

First Calf Heifer Rebreeding Trial

Montana State University – Bozeman, MT

First calf heifers are under the nutritional stress of lactation, preparation for rebreeding and growth. The objective of this study was to determine the effects of liquid supplementation after calving on reproductive performance and calf performance.

Sixty-eight first calf cows (with Feb-March calves by side) were divided into two equal groups: Control and Liquid Supplement. Both groups were started in a dry lot and received hay to appetite and free choice mineral. The Liquid Supplement group received a free choice Loomix[®] blend.

The supplementation period started on 4/2/93 with the cows in dry lot, and continued through June 21. The cows were turned out to pasture in May when sufficient grass was established. The cows showing heat were bred artificially from June 1 to June 21. When the supplementation period ended on June 21, the groups were reunited and cleanup bulls were turned out.

The treatment group received a blend of Loomix[®] MCS II and Summer Loomix[®] fed free choice in an open trough. The Loomix[®] intake averaged 1.21 lb/hd/day over the trial period. The results are shown here:

Cow Performance:

	<u>Control</u>	<u>Loomix[®]</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Average Weight (lb) 4/02/93	1051.6	1046.1	
Average Weight (lb) 6/21/93	1058.3	1107.1	
Total Gain (lb)	6.7	61.0	+54.3*
Average Daily Gain (lb)	0.08	0.76	+0.68*
# AI Bred	23	27	+4
% AI Bred	67.7	79.4	+11.7

Calf Performance:

	<u>Control</u>	<u>Loomix[®]</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Average Weight (lb)	137.2	132.5	
Average Weight (79 Days)	218.9	299.5	
Total Gain (lb)	144.6	167.0	+22.4*
Average Daily Gain (lb)	1.81	2.09	+0.28*
Cost/lb Extra Calf Gain		59.74 cents	

Cost based on 1993 price of \$280/ton Loomix[®]

*Differences are statistically significant.