



Hunter Nutrition

The Program That Performs

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Tips and Tricks to Creep Feeding Calves the right way.

Safety of Sheep abortion vaccines during pregnancy.

Fair Winner Rewards Program Information for Give Away Prizes.

CREEP FEEDING CALVES

by Jeff Hunter

It is important to get calves started on creep early. Exposure to creep feed has many benefits; rumen development, heavier weaning weights, and increased profits. A good calf creep is palatable, well-fortified, and has the correct energy and fiber balance.

Young calves will not eat very much creep, however early consumption of even a small amount of feed is important. This early consumption aids in rumen development and sets calves up to consume more feed and gain more weight later on in the creep feeding period. A good way to get calves started is to place the creep close to

the areas where cows and calves congregate. Proper location of the creep feeder is important to the success of the creep program. If you place the feeder in an unfamiliar location, the calves may not find it. You will also get an earlier start if the first feed is a very palatable texturized grain mix. Our product 'Beef Calf Creep w/ Bovatec (Texturized)' works very well as the feed to attract calves to the creep. After the calves are well started on feed you should switch to 14% Calf Creep Pellet.

Pelleted Calf Creep Feeds should be a 5/32" pellet and free of fines. Avoid calf creep feeds which are a blend

of several kinds of pellets. These products can separate and often have fines which can cause bloat and off feed times. When 'the blended pellet' product separates you also see a decline in calf performance due to the ingredient separation. You will want a single size pellet which has all of the ingredients in that pellet and is a pellet free of fines.

Creep feeding calves reduces calf weaning stress and produces 30-60 lbs. more weight at weaning. Additionally calf creep feeding helps cows maintain condition. Cows in better shape at weaning will breed back sooner.



ADDRESSING SAFETY & EFFICACY of sheep abortion vaccines given during pregnancy.

by **Randall J. Berrier**
DVM, Colorado Serum Company

Both *Campylobacter* (Vibriosis) and *Chlamydia* are bacterial infections that can cause late-term abortions in sheep. Both sheep vaccines (*Campylobacter fetus-jejuni* Bacterin and *Chlamydia abortus* Bacterin) are made by Colorado Serum Company and are inactivated bacterins. There are no live organisms in these bacterins and therefore they cannot revert to virulence and cannot cause disease. The label instructions for *Campylobacter fetus-jejuni* Bacterin is to vaccinate initially shortly before breeding with a booster 60 - 90 days later (mid-gestation). We have actually done serology studies that show a good memory immune response (anamnestic response) when this 2nd vaccination is given at mid-gestation. This means that the ewe or ewe-lamb has the highest

level of antibody protection during late gestation, when the risk of *Campylobacter* abortions are the highest. It also indicates that the vaccine is safe to give during pregnancy (in addition to the fact that it is inactivated). For the annual booster many producers choose to vaccinate their adult ewes at mid-gestation and this has shown to be efficacious and safe anecdotally.

Label instructions for *Chlamydia abortus* Bacterin are to initially vaccinate ewe-lambs 60 and 30 days prior to breeding with an annual booster just prior to breeding thereafter. With the back order problems involving the *Chlamydia* Bacterin the vaccine may not be available until after sheep are bred and producers are worried about vaccine safety and efficacy if given after breeding. As

mentioned before, the *Chlamydia* Bacterin is inactivated, so it can not cause disease and from that standpoint it is safe. In addition to this, and even though there have been no official studies in pregnant sheep, the *Chlamydia* Bacterin has been used a lot in previously unvaccinated sheep during *Chlamydia* abortion storms to try and help stem the abortions and there have not been any reported safety problems noted in these situations. Also, since *Chlamydia* usually causes late-term abortion (has been reported as early as 100 days into gestation), giving a booster sometime after breeding will likely result in higher antibody levels during mid to late gestation when the risk of abortion is highest, similar to the *Campylobacter fetus-jejuni* Bacterin.



DEALER PROFILE: KIRSTEN HATFIELD

by Katie Marchino

Kirsten Hatfield, owner of J & K Hatfeild LLC, has been feeding Hunter Nutrition products to their herd of Polled Dorsets and White Dropers since 2009. Kirsten first got involved in the sheep industry through her time in 4-H and has continued to grow her flock since. Kirsten not only raises sheep, but also raises cattle, farms, and shows sheep. Kirsten first heard about Hunter Nutrition's products through a friend in

the sheep industry. Kirsten found that Hunter Nutrition's products were higher quality, consistent, and allowed her flock to perform at a higher level than other nutrition programs. She has seen higher conception rates and shorter breeding intervals within her flock. After experiencing such success with Hunter Nutrition's products, Kirsten decided to become a dealer. She has been able to work closely with youth and their projects

to help them succeed using Hunter Nutrition's products. Many of her "kids" have had the opportunity to participate in Hunter Nutrition's rewards program. Kirsten sees the future of the sheep feed business having an emphasis on club lamb rations and using more by-products to formulate feeds. The challenges Kirsten sees in the feed industry as a whole are the government regulations and antibiotic usage. Kirsten thinks it is

very important to educate the public and consumers why we use certain products, and the benefit that can come from them. She hopes to see an alternative created for Bovatec and Rumensin for young stock. The biggest advancement in the feed industry has been understanding and fulfilling the micro nutrient needs of animals.



PRODUCER PROFILE: LEON TROYER

by Katie Marchino

Leon Troyer, from West Lafayette, has been in the Angus business since the 1990s. They have a herd of about 25 cows producing primarily replacement heifers and show calves. Leon first heard about Hunter Nutrition after

visiting a friend's operation and noticing the increased weaning weights on their calves. After switching to Hunter Nutrition's 14% Calf Creep with Bovatec in his own herd, Leon was impressed in the difference he

saw in the calves and the added condition they had at weaning versus the previous product he was using. It is important for Leon to get the replacements and feeder calves off on the right foot nutritionally to help him

reach his goals. "The more pounds you can gain before weaning the better off you will be. Our cows milk well but anything we can do to supplement them is better," Leon says.

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WINNER REWARDS PROGRAM

The Winner Rewards Program application is located at hunternutrition.com. At the top right hand corner click on the Rewards tab and scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see the form named Hunter Nutrition Fair Winners Program Form. Please complete the form and press submit at the very bottom on the page when finished to ensure your application is saved. Also noted above the application there is a list of rules and eligibility for the rewards program, please read through this prior to filling out the application. We look forward to seeing all the winner photos, so if possible please include a picture with your application. Winner photos may have a chance of being featured in next years catalog. Thank You!

-Allison Hunter



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