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### **How can Quicklick benefit my weaners?**

Weaning is probably one of the most stressful periods for cattle. Quicklick can help your weaners get over this stressful time and either maximize weight gain or minimize weight loss. Cattle that have been nutritionally stressed at a young age do not recover well from this period and are always behind those that have not been stressed.

Weaners and other cattle subjected to stress tend to eat less and the population of rumen microbes falls away. By ensuring the rumen microbes have all the nutrients they require the population can be re-established quickly and the beast's appetite is increased. While the cattle are eating less it becomes more difficult for them to take in all of the nutrients they require. The key to successful management of stressed cattle is to re-establish the population of rumen microbes and therefore increase appetite. A highly concentrated supplement such as Quicklick is essential at this time to provide protein, minerals and vitamins to the rumen micro flora and help them grow and multiply.

Weaners are very susceptible to disease particularly coccidiosis (black scours). The coccidia naturally live in the gut of cattle but during the stress of weaning the population expands rapidly causing scouring, dehydration and even death. Cattle that have been affected have a long convalescence during which they have low weight gains. The Bovatec in Quicklick controls this explosion in population and prevents the disease developing. This is in addition to the benefit from Bovatec in improved weight gain and feed conversion.

Vitamin E, the B group vitamins, zinc, copper, selenium and chromium have all been linked to improved immune function in cattle under stress. The cobalt in Quicklick is converted by the rumen bacteria into vitamin B12 while zinc, copper, selenium and vitamin E are all added to Quicklick in a chelated form so that they are readily available to the beast. By ensuring that your weaners have adequate levels of these minerals and vitamins you improve how they handle the stress of weaning and they can fight off any disease that they would normally be more susceptible to. Another method of supplying these minerals and vitamins is in a drench such as Cattle/Sheep Min or in Water Nutrient mix, although Water Nutrient mix does not contain the fat soluble vitamins A,D or E. Cattle/Sheep Min is a cheap option costing from 23 cents per head for a once off drench lasting for 4 weeks.

Another important part of feeding at weaning is that you teach your cattle to accept supplements. If they need to be fed later in life cattle fed at weaning go onto supplements much more readily.

Any other methods that you can use to reduce stress, such as a parasite control program and handling cattle quietly will also help your cattle during weaning.

Weaners need energy also which is supplied mainly from hay or grass. The energy in Quicklick combined with higher intakes provides more energy to the cattle than many other liquid feeds.

By providing a nutritious supplement such as Quicklick to your weaners you can assist them to recover from this stressful time which will result in a more productive and healthy animal.

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