

SUPPLEMENT STRATEGIES

For a competitive edge.

CRYSTALYX
Brand Supplements

A regular series on cost-effective supplementation strategies, sponsored by CRYSTALYX Brand Supplements. Go with the brand you know.



STRATEGY: MANAGE STRESS

- To reduce risk from the start, buy cattle from a known, reliable source.
- If you don't know the calves' trace-mineral status coming off the truck, assume they're deficient. Supplement accordingly.
- Formulate receiving diets to compensate for the relatively lower feed intake of stressed new arrivals.
- Although the typical inorganic forms of copper and zinc usually suffice under normal conditions, the complex—or organic—forms have been shown to increase absorption. They are a good investment when supplementing stressed new arrivals.
- Potassium is a common mineral in the body, but scouring or excessive shrink can quickly deplete it. Effective potassium supplementation—particularly starting rations—helps get calves rehydrated and recovering.
- Manage to reduce stress: Provide plenty of clean fresh water, access to high-quality grass hay, short rest before initial processing, vaccination program based on known history.

Boosting the immune system to fight stress

Research continues to draw the connection between mineral status and immune-system response to keep feeder calves healthy and growing. Now, three recent trials on over 1,000 calves demonstrate that connection in the field.

The studies showed that both pull rate and death loss can be cut by using a low-moisture block supplement to improve rumen function, increase appetite and provide organic forms of trace minerals.

Brigade[®], a CRYSTALYX[®] Brand Supplement formulated specifically to help fight stress in cattle, was placed in the backgrounding program of CPC Livestock, in Fountain Run, Ky. CPC, owned by Marshall and Brian Celsor and Ivan Pedigo, buys four-weight sale-barn calves from six nearby states, backgrounds them, and ships them to feedlots at about 700 pounds.

When CPC began using Brigade[®] supplement, which is continuously available to deliver additional protein, electrolytes, vitamins and minerals, including organic forms of copper, zinc and manganese, the supplement showed immediate results. A drop in pulls was seen, as well as fewer chronics and reduced death loss. Similar results were recorded on follow-up trials.

Trial No. 1: Steers 0.24 lb/hd/d			
	Brigade [®]	Control	Difference
Head	362	363	
Days on Feed	34	34	
Feed consumption lb/hd/d	7.75	7.37	0.38
Pulls	552	616	64
Pulls-Costs	\$1,424.12	\$1,531.36	\$107.24
Chronics	23	31	8
Deaths	0	6	6
Costs of deaths	\$0	\$1,944.00	\$1,944.00

Trial No. 2: Heifers 0.26 lb/hd/d			
	Brigade [®]	Control	Difference
Head	316	315	
Days on Feed	32	32	
Feed consumption lb/hd/d	11.38	10.75	1.08
Pulls	480	572	92
Pulls-Costs	\$1,172.48	\$1,403.00	\$230.52
Deaths	2	5	3
Costs of deaths	\$585.00	\$1,462.50	\$877.50

Trial No. 3: Steers 0.28 lb/hd/d			
	Brigade [®]	Control	Difference
Head	361	361	
Days on Feed	26	26	
Feed consumption lb/hd/d	9.32	8.20	1.12
Pulls	636	675	39
Pulls-Costs	\$1,587.32	\$1,754.58	\$167.28
Chronics	7	9	2
Deaths	7	10	3
Costs of deaths	\$2,268.00	\$3,240.00	\$972.00

“All trials showed calves on the supplement were eating more,” says Pedigo. “After seeing the results of the trials, we’re convinced that the supplement is a tool we can use to reduce pulls, lower death loss and increase feed consumption.”

Read more about the CPC trial results at www.crystalyx.com (find article at www.crystalyx.com/beef_strat.html).

SUPPLEMENT...BUT DON'T OVERSUPPLY

Supplemental zinc, copper and selenium have all been shown to strengthen immune function and reduce levels of bovine respiratory disease in feedlot field studies. However, researchers from West Texas A&M and New Mexico State note in a recent *Journal of Animal Science* article, feeders should be cautious about supplying minerals beyond the amount needed to compensate for decreased feed intake and known deficiencies.

Source: M. L. Galyean, L. J. Perino, and G. C. Diff, 1999. *Interaction of Cattle Health/Immunity and Nutrition. J. Anim. Sci. 77:1120-1134*

Coming next in

What is the real cost of supplemental feeding? New tools help you determine all the hidden costs of feeding.



GO WITH THE BRAND YOU KNOW[®]

CRYSTALYX[®] Brand Brigade[®] Stress Fighting Formula in the first 30 days of receiving provides



protein, energy, electrolytes and high levels of vitamins and organic trace minerals to beat the nutritional stress of weaning, grouping and shipping by improving rumen function and increasing appetite. For your free 16-page CRYSTALYX[®] booklet or the name and location of your nearest dealer, call 1-800-727-2502, or visit our web site at www.crystalyx.com.