

# Funding secure for project

Funding has been secured for at least two more years of research into calf rearing and finishing by the Poukawa Dairy Beef Project team.

The project's co-ordinator Alastair Ormond says the continued support of Meat New Zealand and Agmardt, and more recently, support from Richmond and the Ministry of Agriculture's Sustainable Farming Fund, has been crucial to its success.

In spite of the impending closure of AgResearch's Poukawa Research Station, the project's research manager Paul Muir will remain in Hawke's Bay.

"The future of the calf project is slightly up in the air, but we still have two years funding in place," Ormond says.

"This work can really be done anywhere and there have already been trials set up on different farms. However, there is a chance that the work will continue at Poukawa."

Ormond says the annual series of Poukawa Dairy Beef Project roadshows heads to the South Island early this month.

Support around the North Island has been strong from both regular and new calf rearers, he says.



**calf** pen water troughs and meal troughs

several sizes and styles

[www.kbl.co.nz](http://www.kbl.co.nz)

available only from farm supply stores.

## Calf weight is best guide to performance

Calf weight at purchase is still the best indicator of subsequent carcass performance, says Poukawa Dairy Beef Project research manager Paul Muir.

A two-year trial has confirmed that selecting a calf on the breeding value (BV) for liveweight of its dam is not a useful predictor for liveweight before slaughter.

"Two years ago, we talked about using breeding values for liveweight as a means for selecting calves. We tested it and found there was a huge range between animals," he says.

"The analysis of the trial data showed the influence of breeding value for liveweight on the liveweight of the offspring at slaughter was not significant."

However, farm of origin and calf arrival weight were significantly related to pre-slaughter liveweight.

For the BV trial, mobs of Friesian,

Jersey and Friesian-Jersey cross bull calves were sourced in spring 1999 with a wide range of BVs for liveweight.

They were reared together and then randomly selected into three mobs to be farmed on one Waikato and two Hawke's Bay properties.

Muir says that all three breeds were run together on each farm and all were slaughtered at the same time.

The hybrid vigour of the Jersey-Friesian cross bulls meant their carcass weight was closer to the straight Friesian bulls (see table).

"We found that within a breed, BV for liveweight had no relationship with subsequent liveweight or carcass weight. Whilst BV for liveweight may be useful for the females in the dairy industry, it does not appear to offer any useful predictors of the performance of male animals for bull beef production," Muir says.

how the different groups performed

Breed	Number bulls	Start wgt	Pre slaughter wgt (kg)	Ave carcass wgt (kg)
F	203	44	563	294
JxF	31	38	511	267
J	25	31	438	224

## For the absolute kick start - TOPCALF CEREAL for early weaners.

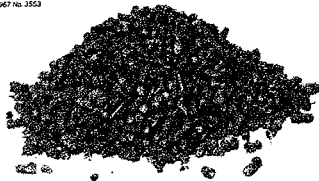


There's an exciting new improvement in your favourite calf cereal.

Our TOPCALF Cereal calf starter is now includes "micronised maize" for increased palatability and nutrient availability - ideal for young calves.

- High energy calf feed
- High fibre lucerne chaff to stimulate early rumen development, "The Scratch Factor"
- Rumensin\* for coccidiosis control and growth enhancement, ensures maximum growth potentials are reached

\*Licensed under the ABH Act 1967 No. 3553



Better Feeds, Better Performance, Better Returns

TOLL FREE 0800 850 505  
[www.harveyfarms.co.nz](http://www.harveyfarms.co.nz)

## TWO SHOOF MILK WARMERS

Calves do better on warm milk.

No doubt about it. Warm milk produces bigger calves using less milk and having less disease. Shoof's 240v Milk Warmers are made for the job, whether warming 50 or 500 litres. For big trailers use an automatic power point switch to start operation in the night. Thermostat control maintains correct temperature until feed time. New easy-clean Teflon coated model available.

call free 0800 800 801 to find the store nearest you

**Shoof International**  
THE ANIMAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Standard \$555 Teflon \$599  
Prices include GST and delivery