HEALTHY START®

Healthy Start® improves Heifer calf performance

H. L. Chapman, University of Florida, studied the effects of **Healthy Start®** on heifers weighing approximately 430 lbs. at the start of the trial. The ration was corn silage, two pounds of protein supplement and free choice mineral. **Healthy Start®** was drenched on day one at the rate of 10cc per head and was then supplied in the protein supplement at the rate of 5cc per lb. of supplement (10cc per day) for the duration of the trial.

The rate of gain for all groups receiving **Healthy Start®** was superior to those not receiving **Healthy Start®**. Average daily DM intake was greater for all groups receiving **Healthy Start®**. The relative difference in intake was greatest during the first 28 days, indicating that **Healthy Start®** stimulates appetite. These findings are consistent with results from other trial work, both university and on farm. Feed efficiency improved by 12% for the first 28 days, with a smaller improvement (3.2%) during the last 28 days.

The results indicate that 10cc of **Healthy Start®** per head per day improves rate of gain, DM intake and DM feed efficiency during the first 56 days. Previous work indicates that using Culbac® products improves health, improves intake, decreases digestive upsets and improves performance.

Performance of Heifer Calves on Healthy Start®

Days	Number		Control	Healthy Start®	% Change
28	34	ADG, lbs	2.48	2.93	18.1
		DM Intake, lbs.	10.38	10.82	4.2
		Feed/Gain	4.19	3.69	-12.0
56	34	ADG, lbs	2.27	2.38	4.8
		DM Intake, lbs.	11.92	12.10	1.5
		Feed/Gain	5.25	5.08	-3.2

Healthy Start® is the liquid form of Culbac® and **Rumenbac®** is the dry form of Culbac® for ruminant use. In this trial only **Healthy Start®** was used. A more convenient and economical program is to use **Healthy Start®** as a drench at the rate of 10-15cc per head during processing, and then use **Rumen-bac®** in the feed. **Rumen-bac®** is fed at the rate of 1 lb. per 30 head during the receiving period and then decreased to the rate of 1 lb. per 45 head for the duration of the feedlot period.

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