

WEANING STRATEGIES

Transitioning calves off of their mother's milk, forage and/or creep feed supplemented diets to a starter TMR can be stressful. Not only is it a social shock of leaving their mother and the diet they are accustomed to, but also to their rumen bacteria making a shift to accommodate the new nutrient sources. Calves need a diet that builds their gut health and makes the transition guick and safe. Follow these tips to help make the change for your calves a little easier.



Plenty of clean water available to promote consumption



Use fresh and palatable ingredients to improve health, gains and appetite



Formulate diets that will fulfill the calves' nutrient requirements



Include roughage in the diet to stimulate rumen motility



Fill bunk appropriately to maintain consistent intake



Maintain a consistent daily feeding schedule to sustain steady intake patterns each day

Other Reminders:

- Provide long-stemmed hay on the first day of arrival. On the second day add TMR at 1% of body weight to the long-stemmed hay. When appetite matches the concentrate-long-stemmed hay delivery, begin stepping-up calves to 100% starter diet.
- Healthy calves should be consuming 2.5% (100% dry matter basis) of their body weight with in three weeks.
- Get cattle up on feed safely, effectively and with minimal health issues.
- Use StressGuard Starter System along with CRYSTALYX® Blueprint® Battalion® or CRYSTALYX® Brigade® to replenish key electrolytes, stabilize the rumen, and support the immune system of calves during the stress of weaning.



VICE BEHAVIORS: WHY ALLBITE™ IS THE ANSWER

Webster's dictionary defines innovation as 1) the introduction of something new and 2) a new idea, method or device. AllBite, the molasses-based block designed to reduce vice behaviors like tail-biting, certainly fits that definition. AllBite has people talking and for good reason; it's easy to use, has a success rate of over 93% and there's nothing else like it on the market. What started as a test project in a farm-shop has developed into a product that's been used by some of the largest and smallest pig farms in the United States. With the fall months ahead and the challenges of fluctuating temperatures, pit pumping and increased stress, the interest and sales of AllBite will only continue to grow.

Hubbard Feeds senior swine nutritionist Jamie Pietig, who led the development of the AllBite block, noted that incidences of tail-biting seem to be on the rise. "One challenge with tail-biting is the lag in response," said Pietig. "By the time the reports of tail-biting get to me and I make changes in the diets and get that information back to the feed mill and then out to the farm, two weeks may have passed. A quick response time is one clear advantage of AllBite — we can place the block in the pen as soon as tail-biting is noticed."

AllBite does more than just modify behavior, thanks to the ingredients within the block that help create a calming effect, similar to what is seen when magnesium oxide is added to the ration.

AllBite's biggest advantages are its ease of use and flexibility; the benefits of utilizing this product can be applied to a wide range of situations. Setting up your AllBite block is simple — it comes with a chain, so all you need to do is take it out of the box and hang it on the fence. Ensure that the block can move freely so pigs can chew on it from all sides.

While the initial focus may have been tail-biting, Hubbard Feeds swine technical veterinarian Dr. Andrew Bents can attest to AllBite's versatility. He was working recently with a gilt developer barn for a new start-up sow farm, and they were experiencing problems with both vulva- and tail-biting. As a solution, Dr. Bents hung AllBite blocks from hooks in the ceiling — and the biting stopped. When the gilts got accustomed to the blocks and started biting each other again, he moved the blocks from hook to hook to recapture the gilts' interest. Since then, the requests for use of AllBite in gilt developer units has been just as strong as the interest in it's use for tail-biting in finishing barns.

Historically, one of the biggest frustrations with tail-biting mitigation products is their lack of consistent success in stopping this unwanted behavior. The key is early identification and implementation of AllBite into pens where tail-biting is occurring.

It is also crucial to use enough blocks based on the number of pigs in the pens. "In our early field trial work, when producers didn't at least use one block per 25 heads, pigs consumed it too fast and went back to tail-biting," said Pietig. "It's tempting to want to stretch the AllBite blocks across more pigs, but the key is to make sure all pigs have access to the block."

AllBite is currently available through the Hubbard Feeds plants and through the Alltech E-Store.

"Tail-biting is a universal concern, and, as animal caretakers, the welfare of our pigs is a daily responsibility," said Pietig. "Having a product like AllBite to quickly, conveniently and efficiently address these challenges is both encouraging and exciting."

For more information on AllBite, visit www.hubbardfeeds.com/allbite or contact your local Hubbard Feeds representative.



NEW BYPASS FATS THROUGH HUBBARD FEEDS!

With the discontinuation of Alltech Energy bypass fats, Hubbard will work with Milk Specialties Global (MSG) as our preferred bypass fat supplier going forward. MSG has long been a leader in bypass fat manufacturing and technical support and will bring that expertise to Hubbard and our customers. We will have ENERGY BOOSTER Mag®, EB MERGE HM and Palm Plus fat available to meet customer needs.



ENERGY BOOSTER Mag® contains 95.8% crude fat, 93% are rumen-inert fatty acids. The fatty acid composition has been formulated for dairy cows to increase ration energy density without reducing intake. The patented manufacturing process provides dietary magnesium while increasing the melting point for handling options. It is the form of energy cows can readily digest, absorb and use.



EB MERGE HM is a rumen-inert fat supplement containing 96% total fatty acids. Manufactured in Paris, Illinois, it's a small particle prill that's highly palatable and digestible, can be top-dressed or blended in a ration. With a patented manufacturing process, EB MERGE HM has a higher melt point that provides better handling.

PALM PLUS FAT

80% palmitic as well as 10% oleic fatty acids. You can expect to see the following from the use of these fatty acids:

Palmitic C16:0

- Greatest driver of milk fat concentration and yield
- Can decrease BCS in early lactation (BST-like response)

Stearic C18:0

- Maintains DMI
- Drives milk yield and body condition
- Perceived lower digestibility versus other fatty acids

Oleic C18:1

- Improves fatty acid digestibility in small intestine
- May decrease DMI at moderate feeding rates
- Majority is converted to C18:0 in the rumen

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October 1-5: World Dairy Expo, Madison, WI

October 3-5: NJSA Eastern Regional, Hamburg, NY

October 4-6: Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association Fall Classic, Morehead, KY

October 23-26: NSR Fall Classic, Duncan, OK

November 1-3: USCA Nationals, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Kinetic)

November 2-4: Angus Convention, Reno, NV

November 4-8: USPCA National Invitation, Okaloosa County, Florida (Kinetic)

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Powerstart™ Solo: Redefining nursery pig nutrition

In this age of precision and advanced technology, it may seem "old-school" to introduce a product that is designed for a wide weight range of pigs. However, years of research supporting the formulation of Powerstart $^{\text{TM}}$ Solo have led to the creation of a feed that is well-equipped to deliver the nutrition needed by the modern pig.

Powerstart Solo is a groundbreaking, research-proven feed designed to be the sole source of nutrition for pigs weighing 13–25 pounds.

Nurseries often contain pigs from multiple weaning dates, and this range of ages and weights can make managing the feed budget more challenging and can also lead to the underfeeding of smaller, lighter pigs. The efficiency of delivering and manufacturing just one feed makes Powerstart Solo attractive to farms with multi-fill rooms or nurseries. Budgets are easier to manage with Powerstart Solo, along with the number of days on medication — especially when using a VFD medication.

Most farms can't give up nursery performance in exchange for simplicity. The Hubbard swine technical team took that into account and formulated Powerstart Solo to contain a blend of ingredients that provide the optimal level of nutrient complexity to assist young pigs as they transition to dry feed at weaning and continue to provide the proper formulation as pigs age. Hubbard Feeds conducted multiple research trials comparing the performance of pigs fed a two-phase program to pigs fed a single-phase (i.e., Powerstart Solo) from 13 to 25 pounds of body weight. The results (below) showed comparable costs and performance on a single-phase diet.

Meta Analysis of Standard Nursery Program vs. Single-Phase Nursery Program

	Standard	Single-phase	CV	P<
Pens	63	69	-	-
No. of pigs	2460	2630	-	-
Beginning weight, lbs.	13.24	13.29	4.2	.62
Early nursery (21.9 d)				
ADG	.64	.65	7.2	.13
ADFI	.73	.75	6.0	.05
FG	1.16	1.16	5.0	.75
End weight, lbs.	27.71	28.09	4.4	.07
Gain	14.47	14.80	6.0	.03
Late nursery (22.8 d)				
ADG	1.09	1.13	9.7	.05
ADFI	1.67	1.71	11.8	.25
FG	1.54	1.52	8.2	.41
End weight, lbs.	54.15	55.14	5.8	.08
Gain	26.44	27.05	9.6	.18
Cumulative (44.8 d)				
ADG	.87	.89	6.9	.04
ADFI	1.20	1.23	8.4	.15
FG	1.39	1.38	5.9	.67
Gain	40.91	41.85	6.9	.06

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SWINE SOLUTIONS

Powerstart Solo is formulated for pigs weighing 13 pounds, so Lean Start 2 would be the product of choice for any pigs weighing less than that. For even smaller pigs (i.e., those weighing less than 10 pounds), First Course would be beneficial. Overall, we recommend managing the lightest pigs in the group the same way you would manage them in a multi-phase nursery program.

"The pigs will tell us what's working," said Ernie Hansen, manager of swine nutrition, research and technical services at Hubbard Feeds. "The comments we're getting back from our customers tell us that Powerstart Solo is providing comparable performance with easier management of feed budgets and feed deliveries. This is a win-win situation for everyone."

Below are more comments on the benefits of Powerstart:

"Pigs are eating it well and growing to 25 pounds on one diet without any transitions in the middle."

"A new customer who has scour problems told me yesterday that the Solo group has no scouring. His second Solo group starts today."

"We had a producer comment last week that the pigs are visually bigger and more uniform in week three."

Powerstart Solo proves that the right nutrition doesn't have to be complicated. For more information, contact your local Hubbard Feeds representative.



