

# January 2020 Newsletter

## Summerleaze Youngstock Programme

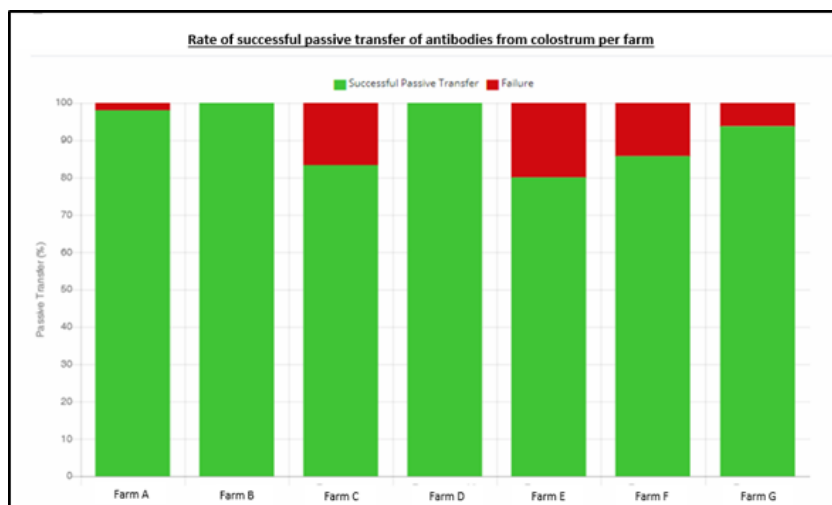
The Summerleaze Youngstock Programme has been running for a year now, in that time we have been focusing mainly on calf health and performance before weaning. Regular samples are taken to check if calves have received enough colostrum and growth rates are monitored, the results of which have been really eye opening. We have also been working together to improve other areas such as hygiene and nutrition, both of which are often forgotten, but will have a huge impact.



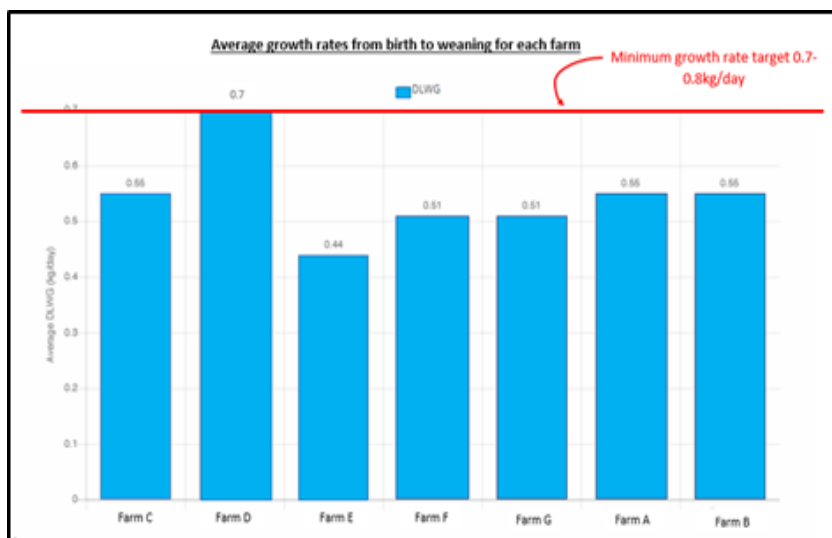
### Colostrum Quality Testing

Colostrum Quality can be tested on a Brix refractometer. Many of our farmers have found the quality can vary hugely between cows, and at different times of the year. (You CANNOT tell just by looking at it!)

We all know how important it is for calves to receive enough colostrum as soon as possible after calving. The main reason is to give the calf immunity, which is of course vital. However, there are many benefits of giving plenty of colostrum. Antibodies and white blood cells for immunity are given to the calf via colostrum and colostrum also stimulates production of stomach acid which helps kill off any bacteria that are ingested early on in life. Colostrum is highly nutritious providing the calf with energy and helps keep the calf warm. It provides hormones and growth factors which improve weight gain, mammary development and the development of the digestive system and reproductive tract.



This graph shows blood results taken for colostrum uptake on some of our farms. Green is calves that had enough colostrum and red is calves that have a failure in passive transfer.



This graph shows the average growth rates measured up to weaning on some of our farms. The red line is the minimum target growth rate (0.7-0.8kg/day) in order for heifers to be big enough for service to calve down at 2yo. As you can see, results have been variable between farms.

SUMMERLEAZE-VETS.CO.UK

01297 304007

As part of the Summerleaze Youngstock Programme, we will work with you to focus on areas that could do with some improvement on farm – whether it is disease, colostrum management, nutrition etc. to optimise health and performance of those heifer calves in order for them to reach their full potential when they enter the milking herd.

We will run a meeting this month for the youngstock group to discuss:

***Results so far (anonymously!), epigenetics and capitalising on the heifer calf's potential and how do you get your heifers ready for service and calving.***

This meeting is for current members of the youngstock group, but if you are interested and not a member please contact us on 01297 304007.

### **Testimonials for Summerleaze Youngstock Programme:**

"It is helpful to back up what you already know. The blood tests do show up the calves you think might be low in colostrum, from the cows you haven't got enough from and it is always those that do scour. It's also good to keep you on the ball and to show you when you might be about to get a problem."

**Leigh Herrod, Beer Hall Farm**

"I find being part of the youngstock group beneficial for a couple of reasons. Firstly monitoring the total proteins in the young calves can both confirm when things have been done right, so you know what system of colostrum management is going to give the best results, and also can keep you in check if standards slip at all! The growth rate monitoring can be beneficial as well to making sure you are getting the best return on the calves in that early stage so to keep them on track for 24-month calving."

**Phil Bird, Woodend Farm**

### **Summerleaze Babies**

Congratulations Sam & Sarah  
on the birth of Lily May Bowker  
Born 12.12.19 - Weight 7lb 11oz



Congratulations Lucy & Ian  
on the birth of Joe Charlesworth  
Born 28.12.19 – Weight 6lb 10oz



### **It's Competition Time**

*Two of our lovely farm vets are expecting babies*



Can you guess the Sex and Weight of the babies?

Raising money for the following charities



For further information, please pop into Reception

Entries will be taken until the first baby is born