D are included to help cattle recover from stress and shrinkage, and begin building body stores of nutrients. The concentrated nutrient density is designed so that each mouthful of feed contains as many "goodies" as the cattle need in a concentrated, palatable form. Remember, stressed cattle may only consume 0.5 to 1.0 % of their body weight for the first several days in the feedlot. Only by feeding extremely concentrated feed can we help them recover faster from transit stress, and build immune defenses against "shipping fever" or bovine respiratory disease complex (BRD).

Manage Feed Intake for Better Performance

BABY DOLL Nutrition Ltd. recommends a system of feed intake management called "Limited Maximum Intake" or "LMI" to help bring cattle on feed and minimize acidosis. The first week in the feedlot is usually challenging because calves are severely stressed and not consuming feed at a desirable level. Consumption increases the second week to a level of over-consumption during the third week. This results in a dramatic drop in consumption during the fourth week due to a condition in the rumen called acidosis. To combat this, maintain consumption during the second and third weeks to prescribed levels. Controlling intake prevents overeating, acidosis, and drop in consumption that would occur if calves have free-choice access to feed during the end of week two and during week three.

Controlling and managing feed intake has been shown to reduce the cost of gain by several cents per pound. This is due to increased feed intake and improved feed conversion throughout the entire finishing period. Feed increases during the finishing period should be in small incremental steps and cattle should be aggressive at the bunk. The net result of LMI is steady gain on less feed with fewer metabolic disorders such as bloat, acidosis, and founder, and a better bottom line!

Using the BABY DOLL Receiving Supplement

Please feed according to directions. Feed 2 lbs of BABY DOLL Receiving Supplement per head per day mixed with whole shelled corn. Feed 1/3 of the daily ration in three equal feedings for the first 10 days, then 1/2 of the ration in two equal feeding per day. Feed grass or mixed hay in the morning only and feed grain on top of the hay. Discontinue hay feeding after the first week. Feed corn to match the following intake controls according to body weight (lbs):

<u>Week</u>	<u>lbs corn/hd/d at Body Wt</u>			
	<u>330#</u>	<u>440#</u>	<u>550#</u>	<u>660#</u>
1	7.1	8.8	10.7	12.6
2	7.9	9.8	12.0	14.0
3	8.7	10.8	13.2	15.4
4	9.6	11.9	14.4	16.8

If barley, wheat, or other grain sources are used, please call BABY DOLL Nutrition Ltd. and let us customize our recommendations for using the Receiving Supplement.

Stay ahead of the cattle. Do not exceed the amount of corn/head/day listed above. Convert cattle to BABY DOLL Grower Supplement and whole shelled corn after 28 days. For yearling cattle, feed 2 lbs/hd/d plus 1% of the body weight per day of mixed or grass hay, plus 0.5% of the body weight of corn. Increase amount of corn and decrease amount of hay by 0.25% body weight each week.

All BABY DOLL products and programs utilize *Poly-Plex™* polysaccharide complex organic trace minerals, high vitamin E levels, and are designed to maximize performance in feedlot cattle. Getting cattle off to a good start is the first step towards a great finish!