

Shane & Michelle Lawson
KeriKeri.

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We first tried Rumenx towards the end of Autumn calving 08/09. Denise from Agri-feeds and Ian Jenkins ex Wrightsons came around to see if we would give it a go. We were very sceptical about it. Going from feeding our calves 8l a day for up to 3 months, to feeding 2l twice a day for 2 weeks and then 2l once a day for 2 weeks, was a very scary thing for us. But we decided to give it a go. We only did 5 of our autumn calves on Rumenx, but as they went through and mingled with the earlier calves it became obvious that the Rumenx had done what they said it would. They had massive little barrells on them, compared with our milk fed calves, which were taller in stature but had nothing on these ones as rumen development went.

We then did all our 50 replacement spring calves on it for 09/10 with the same great results. Which for us was a great result as we had a very tough spring having roto-virus for the first time. But the calves came through fantastically. We went to look at some friesian steers that we reared on the Rumenx as well and they look absolutely amazing with barrells that make them look pregnant. Another thing that we found fascinating was when they hit the pasture they actually put their heads down and ate rather than going crazy running round the paddocks going through fences etc.

We recently sold some of our calves and the Livestock Rep was very impressed with the Rumen development of them, he did comment that the stature wasn't as big but that they would take off shortly with the good feed they were about to go to, due to the rumen development they had.

Needless to say we will be doing our autumn and spring calves on Rumenx these coming seasons.