



Milk Replacer Research Value of Agglomeration?

Thirty-six calves were purchased and randomly assigned to either a formulation of 20% all milk protein, 20% fat milk replacer that was agglomerated or non-agglomerated. Ingredients in each was the same. Each formulation contained Deccox[®] (22.7 mg/lb). All calves had access to a constant supply of fresh water and fresh calf starter. Calves were fed 1 lb of milk replacer powder daily divided into 2 equal meals. The calves averaged 94 lb at the beginning of the trial.

The results for the six weeks when calves were fed both milk replacer and starter are tabulated below. There were no differences in gains, starter intake, medical treatments, or fecal scores as a result of agglomeration.

Agglomeration of milk replacer ingredients is a common practice used to speed-up the rate at which dry milk replacer powder mixes with water. The process and equipment needed to agglomerate add considerable costs to the price of a milk replacer. These data clearly show there is no performance advantage to agglomeration.

Milk Replacers*	Daily Gain, lb	Daily Starter Intake, lb	Medical Treatments/Calf	Fecal Score
Agglomerated	.90	.98	5.0	1.83
Non-agglomerated	.89	.98	4.9	1.83

*No differences between agglomerated and non-agglomerated milk replacers (P > 0.05).