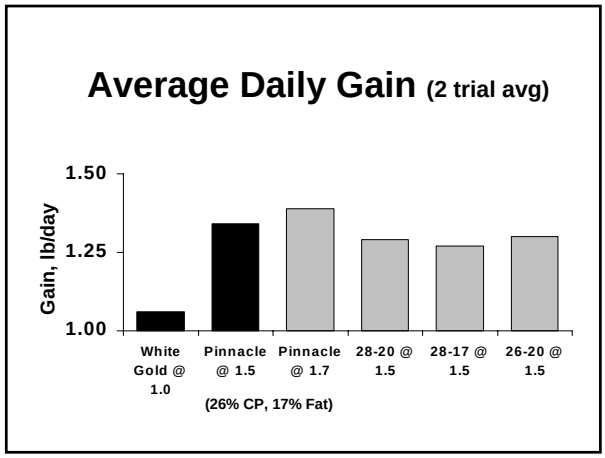
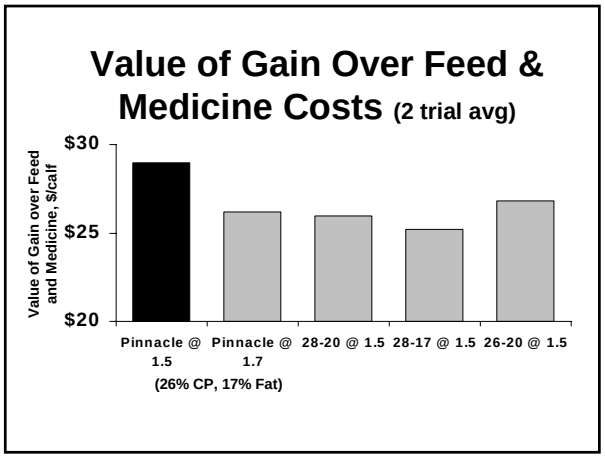
Milk Replacer Research

Re-evaluation of Feeding and Nutrient Level of Pinnacle MR

Calves were purchased and randomly assigned to one of six milk replacer (MR) feeding programs. Each MR contained all milk protein with various protein, fat, and feeding levels. All calves had access to a constant supply of fresh water and calf starter. Calves were fed their respective MR twice daily, which provided 22.7 mg of Deccox® per 100 lb of body weight. The calves averaged 94 lb at the beginning of the trial and were weaned at 6 weeks of age. The MR feeding programs evaluated were:

1) Akey White Gold 20-20 MR fed at 1.0 lb daily,
2) Akey Pinnacle 26-17 MR fed at 1.5 lb daily,
3) Akey Pinnacle 26-17 MR fed at 1.7 lb daily,
4) Experimental 28-20 MR fed at 1.5 lb daily,
5) Experimental 28-17 MR fed at 1.5 lb daily, and
6) Experimental 26-20 MR fed at 1.5 lb daily.

Performance and economic data (0 - 6 weeks) are shown in the figures below. Increasing the feeding rate of Pinnacle MR to 1.7 lb daily did not result in a significant improvement in gain. The numeric improvement in gain did not provide enough added weight and value to justify the added cost of more powder being fed. Starter intakes were not different among the various MR treatments but tended to be greatest for calves fed White Gold MR at 1.0 lb daily and Pinnacle MR fed at 1.5 lb daily. These results confirm that the present formulation and feeding rate of Pinnacle MR will optimize performance and the economics of gain.