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## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

Welcome to  
2025!

### ➤➤➤ Wishing everyone a healthy 2025!

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! A year of new beginnings and joy to everyone. This year we have to much to look forward to within and outside of VDS!

**We are here to help!** <<<

How happy is  
your herds  
Rumen?



Keeping our herds Rumen healthy is on our top priority! The rumen is basically a chamber where the microbial population helps digest the diet. Maximizing fermentation, she is able to obtain more VFA for energy and microbial protein. Stabilizing rum pH can help avoid low fiber digestion and metabolic issues. Think you have an unhappy Rumen? Lets talk **Rumen Care!**

### Upcoming Events:

**Lethbridge Ag Expo:**

Feb 26-Mar 1

**Dairy Seminar:**

Mar 4-Mar 7

# 5 Secrets to keeping teats healthy

<https://www.agproud.com/articles/22385-5-secrets-to-keeping-teats-healthy-in-winter>

With cold and dry conditions it makes for easier attacks on ruminant teats. From chapping, damage, frozen or even hyperkeratosis can occur if not taken care of.

## PRE CONDITIONING

To help fight of intramammary infections, teat-skin conditioning before temperatures drop can help minimize loss of profitability from elevated levels of stomatic cells. Increasing levels of emollients in post-dips before winter can help with pre-conditioning.

## WINTER TEAT-DIP PLAN

No matter the time of year, post-dipping is still very important to mastitis control. When temperatures drop below freezing, using a dip with high levels of emollients help with the flexibility of the teat-skin. Conventional water-based dips DO FREEZE!

## MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT

Even though we should do this year round, its even more important in the winter. Make sure all automated equipment is serviced and are working well!

## PRECISE MILKING PROCEDURES

Making sure that both human and automated milkers should be cleaning teats without causing discomfort to the cow's teat and udder area. This is essential to keep the teat healthy and prevent hyperkeratosis related mastitis infections.

## HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

Keeping the bedding dry to prevent ill teat skin effects and freezing opportunities. Fresh animals are more prone to teat damage with less circulation and swelling in the udders. Keeping cold winds off of cows prevent damage to the udder and teat-skin.

# Wondering what products we carry?

We carry a wide variety of products along with custom products to help you reach your goals on your operation!

## SODIUM BICARB

Sodium Bicarb helps to regulate the level of pH in the rumen and prevents Rumen Acidosis.

## X-ZELIT

Easy management of the transition period. It is a unique calcium binder that naturally stimulates the cow to mobilize her own calcium reserves for effective calcium balance around calving.

## SELECT GH

Supports gut integrity, health and stability, Promotes good bacteria and builds defences, and can help maintain a healthy gut

## BIOMOS

Derived from a selected strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast using a proprietary process

## 26% MAPLEVIEW MILK REPLACER

Sure Start is a premium milk replacer with milk-based proteins, high-quality encapsulated fats, and organic trace minerals, ideal for computerized calf feeding programs and coccidiosis control.

## ACIDIFIED COPPER SULFATE

Helping to control and prevent foot rot, interdigital dermatitis and much more

## 18% CALF STARTER (MASH)

Giving your calves the best possible start. Using a mash allows the calf to have the feed readily available for digestion

## RUMEN CARE

Made from a proprietary blend, Rumen Care is able to help protect the rumen during environmental stress, feeding changes and much more