

## How to Improve Your Calves' Wean Weights Should Not Be a Mystery!

## Proper nutrition during pregnancy is essential to healthy calves.

Rumen Capacity: The National Research Council publication *Nutrient* Requirements of Beef Cattle shows that nutrient requirements during the last trimester of gestation are from 10% to 25% greater than at mid gestation. However, the growing placenta and fetus cause rumen capacity to decline so that feed intake is reduced by about 1.5% per week over that same time period (1996 Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, p. 41).



**Two calves** depend on the nutritional status of the cow during the last trimester – this year's calf and the calf that will come on the next breeding. *"Inadequate food intake during late pregnancy is also associated with weak labor, increased dystocia, reduced milk production and growth of progeny, and lowered rebreeding performance of the dam"* (1996 *Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle*, p. 41).



Handling a higher demand with less capacity means that more nutrition must be packed into less volume and that more nutrients must be extracted from the feed eaten.

Mol-Mix can help. Mol-Mix packs more nutrition into a mouthful than is in concentrate feeds like corn or cubes. **Forage Intake** is improved by Mol-Mix. Mol-Mix supplies nutrients needed by the rumen microbes that break down forage and synthesize energy and protein the cow and the calf need. More active rumen microbes mean more forage intake. The chart shown here is from a study at Auburn University comparing forage intake calves with and without Mol-Mix. Intake was 25% higher with Mol-Mix. More intake makes more beef.



**Weaning Weights** were improved in this Montana study comparing cow/calf pairs with and without free choice liquid supplement on pasture. Besides the extra gain by supplemented calves, forage intake was increased for both cows and calves. Calves consumed an average of just under 0.25 lb liquid/hd/day. The extra gains were due to enhanced milk production by supplemented cows and improved forage intake by the calves

Effect of Liquid Supplement on Calf Weaning Weights		
	Control	Liquid
Weaning Weights, lbs	620	658
Average Daily Gain, lbs	2.2	2.9

as well as the direct benefits of the nutrients in the liquid supplement.

(Earley, et. al, An. Feed Sci. & Tech, v. 80 (1999) pp. 281-296.)

## **Maximizing Your Investment**

To maintain high-producing herds, cattlemen have learned they must make sure the entire herd gets the nutrition they need. The best way to maintain proper nutrient levels is to feed Mol-Mix.

Mol-Mix, a family of molasses-based, nutrient-dense liquid supplements, provides energy, protein, vitamins and minerals to help your cows produce more, healthier calves, and your calves to gain more weight. Our liquid supplements out perform dry supplements because, while they are fed free-choice, they are very palatable to the animal and allow it to balance its own nutrient intake. Mol-Mix is economical to feed, has proven consumption control and is backed by research.

Make sure your cows and calves get the nutrition they need for maximum production and weight gain. *Feed Mol-mix year-round!*