

Milk & Milk Replacer Acidification

Recently a new concept in calf feeding management has emerged from Finland, that allows for reduced labour, improved growth and healthier calves in group feeding situations. This idea utilizes organic acids to acidify (lower pH) of milk or milk replacers to dramatically reduce bacterial loads in solution allowing feed to be presented free choice for a period of 1-3 days.

Although group feeding is not common among Canadian dairy producers, these concepts can be used in individual feeding systems as well. Acidified milk/milk replacer can be fed to calves with expected improvements in growth and health. This is achieved through reduction of bacteria fed to calves as well as reduction of the bacterial count in the calf's stomach. With an ability to direct more nutrients towards growth rather than fighting disease, farmers should see healthier larger calves.

Using AgriACID from Grand Valley Fortifiers provides producers with an easy, cost effective method of acidifying their milk/milk replacer down to the desired pH of 4.0-4.5. AgriACID can be utilized in group or individual feeding systems. For more information on this acidification program or AgriACID contact your Grand Valley Fortifiers dairy specialist.

Mixing Instructions for AgriACID and milk or milk replacer:

To make AgriACID stock solution

- 1) Fill stock solution container with 18 litres of water.
- 2) Add 2 litres of pure AgriACID.
- 3) Close and mix well.

Mixing directions for whole raw milk:

- 1) Use only cold milk (less than 5°C optimal).
- 2) While stirring milk, add 60 ml of AgriACID stock solution per litre of milk.
- 3) Mix well.
- 4) Check pH of solution.
- 5) Feed.

Mixing directions for High Performance milk replacer:

- 1) Mix 125 g of powder with ½ litre hot water.
- 2) Mix well.
- 3) Add 60 ml of AgriACID stock solution to ½ litre cold water.
- 4) Mix hot and cold solutions together until mixed well.
- 5) Check pH of solution.
- 6) Feed.

Mixing directions for Excel milk replacer:

- 1) Mix 150g of powder with ½ litre hot water.
- 2) Mix well.
- 3) Add 60 ml of AgriACID stock solution to ½ litre cold water.
- 4) Mix hot and cold solutions together until mixed well.
- 5) Check pH of solution.
- 6) Feed.

