



Calf Products Research Fructooligosaccharides

It has been postulated that fructooligosaccharides (FOS) stimulate the populations of some of the beneficial microorganisms in the intestine. Therefore, FOS may reduce scouring and improve performance.

Ninety-six calves were purchased and randomly assigned to either receive FOS (4 g/calf daily) or not receive FOS in their milk replacer (MR) in two trials. All calves had access to a constant supply of fresh water and fresh calf starter. Calves were fed MR twice daily. All MR contained Deccox[®] (22.7 mg/lb). The calves averaged 93 lb at the beginning of the trials.

The results for the six weeks when calves were fed both MR and starter are tabulated below. There were no improvements in any measurement when FOS was added to the MR. When these data were analyzed by individual weeks (data not shown), there were no improvements observed with FOS added to the MR.

Milk Replacer*	Daily Gain, lb	Daily Starter Intake, lb	Medical Treatments/Calf	Fecal Score
With FOS	1.07	.95	10.0	1.74
Without FOS	1.11	1.09	8.9	1.71

*No improvements with the addition of fructooligosaccharides (FOS; P > 0.05).

Reference: Prof. Anim. Sci. 24:460-464 (2008)