



Milk Replacer Research Improved Akey White Gold Milk Replacer Formulation

Calves were purchased and randomly assigned to the original or an improved *Akey White Gold* MR formulation, in three trials. All calves had access to a constant supply of fresh water and calf starter. Calves were fed their respective milk replacers twice daily. All milk replacers contained Deccox[®] (22.7 mg/lb). The calves averaged 93 lb at the beginning of the trials and were weaned at 6 weeks of age.

Performance and economic data (0 - 6 weeks) are tabulated below. Daily gains and starter intake were improved 9% with the improved *White Gold* MR formulation. The improved *White Gold* formulation increased feed efficiency by 4%. The value of gain and value over starter and medicine costs were improved by almost \$6 per calf with the improved *White Gold* MR formulation, while the feed cost per lb of gain was improved by 7% or \$.05/lb. These improvements were consistent across all 3 trials. The improved formula is based on a better understanding of and reformulation for the calves' fatty acid requirements. Additionally, these improvements resulted in no increase in the cost of the *White Gold* MR formulation. The improved formula will be available the first week of April 2000.

Milk Replacer	Daily Gain, lb	Total Gain, lb	Total Starter Intake, lb	Feed Efficiency, MR+starter/Gain	Medicine Treatments per Week	Fecal Score, 1=Normal 5=Severe
Original <i>White Gold</i>	1.08	45.4	36.9	1.73	1.37	1.58
<u>Improved</u> <i>White Gold</i>	1.18	49.6	40.2	1.66	1.32	1.62
Improvement	9%	9%	9%	4%		

Milk Replacer	Value of Gain, \$/head	Value of Gain over Starter&Medicine, \$/head	Feed Costs/lb gain, \$/lb
Original <i>White Gold</i>	\$68.25	\$46.32	\$.768
<u>Improved</u> <i>White Gold</i>	\$74.13	\$52.26	\$.717
Improvement	\$5.88	\$5.94	7%

Assumed costs: \$.15/lb for the starter, \$.70/lb for the MR, \$2/medicine treatment, and \$1.50/lb of calf gain.

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