



---

## **Take Home Messages from our Dairy Producer Meeting**

We had great topics and a great turn out for our return to our annual Dairy Producer Meeting! The feedback we received was very positive about the topics, length of presentations, venue and the food (and drinks!). Our industry partners were eager to take part and support our event as well. We would like to thank them again for their cooperation. We are looking forward to hosting again next year! If you have any suggestions or topics of interest for the future please reach out and let us know.

For those that were unable to attend the following is a review and take home messages from each presentation:

### **The ROI of Kexxtone boluses - Dr. Reg Clinton**

- They have been around for a while now and the data is still very strong, the return on investment for a kexxtone bolus is minimum 4:1
- Most studies that have examined this are several years old. The production level of today's dairy herd is much higher than even 5 years ago
- This translates into an even better ROI than the studies have found because high producing cows are those that benefit from Kexxtone the most
- The bottom-line: Kexxtone is worth the investment as herds increase production and efficiency; as an added bonus, they stay in the cow 99% better than before!

### **Not all Calcium Boluses are created Equal – Dr. Roger Thomson, Solvet**

- Supports an optimal serum calcium level for fresh cows
  - Rapidly available calcium sources including:
    - Calcium chloride + either Calcium sulfate or propionate
  - Rapid bolus dissolution
  - Supply a sufficient volume of calcium
- Bolus safety
  - Contains a double layer of protection because readily available calcium sources are caustic to the esophagus (throat)
- Convenience
  - 2 Bolus administration
- Beware of the addition of other ingredients – they may take up space in place of calcium in the bolus
- Consider a whole herd approach with the support of your veterinarian

**\*\*\*WE ARE MOVING OUR CALCIUM BOLSUES FROM TRANSITION TO CAL-BOOST\*\*\***

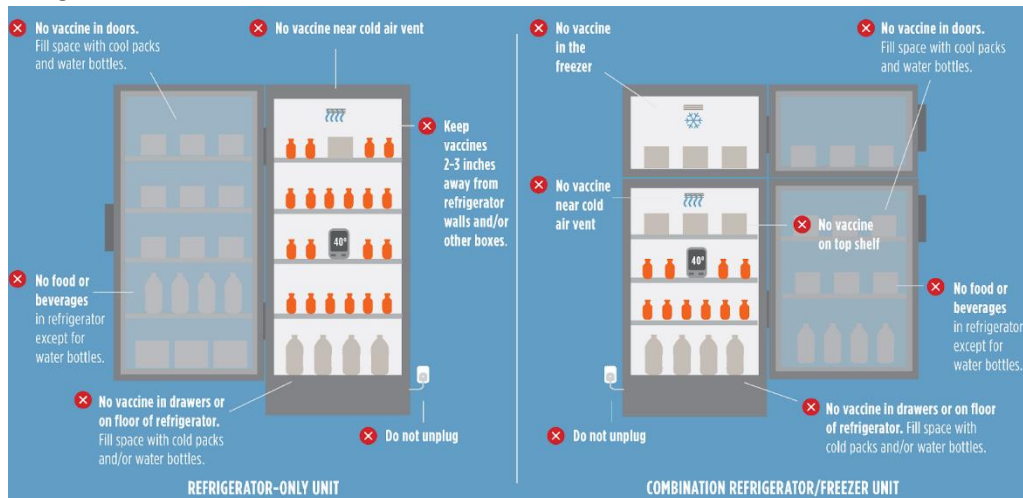
- They both have the preferred calcium sources however Cal-Boost is made in Canada and available at the same price as Transition.

**Cal-Boost – When to administer:**

1. Prevent clinical milk fever at calving
  - 2 bolus initial treatment
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> bolus 12-24 hours as required
2. Following IV treatment for a cow that went down
  - 1 bolus after she gets up followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 hours later
3. Prevent subclinical hypocalcemia at calving
  - Lame cows
  - High producing dairy cows
4. An option for chronic subclinical hypocalcemia
  - Following monitoring and a strategy discussion with the producer, nutritionist and others

**Vaccine Handling – Dr. Elad Ben-Ezra, Zoetis**

- Vaccines must be kept cool at all times, including during needling if it will be an extended period (hours) and used within 30 minutes if reconstituted
- Do not shake to reconstitute vaccines, gently roll the bottle a circular motion
- The best place to keep vaccines is in the middle shelf of the fridge
  - NOT in the drawer, door or under the freezer section
- Do not use a frost free fridge as the thaw cycle can jeopardize the vaccine
- Ensure IM vaccines are given with an 18g 1.5 inch needle to get deep into muscle and minimize damage and make sure the needle is clean



### Optimizing Synch Programs – Dr. Cynthia Miltenburg, OMAFRA

- Poor compliance is the main reason for poor synch program results
- The probability of executing 1 shot/handling of a synch program is at best 0.95
  - Ovsynch has 3 shots plus 1 breeding:  $0.95 \times 0.95 \times 0.95 \times 0.95 = 81.4\%$
  - So for 1 cow if we do our best the chance of doing everything correctly is 81.4%!
  - This decreases as the Synch program has more shots and more cows, Double Ovsynch is 70%!
- How to increase compliance:
  - Scheduling using a software program that generates the list for you
  - Calendars, regimented routines - start on the same day of the week every time (eg) shots given every Monday and Wednesday
  - Have one person in charge of each step
  - Think: Right Product – Right dosage – Right Cow – Right Time

### Calving Tips – All the KVC Cow Vets

- Stay tuned- this will be covered in a following newsletter but was a great audience hit!

