

Advanced HealthyCalver Nuts



Since the introduction of the **Advanced DCAB** specialist dry cow feeds about 3 years ago we have had some exceptional success stories on many farms, with reports of virtually no retained cleansings or milk fevers, quick calvings and cows getting up to speed very quickly after calving. In some cases we have been told the product has completely transformed the calving cow process and in a few cases it has even transformed peoples lives by taking the worry, hassle and stress out of calving cows.

Current estimates from detailed analysis of costs from producers using the Kite Health and Culling Monitor system indicates that each case of milk fever can result in a loss of over £200, a retained cleansing over £50 and metritis (whites) over £50. In addition there are hidden costs from sub-clinical effects going on unnoticed under the surface which will make these losses much worse. A cow with sub-clinical or clinical

milk fever will have:

- Reduced feed intakes
- Reduced milk yield – up to 1,500 litres/lactation
- Up to 9 times increased risk of ketosis
- Up to 2 times the risk of retained cleansings or whites
- Up to 8 times the risk of mastitis
- Up to 3 times the risk of an LDA
- Longer interval to first service and poorer fertility overall
- Much greater chance of becoming a “downer cow” and dying

Advanced DCAB works well with larger transition dry cow groups where the product is mixed into a specific transition cow TMR using a mixer wagon. This is fine for large herds, but for many the transition cow group is not always large enough to warrant a specific

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mix. Sometimes every other day feeding is tried, but this often reduces appetite and intakes with heating/ moulding feed in the trough. That is the last thing anyone wants as it is very easy for a cow to start the slippery slope of “negative energy balance” in the run up to calving from reduced appetite and intakes, ending up in poor milk yields, poor milk qualities and poor fertility.

For this reason we have developed a new product, **Advanced HealthyCalver**, which captures the benefits of the DCAB system, but allows easier and more flexible feeding. This will make it particularly attractive to farmers with smaller groups of dry cows or where they want to feed an all in one nut from a bag either indoors or at grass. The product comes in a 14mm diameter nut in 25kg bags on 1 tonne pallets. This makes it easy to handle and feed out wherever the dry cows are.

As well as some anionic salts to achieve a partial DCAB status the formulation also uses higher levels of major minerals and vitamins than most other products available, especially magnesium, zinc, selenium and Vitamin E. All these are known to be critical to enhance the cows immune system and give the best results at calving. In addition we are using high levels of good quality energy and protein sources so there are no palatability problems and the cow has a high energy intake at calving. **Advanced HealthyCalver** nuts contain high levels of bypass protein to help produce a healthy cow which will give high yields of good quality milk and get back in calf quicker in the next lactation. The nuts also contain

high levels of starch and sugars to acclimatise the rumen bugs to the types of feed which they will be coming onto when the cow receives the full milking cow diet after calving. In this way we achieve all the objectives of a transition diet and get the cow off to the best possible start to lactation.



Summary

Advanced HealthyCalver Nuts ...

- Capture the benefits of the DCAB system
- Allows easier and more flexible feeding
- Suitable for smaller groups of dry cows
- Incorporates high levels of the major vitamins and minerals
- Contains high levels of protein and energy
- Ensures cow is in optimum condition at calving to enable high milk yield and ongoing fertility

Ensure your cows get off to the best possible start of lactation - call Advance Sourcing on 01823 491238

adding value to your business

Winter feeding issues

Although most herds are performing better now this has been a very difficult winter for feeding cows to get the best yields, milk qualities and fertility. A number of feed additives have proved to be particularly successful in helping make the best of what has been available on farm – including some wet, acidic silages and lots of rapidly fermenting wheat, in some cases including high levels of moulds producing mycotoxins.



Biosaf Yeast – this is different from other yeasts available as it is a live yeast which is protected by an outer coating of dead yeast cells. It reduces the oxygen in the rumen, thereby encouraging improved rumen bug performance which means better digestion of starch and fibre. This also creates a stable rumen pH, the overall effect leads to healthier cows producing more milk with better milk qualities. In an independent trial involving Kite a few years ago milk increased by 7%, butterfat by 10% and milk protein by 4%. The average benefit found in 28 trials was a milk yield and milk quality increase of around 4%, worth around 35p/cow/day, plus health and fertility benefits. This year **Biosaf** is excellent value for money at less than 6p/cow/day.

Mycotoxin Binders – these products work in various ways to bind the mycotoxins which are produced by moulds in feeds. These have been especially high in cereals this year with many loads being rejected from mills around the country. Mycotoxins impair animal health and performance with:

- poor milk production,
- poor body condition
- rough hair coats
- foot lesions which will not heal
- poor fertility
- variable dung, including mucus tags
- in some cases swollen joints or other swellings.

The cost starts at around 5-6p/cow/day, which is more than covered by improvements in cow health and performance. We also offer **Biosaf** combined with a **Mycotoxin Binder** to save money, time and effort on farm.



Feed Grade Urea – the cost of soya and rape, two of the most used feed proteins has rocketed since Christmas for various reasons, including exchange rate changes, weather, speculators and worldwide demand. A lot of forages this winter have been analysed as being low in protein, partly because many farmers cut back on Nitrogen use last year due to the cost and, partly because after the second extremely wet summer in a row a lot of Nitrogen has been leached out of the soil. **Feed Grade Urea** can be a very effective and good value for money feed in these situations and Advance has secured a supply at a very effective price.

Glycerol – negative energy balance and body condition score loss during the period from 2-3 weeks before calving to 6-8 weeks after calving is the biggest reason for high levels of mobilised fat in bloods, ketosis, poor milk yields and milk qualities and most importantly poor fertility in high performance herds.

Body Condition Score Change and Reproductive Performance

Body Condition Score Loss	Interval to 1st Ovulation (days)	Calving to 1st Service Interval (days)	1st Service Pregnancy Rate (%)
< 0.5	27	48	65
0.5 – 1.0	31	41	53
> 0.5	42	62	17

Source: Butler & Smith (1989) *J. Dairy Sci.*

To help the high performance cow calve well, milk well and get back in calf quickly we can do a lot by adding energy dense additives to the feed during the critical pre-calving to peak milk period.

Advance has sourced very cost effective **Glycerol**, which is a sweet tasting, energy dense glucose precursor. It is much cheaper than Propylene Glycol and is a valuable addition to the diet for the transition / fresh cow groups.



About us...

Advance Sourcing is a sister company to Kite Consulting, but you don't have to be a Kite client to benefit from our services. We secure the best deals on a broad range of specialist agricultural inputs for our farmer clients, using the technical expertise of Kite consultants to set the optimum specifications before tendering for our supplies. We work with a large number of trusted suppliers and our aim is simple – to keep you ahead of the competition by sourcing technically sound products that will make or save you money. Our mission is to add value to your business, so why not give us a try?

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