

Feeding for Resilience : why calf milk replacer composition matters to calf health

With

Dr Aaron Brown

Synopsis of Presentation

Over the last few years, our understanding of how calf digestion is impacted by nutrient choice has increased. The presentation will begin by laying out the key nutrient composition and ingredients used in milk replacer formulation. But nutrient composition is more than a matter of protein or energy intake, so we will discuss the impact that choice of macronutrients has on calf health and metabolism, as well as latest research developments in areas of fat composition. An awareness of how these choices influence calf health on client farms is key for vet practitioners; so, we conclude by discussing key targets for milk composition and how we can evaluate relative to those targets, as well as practical feeding considerations.



Dr Aaron Brown - Young Animal Feeds Technical Sales Manager, Trouw Nutrition Ireland

Based in north Fermanagh, Aaron joined Trouw Nutrition in 2022 to support Trouw's growing Young Animal Feed business. A large part of his role is providing technical support on youngstock nutrition, housing and management, milk replacer formulation to customers and farmers across Ireland, with an objective to help producers unlock early life potential in their calves. He now leads their Young Animal Feed Business in Ireland.

Prior to his time at Trouw he completed a BSc in Agriculture Technology in Queens University Belfast (QUB) and then a PhD in calf housing and nutritional management at QUB and AFBI. This was part of the DAERA-funded Optihouse Project which sought to learn more about pre-weaning calf management in NI dairy farms, and assess how the environment, nutrition and calf management interact to influence calf health and performance in these systems.