

Focus

Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter
Issue 27 **Winter 2024**

Main Story:
Keeping Calves
Healthy During
Winter

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Keeping Calves Healthy During Winter

**Calves represent the future
any herd, so ensuring good calf
health all year round should
always be a key priority.**

Winter in particular poses unique challenges, with calves coming under increasing health and performance pressures due to worsening weather and declining temperatures. To ensure calves to get off to a good start in life, hit early growth targets and are ready for first calving at 24 months or under, it's vital they're properly supported during the winter period.

Cold stress has traditionally been one of the biggest challenges that calves face over the winter period, with declining temperatures forcing a calf's energy reserves away from growth to focus on keeping warm.

However, the recent trend of warmer, wet winters, are increasing the risk of pneumonia, which is estimated to cost the UK cattle industry more than £60m/year (AHDB). One of the ways to combat this increased risk is to ensure that calf housing has adequate levels of ventilation to prevent the build-up of stale air and harmful pathogens.



Available in 8kg and 20kg tubs,
ask our team about MEGALIX Menthol

The natural way to fight against respiratory irritation in livestock

Containing a combination of menthol oil, eucalyptus oil, aniseed and garlic MEGALIX Menthol offers a natural solution to tackling respiratory-related illnesses. With a full complement of vitamins, minerals and trace elements MEGALIX menthol is perfectly formulated to supplement housed livestock.



Cleaner, Healthier, Housing



Scan to watch more here

**98.4%* reduction in bacteria and
fungal spores.**

FarmShield – For pens, cubicles, stables, calf
hutches and box floors.

Designed to absorb moisture from livestock
bedding, creating a healthier environment for
animals to prosper.

- ✓ Effectively dries floors
- ✓ Non-abrasive
- ✓ Covers large areas
without becoming
lumpy
- ✓ Minimal dust
- ✓ Reduces fly larvae
- ✓ Reduces ammonia





Challenging Changes Ahead

The recent changes made by the government have meant that many farming families around the country are anxious about the future.

At Scotmin we're proud supporters of RSABI, supporting farmers is at the heart of what they do. RSABI offer an excellent service supporting people in Scottish agriculture providing

practical, emotional and financial support to all people involved in the Scottish agricultural industry. Their team are friendly, professional and all support is offered in confidence. Their helpline is free to phone and open 24/7, 365 days a year 24/7 0808 1234 555.

They also offer a chat service via their website <https://www.rsabi.org.uk> or you can reach them via email helpline@rsabi.org.uk



Dale's Diary

Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat, or so the saying goes.

Unusually mild and dry weather in November has meant grass growth continued and animals were able to stay outside longer than normal. However, this year grass quality has been poor but plentiful. Unfortunately, this means growth rates on younger cattle have been poor if supplementary feeding has not been provided. Catching up once housed is not easy and if youngstock are pushed additional problems can occur.

Once housed these animals are also at risk of potential disease challenges such as pneumonia, blue tongue and Q fever (dairy cows) to name a few. As a result, we have been highlighting that hygiene is critical and can be helped by the use of FARMSHIELD, which is a

multi-purpose product to be added to bedding materials or cubicles that is bactericidal and has been shown to kill a multitude of bugs, bacteria and even fungal elements. I have seen it used very successfully in calving pens, calf housing, lambing pens, cubicles and straw bedded yards. A small price to pay for healthy animals.

Because of milder weather I have also been recommending the use of calf menthol products such as Megalix menthol buckets and Megamins menthol minerals in calf diets which contain natural ingredients to help keep nasal passages open and help alleviate the incidence of respiratory issues.

Don't forget to order early as Christmas festivities approach and I trust you all have a happy one.

Now there's something to think about.



Scotmin Nutrition festive orders and operating hours

As is tradition Scotmin Nutrition will be closed over the festive period, please take note of the following dates with regards to order placement:

- All orders to be delivered no later than Monday 23rd December 2024, must be placed by Thursday 5th December 2024.
- Orders required for delivery between 2nd and 10th January 2025 must be placed by Thursday 12th December 2024.
- The office will close on Tuesday 24th December 2024 at 12.00 and re-open on Thursday 2nd of January 2025.

We would like to thank you for your business over the last twelve months. Please feel free to speak with our customer service team should you have any further enquiries:

Email: info@scotmin.com
or Phone: 01292 280909.

**Experts in
Livestock Nutrition**



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