



## Milk Replacer Research Akey vs Commercial SPC Milk Replacer

Forty-five calves were purchased and randomly assigned to one of three milk replacers. 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<sup>®</sup> (22.7 mg/lb). The calves averaged 94 lb at the beginning of the trial and were weaned at 6 weeks of age.

The milk replacers compared were:

- 1) Commercial soy protein concentrate (SPC) and milk protein (21% protein, 20% fat),
- 2) *Akey White Gold*, and
- 3) *Akey Infiniti*.

Performance and economic data are tabulated below. Gains and intake of starter feed were greater and fecal scores (incidence of scouring) were less for calves fed *Akey White Gold* and *Infiniti* compared to calves fed the commercial SPC milk replacer. A score was assigned for ease of mixing and degree of settling after mixing for each of the milk replacers. All mixed easily, but the commercial SPC product settled the most and *Akey White Gold* settled the least. The Akey milk replacers had considerable performance and economic advantages over the commercial SPC product. Other university and corporate trials have shown that high soy protein milk replacers will support only 40% (with soy flour) to 75% (with moderate levels of SPC) the gains of all milk protein milk replacers. The current data are consistent with several other trials showing that *Akey Infiniti* supports equal to greater gains compared to all milk protein milk replacers.

Milk Replacer	Daily Gain, lb	Total Gain, lb	Total Starter Intake, lb	Medicine Treatments per Week	Fecal Score, 1=Normal 5=Severe	Settling Score, 1=Best 5=Worst
1) Commercial SPC	.735	30.9	34.6	1.10	1.70	4
2) <i>Akey White Gold</i>	1.006	42.3	45.0	1.02	1.56	1
3) <i>Akey Infiniti</i>	1.024	43.0	45.2	.94	1.49	2

Milk Replacer	Value of Gain, \$/head	Value of Gain over Starter&Med, \$/head	Economical Advantage with Akey, \$/calf
1) Commercial SPC	\$46.31	\$27.91	---
2) <i>Akey White Gold</i>	\$63.38	\$44.39	\$16.48
3) <i>Akey Infiniti</i>	\$64.51	\$46.45	\$18.54

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