



Calf Products Research
Supplemental IgG

Ninety-six calves were purchased and randomly assigned to one of three initial treatments in two trials to determine the benefit of offering supplemental immunoglobulins (IgG) to newly received baby calves. All calves had access to a constant supply of fresh water and fresh calf starter. Calves were fed milk replacer (MR) twice daily after the initial treatments were administered. All MR contained Deccox[®] (22.7 mg/lb). The calves averaged 93 lb at the beginning of the trials.

The initial treatments compared were:

- 1) control - .25 lb electrolyte in 2 quarts of water on arrival followed by .5 lb MR in 2 quarts of water 12 hours later,
- 2) .5 lb of American Protein Corporation's LifeLine[®] (40% CP, .5% fat, 10% IgG) in 2 quarts of water on arrival and 12 hours later,
- 3) .5 lb of an experimental IgG/electrolyte product (45% CP, 10% fat, 10% IgG) in 2 quarts of water on arrival and 12 hours later.

The results for the six weeks when calves were fed both MR and starter are tabulated below. There was no improvement in any measurement when the IgG supplements were offered vs the control; there was actually a lower gain and starter intake. There was also no improvement in performance for individual weeks of the trial (data not shown) when IgG supplements were offered. The calves used in this trial were 3 to 5 days of age and would have already had a "closed" intestinal lining that would not absorb IgG. Thus, the practice of mass treating calves 3 or more days of age with IgG products is ineffective.

Initial Treatment *	Daily Gain, lb	Daily Starter Intake, lb	Medical Treatments/Calf	Fecal Score
1) Control	.93	.98	5.3	1.49
2) LifeLine	.89	.89	6.1	1.49
3) Exper. IgG	.80	.82	5.9	1.50

*No improvements with initial treatments of LifeLine and Experimental IgG/electrolyte product (RRC991821)

