

# Advance update

April 2017

A sister company to Kite, Advance focuses on supplying specifically formulated competitive products, with proven research, to deliver greater performance and profitability.

## Focus on dry cow management



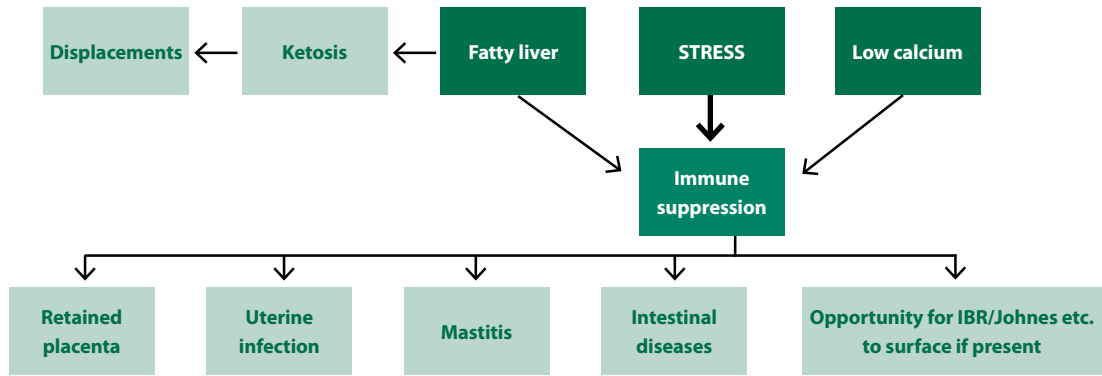
The transition period is such a crucial time in the dairy cow production cycle that getting it wrong just isn't an option! In all farm systems, the target is the same; to meet the cow's changing physiological needs and subsequent energy requirements, with appropriate nutrition, management, and of course, minimal stress.

The table (right) sets out the costs associated with problems that can occur at calving time:

	Av. no. cases %	Av. cost per case £	Days added onto calving interval
Milk fever	5 – 6	114	15
Subclinical milk fever	25 – 55	78	
Retained placenta	5 – 6	84	29
Uterine infections (previously – Metritis)	10 – 12	70	32
Displaced abomasum	1 – 3	190	
Ketosis	3 – 4	126	
Fatty liver	30 – 50	65	
Downer cows	1 – 2	280	

Source: Kite Health & Culling Monitor. Treatment costs only and does not include cow deaths.

To try and prevent the problems above there are three key areas to focus on: 'fatty liver', 'calcium (milk fever)' and 'stress'. The diagram below shows how these translate into potential issues:



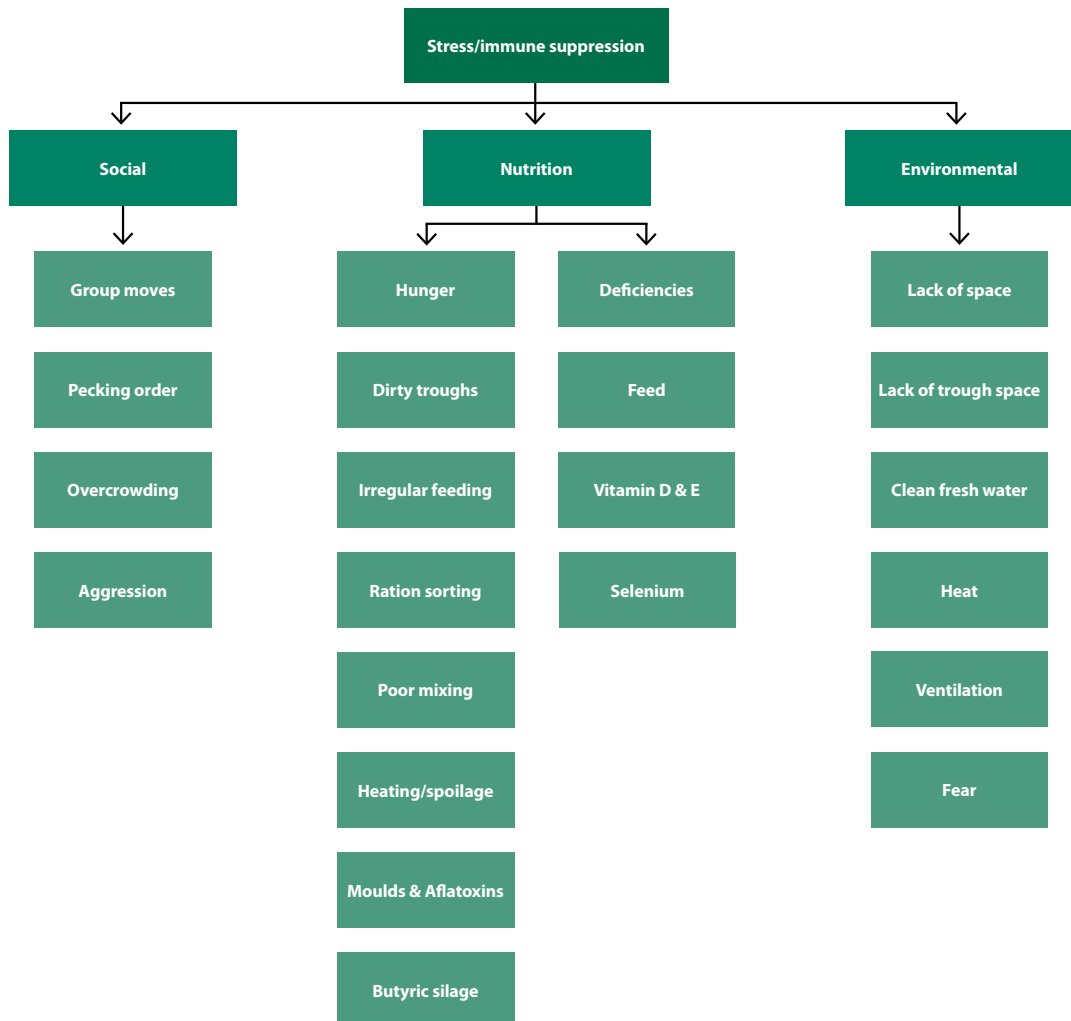
To prevent milk fever, there are four options:

1. Feed very low calcium diet - less than 30g/head/day
2. Feed zeolites - calcium binders
3. Feed a low potassium diet with 50 – 60 grams magnesium
4. Feed a DCAB diet

To minimise fatty liver or ketosis:

1. Dry cows body condition score: 2.7 – 3.0
2. Do not allow dry cows to gain or lose weight
3. Restrict silage and fill cows on low potassium, low energy feeds
4. Feed protected choline

## What causes stress?



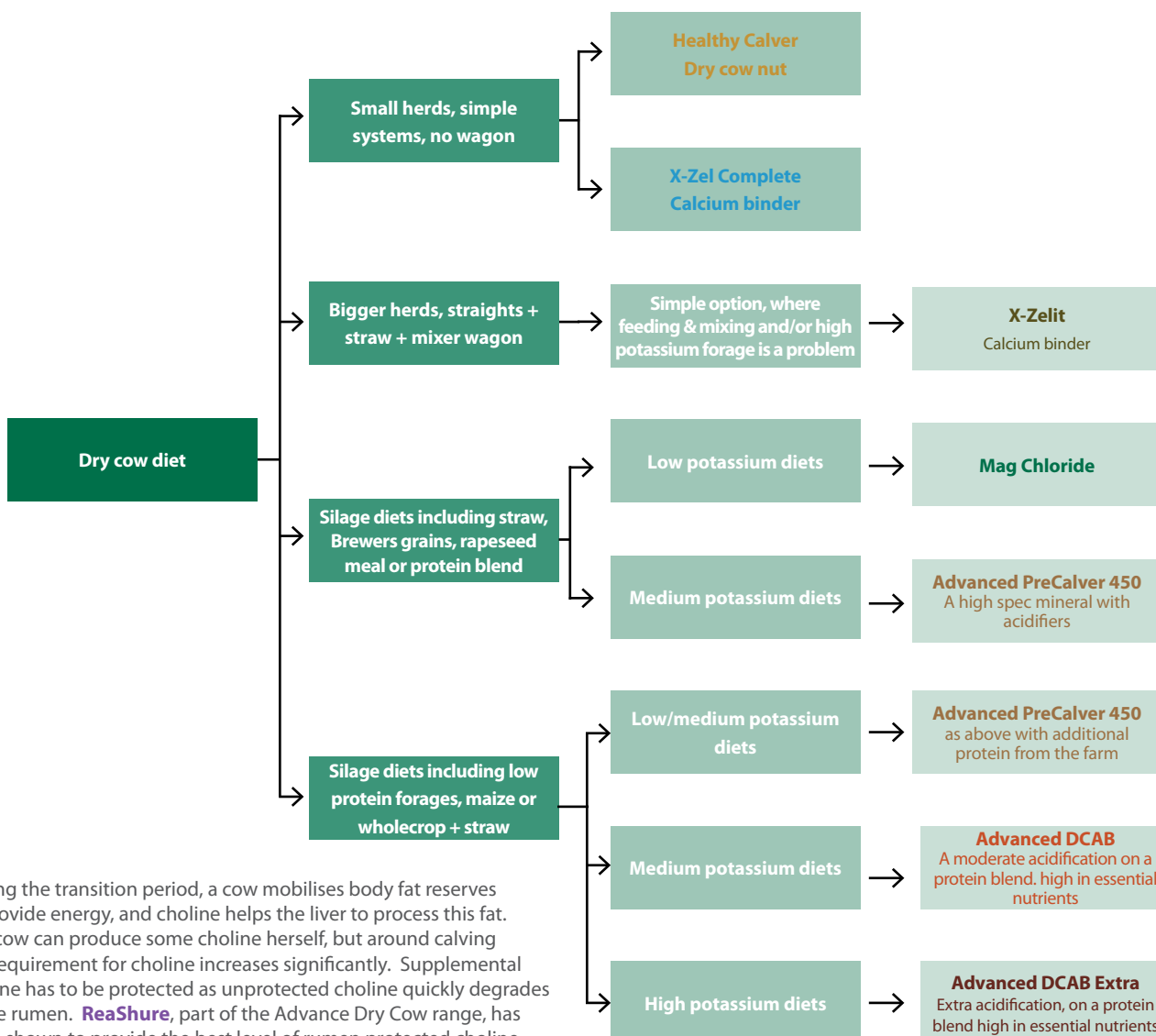


A good dry cow nutrition programme will manage body condition and health in the far off dry period and focus on rumen development, liver function and calcium management in the close-up period (three weeks before

calving). The correct nutrition at this stage will set the cow up to manage the energy imbalances during the calving and fresh period and facilitate adequate dry matter intakes post-calving.

As we've seen above, it's far more cost effective to avoid these problems in the first place, by putting in place the right protocols and feed. Advance offers a comprehensive range of products to enhance any dry cow nutrition programme.

## Which products would work for me?



During the transition period, a cow mobilises body fat reserves to provide energy, and choline helps the liver to process this fat. The cow can produce some choline herself, but around calving her requirement for choline increases significantly. Supplemental choline has to be protected as unprotected choline quickly degrades in the rumen. **ReaShure**, part of the Advance Dry Cow range, has been shown to provide the best level of rumen protected choline, which is then 100% available in the small intestine. It can be used in conjunction with a number of the products listed here, helping cows to transition more smoothly and creating a faster and more productive start to their lactation.

### Advanced DCAB Extra (original)

**Product details:** Complete feed (meal).  
Supplies protein, mineral and vitamin requirements with the correct balance of anionic salts. **High** level of DCAB.  
**When to use:** 21 day transition.  
Mixed maize, wholecrop and grass silage systems.  
High potassium diets

*"Last autumn we were getting more cases of milk fever than we should, so we tweaked the dry cow TMR ration and added in Advanced DCAB Extra. I'm pleased to say we have seen a marked improvement in transition - cows are cleansing better, and most importantly we are having very few cases of milk fever."*

Ed Furness, 180 cows, Derbyshire.

### Advanced DCAB

**Product details:** Complete feed (meal).  
Supplies protein, mineral and vitamin requirements with the correct balance of anionic salts. **Medium** level of DCAB.  
**When to use:** 21 day transition.  
Mixed maize, wholecrop and grass silage systems.  
Medium potassium diets

*"We've been using Advanced DCAB in our dry cow ration for around ten years now. We started using it to try and reduce milk fevers and it's brilliant. Last year we calved 520 cows and heifers and I can count the number of milk fevers we had on one hand."*

Phil Howard, FS Dann & Son, Norfolk

### Advanced PreCalver 450

**Product details:** Mineral supplement blend.  
Supplies mineral, vitamin requirements and a balance of anionic salts. Mild DCAB status.  
**When to use:** 21 day transition.  
Mixed into a TMR.

*"We've used the PreCalver 450 in our TMR for a good few years and it certainly makes a difference. We know this because we stopped using it for a while recently and our number of retained cleansings increased - we've now started the cows back on it and the problem has gone away!"*

Stephen Simpson, 200 cows, Harrogate

### Advanced Healthy Calver

**Product details:** 14mm nut.  
Supplies protein, mineral and vitamin requirements with a balance of anionic salts. Mild DCAB status.  
**When to use:** 21 day transition.  
Feed from the bag either indoors or out at grass. Small dry cow groups.

*"We have fed the Advanced HealthyCalver nut to our transition group (three weeks up to calving) on top of the dry cow mix of straw and silage since 2010. When we began, our number of DAs dropped from 10-15% to virtually none immediately, and milk fever and retained placentas also reduced. Seven years later, it's working just as well, and we are continuing to reach peak yield about a week earlier than before."*

Grant Hartman, 500-cow herd, Trebersed Farms Ltd

### X-Zelit

**Product details:** Granular form calcium binder.  
**When to use:** 14 day transition.  
Mix into TMR or top dress.  
Simple system  
High Potassium Forages

*"We previously worked on various DCAB systems, with varying degrees of success. We had reasonable results using Calcium Sulphate (Gypsum), but very consistent results using X-Zelit. Cows calve consistently well, giving us great confidence in the system. Fresh cows cleanse well, with little problem, and freshen well with current yields of 38 litres across the 400 head all year around calving herd. It is a cost-effective system because it works consistently well."*

John Downing, 400 cows, Kent.

### X-Zel Complete

**Product details:** 6mm nut.  
Supplies protein, mineral and vitamin requirements.  
Contains X-Zelit binder.  
**When to use:** 14 day transition.  
Mix into TMR or top dress.

*"We were previously feeding standard dry cow rolls and using supplied calcium to try and prevent milk fever. Two years ago we decided to take a more robust approach to transition nutrition and started using X-Zel Complete. Cows are calving without milk fever and we will continue to use it for the foreseeable future."*

Michael Sargent, 130 Jersey cows, Kent

### ReaShure

**Product details:** An encapsulated choline supplement designed to help the liver process and metabolise fat, especially during the critical transition period.  
**When to use:** 21 days pre-calving through to 21 days post calving. Mix into TMR or top dress.

*"We started using ReaShure in 2015 to address some of the transition issues we were having with over-conditioned cows. This year we tried the Advanced PreCalver 500 combined product\*, which simplified feeding and produced some excellent results. In the last block we calved 300 cows in three weeks, with just a couple of cases of milk fever in total."*

Chris Spiby, 600 cows, West Sussex

*\*As well as being used alone, we have created **Advanced PreCalver 500**, which combines ReaShure with our Advanced PreCalver 450 mineral supplement.*



For enquiries regarding the information in this newsletter please contact:

Advance Sourcing | The Granary | Meare Green Farm | North Curry | Taunton | Somerset | TA3 6HT  
Tel: 01823 491238 | Fax: 01823 491240 | enquiries@advancesourcing.co.uk | www.advancesourcing.co.uk

© Advance Sourcing 2017. All rights reserved. Advance Sourcing endeavour to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate and will not in any event be liable for loss, damage or injury however suffered directly or indirectly in relation to the information held within this document.