

DROPSHIP JANUARY SPECIALS

Draxxin

Excede

Excenel

Naxcel

Nuflor

Nuflor Gold

Resflor

Zactran

Zuprevo

*Check Catalog
for pricing!*

*Call the office or ask
your veterinarian for
a catalog*

**DAIRYLAND
VETERINARY SERVICE**

310 Main St.
Casco, WI 54205

Phone: 920-837-7766

Fax: 920-837-7303

Email: dvslab@centurytel.net

Website: www.dairylandvet.net

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES IN 2020 FROM
ALL OF US AT DAIRYLAND VETERINARY SERVICE!**

Heifer “Shrink”

Have your heifers reached maturity at first calving?
How would you know? And if not, what is the cost?

Recent herd investigations into lactation curves and milk production differences between 1st, 2nd and 3rd lactation animals within herds and between herds, suggests the 1st lactation sets the “ceiling” for the whole herd.

In other words, if she has not reached maturity before 1st calving, she will reach it after calving, but at the expense of milk. And not just milk in her 1st lactation, but for her entire productive life. As older cows they actually never “catch up.”

So how does this happen? We seem to have “managed” around her biology. Nutrient partitioning is a very important concept in mammalian biology. And even more so, in dairy breeds because of the enormous impact of milk production.

Nutrient partitioning is competition by body systems for the available energy and protein consumed on a daily basis.

These body systems satisfy their requirements in a strict order or hierarchy:

- Maintenance
- Pregnancy
- Growth
- Milk production
- Body fat reserves
- Reproduction



As you can see, growth holds priority over milk production and can be satisfied before calving and first lactation, but if not, the pre-calving maturity deficit will be paid back in lactation. Based on 2.3 mega calories of energy needed for 1 pound of body weight gain and 0.3 mega calories/pound of milk, (7 to 1 ratio), every missing 1 pound of body weight costs 7 pounds of milk. And growth will be 7 times slower after calving. Another way of stating this is a one-month growth deficit prior to calving costs 7 months growth during lactation.

This new research tells us “immaturity” before first calving comes at a huge cost. In fact, 60 pounds more body weight before calving, equals 3-4 pounds more of milk/cow/day every day of that cow’s life.

Next month we will discuss how to set up a farm system to manage and monitor maturity.

Best wishes to everyone in the New Year.

Dr. Kevin Rockow

SAVE THE DATE

Lunch and learn about fly control

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

11:30am-2pm

@ Kewaunee County fairgrounds Exhibit Hall

625 Third Street Luxemburg, Conference Room 142

Presented by Meghan Zimmer – Elanco Territory Rep

Wise Choices.  **Healthy Animals.**