

# Focus

**Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter**  
Issue 16 **Winter 2021**

Main Story

Main Story: Megastart

**MEGASTART** EWE & LAMB

## MEGASTART

### MEGASTART: The UK's Leading range of lambing/calving supplements

**Whether it is beef, sheep or dairy the success of a breeding enterprise is measured by the number of live offspring successfully reared – no pregnancy means no calf, no lamb and no milk. Getting an animal pregnant is only the start of the journey towards a profitable livestock enterprise.**

Pregnancy can be split into three main phases early, mid and late pregnancy. Management, especially nutrition, during each phase has an impact on the breeding female and the foetus being carried, this impact can have lifetime effects.

If pregnancy was the 110m hurdles then late pregnancy is the equivalent to the last 25m.

In the last eight weeks prior to birth there are significant changes in the nutritional demands from the growing foetus and the Mother's ability to supply this growing demand is stretched. There are a whole host of variables that have an influence on the future of the unborn foetus, many of the demands if unmet will have lifetime negative impacts on the new-born animal.

Fading away in the last 25m of the race is no

use. Thus correct nutrition in late pregnancy is not only essential to the health and vitality of the progeny at birth but affects the volume and quality of the colostrum, a ruminant has to acquire immunity through colostrum. Energy dense and containing essential growth factors plus the important immunoglobulins, an adequate volume colostrum has to be fed soon after birth since both the animal's ability to absorb IgG and the quality of colostrum decrease rapidly within 24 hours of birth.

The correct balance of minerals and vitamins fed in late pregnancy directly affect the quality of colostrum and that is where the MEGASTART range comes in. Four products (MEGASTART Ewe & Lamb, MEGASTART Pre-Calver, MEGASTART Dry Cow and MEGASTART Suckler) are specifically designed to be fed in the final 4 to 6 weeks pre-birth. All contain a high grade MOS (Mannan-oligosaccharides) and a specific mineral/trace element pack. MEGASTART is research proven and known to increase colostrum volume in cows by 35% and increase IgG in ewes by 15.2% grammes per litre. ■



### ProPlus High Energy Feed Licks

**ProPlus feed licks supply livestock with high energy from sugars and protected fat, whilst providing high quality DUP\* protein from hipro soya (Digestible Undegradable Protein\*).**

Designed to help balance low protein diets and highly fermentable grass-based diets, the ProPlus range is carefully balanced with vitamins, minerals and trace elements allowing livestock to achieve optimum performance.

#### **PROPLUS COMPLETE:**

High in protein and energy with a full complement of vitamins, minerals and trace elements to balance forage deficiencies. For cattle and sheep all year round.

#### **PROPLUS CATTLE:**

Improves cattle health and performance, includes protected fat and sugar for energy and rumen by-pass protein to complement grazing. For cattle all year round. ■





## Dale's Diary

# Keeping Calves Healthy

**Calf health is always a topic of conversation and whilst no method is 100% successful attention to detail is the critical point. I tend to have a list of key points in my head which I use to check out calf health at farm level.**

1. Feed the dry cow right to produce quality colostrum and a healthy calf
2. Ensure colostrum of the right quantity and quality is fed quickly (minimum 3 litres within 2 hours of birth)
3. Feed milk at 15% of calf body weight
4. Offer starter feeds and quality forage from day one
5. Ensure plenty of fresh, clean water is available
6. Phase weaning over at least one week to ensure less stress
7. Ensure adequate pen sizes, individual pens should be 1.8m x 1m minimum and group pens should allow 2 square metres per calf
8. Monitor growth rates which should be between 0.7–0.8kg/head/day
9. Prepare a hospital pen to keep sick animals away from other calves?

In addition supplementation can be key to maintaining overall health in your calves. I always recommend using MEGAMINS Calf Menthol mineral or MEGALIX Menthol buckets as this provides a means of keeping airways clear and help reduce respiratory problems.

Containing a full range of vitamins, minerals and trace elements as well as menthol, eucalyptus and garlic to help keep the airways clear. Given the right start, the immune system should be strong enough to help ward off any disease challenges.

Now there's Something to think about. ■



## Order in Time for Christmas

**As is tradition Scotmin Nutrition will be closed over the festive period. In order to cause as little disruption as possible the team advise the following with regards to order placement.**

Orders to be delivered no later than Thursday 23rd December 2021, must be placed by Tuesday 7th December 2021.

Orders required for delivery between 4th and 7th January 2022 must be placed by Tuesday 14th December 2021.

The office will close on Friday 24th December 2021 at 12.00 and re-open on Tuesday 4th of January 2022.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and happiness throughout the coming year. ■

**Experts in  
Livestock Nutrition**

**SCOTMIN  
NUTRITION**

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