



Controlled Trial: The Impact of Fresh Cow YMCP® on milk production during warmer months.

During the summer of 2000, the TechMix company conducted a trial to measure the effect of FRESH COW YMCP on milk production. Several previous trials had demonstrated the positive effects of FRESH COW YMCP on milk production, but most of these trials were run during cool weather. It was decided to run this trial in Texas in the summer under the direction of Dr. Bob Waldron of the Animal Health Center of Stephenville, Texas.

Introduction:

38 cows that freshened in a short period of time were selected for the trial. Every other cow that freshened was given one pound of YMCP as soon as possible after freshening. The other cows served as controls and were not treated.

Milk production was determined monthly by DHIA testing. All cows on the trial were fresh at least 10 days before the first DHIA test. The test ran for four months, with milk production recorded with each DHIA test. No other data was recorded on this particular trial.

Results:

	Control Cows	Fresh Cow YMCP Cows	Difference in Milk Production
Test 1	69.00 lbs	71.11 lbs	+2.11 lbs
Test 2	69.95 lbs	81.47 lbs	+11.82 lbs
Test 3	67.37 lbs	75.21 lbs	+7.84 lbs
Test 4	71.74 lbs	81.95 lbs	+10.21 lbs*

*(P < .003)

Average production for the four groups = +7.99 lbs.

Discussion:

The Tech Mix proprietary blend of yeast, magnesium, calcium, potassium, betaine and vitamins clearly improved milk production in this hot weather trial.

During hot weather, cows are particularly sensitive to the potassium depletion common at freshening time. Potassium must be supplemented at this time for maximum water intake as well as smooth muscle contraction.

Cows commonly have lowered intakes during hot weather. Multiple trials have demonstrated the advantages of yeast products during times of lowered intakes.

Oral calcium products have repeatedly demonstrated advantages in fresh cows. Borderline hypocalcemic cows show lower feed intakes as well as more fresh cow problems such as ketosis and retained placentas. One dose of FRESH COW YMCP contains approximately 54 grams of elemental calcium in three forms.

Conclusion:

This data clearly shows the advantage to using FRESH COW YMCP at freshening time. Much of the advantage comes further along in lactation; in fact it is sometimes difficult to demonstrate significant production increases immediately post-calving. The increases become very clear as the lactation progresses.

Using standard rules of thumb, each one pound increase in peak milk should equal approximately 200 pounds of milk for the lactation. This particular hot weather trial shows an eight pound increase during month three and a 10 pound increase during month four. Using this same accepted rule of thumb, an increase in peak milk of this size should result in a herd production increase of approximately 1600-2000 pounds per lactation.

As this trial clearly shows, it will benefit dairymen to give FRESH COW YMCP to every fresh cow. Increased milk production due to improved fresh cow intakes will actually be more significant in middle lactation than it is in the first month.