

RUMENX TESTIMONIAL

April 2010

Stephen and Trudie Wheeler
Kaitiete Farm
Ruapehu District



Stephen and Trudie Wheeler, farm with Stephen's parents Neville and Elaine on their Kaitiete farm in the Ruapehu district. Stephen went into calf rearing two years ago because of the drought and needed to make up extra income. They reared up to 120 calves in that first year, which was a learning year. The next year they reared 335 with good results using Rumenx. Stephen saw a Rumenx ad in a farming magazine. The different system really interested him because of the ease of use and less labour input. They trialled it last year (2009) and were encouraged by the results with the costs working out good for the 335 brought in calves.

On average the cost to rear a calf (total)	\$240.00
Including cost of calves approx.	\$60.00
Approx .6 bag of milk powder plus meal and Rumenx per calf	\$140.00
Labour help calf pickup etc	\$40.00

Due to the nature of the farm, (7500 sheep and beef stock units) to look after, the system had to be easy and low labour input. There was less scouring from feeding less milk. Within 7 days the calves were eating the Rumenx up to the quantity on the chart. They transferred this consumption to the meal as they were weaned off milk at 4 weeks. The calves showed good rumen development and no checks when they went onto the grass. Approx weaning weight was 60-70kg but the criteria was the amount of meal being eaten.

Stephen will use Rumenx again this year; he has a lot of people watching his system interested in the results. Stephen is happy with the calves he reared on Rumenx last season.

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