

USING GENETICS TO CREATE BETTER COLOSTRUM



IMMUNITY+



ELEVATE

Semex's partnership with University of Guelph plays a key role in identifying dairy cattle genetics that can produce naturally healthier animals.

It's a collaboration that continues to help optimize milk production by reducing the time and money producers spend on treating sick animals with antibiotics or other therapeutics.

Dr. Bonnie Mallard and her University of Guelph research team developed the High Immune Response (HIR) technology that powers Semex's Immunity+® and Elevate® dairy management tools.

The Elevate genomic test provides standard genomic results plus exclusive female immune response results that will identify an animal as a low, average or high immune responder. Females with high immune response have inherently superior immunity reducing disease occurrence, delivering better response to

commercial vaccines and producing higher quality colostrum. When bred to Immunity+ sires, producers naturally improve their herd's health. **Continued on page 2...**



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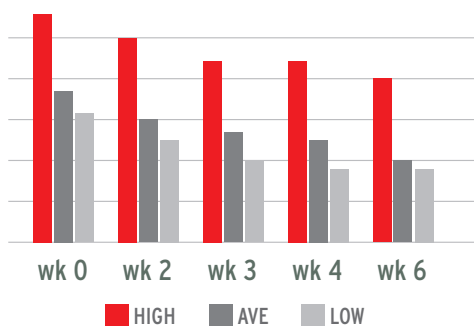
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COWS IDENTIFIED AS HIGH IMMUNE RESPONDERS HAVE HIGHER QUALITY COLOSTRUM

Mallard's team, including immunogenetics project leader Dr. Lauri Wagter-Lesperance, also continues to research the benefits of having calves consume the colostrum of high responding females. Their findings indicate that HIR cows also have higher quality colostrum with more antibodies compared to average and low responding cows for the first six weeks after calving.

HIGHER QUALITY COLOSTRUM

Through first 6 weeks of lactation



Immunity+ Daughters Have Higher Quality Colostrum

High immune cows have significantly more total immunoglobulin and betalactoglobulin in colostrum

Wagter-Lesperance says the best time to give colostrum is immediately after birth in order to absorb antibodies and cells into a calf's bloodstream. She adds that the next best window for colostrum feeding is within the first six hours after birth. After 24 hours, gut closure occurs and the window of protection is no longer available to the calf.

While experts recommend four litres of colostrum per feeding, not all newborn calves can consume this much in a single feeding. That's why the colostrum of HIR cows is so important – it provides the calf with a higher concentration of antibodies per unit of volume consumed, explains Wagter-Lesperance.

GETTING CALVES OFF TO THE BEST POSSIBLE START

"Our research shows that calves getting the colostrum from high responding dams have more antibodies in their blood," says Wagter-Lesperance. "The correlation is very significant."

So what does all this mean for dairy producers? Wagter-Lesperance and the Guelph team believe the research indicates:

- Calves from HIR dams benefit from the best possible start as their dams offer a higher concentration of antibodies, cells and other factors in their colostrum.
- Colostrum from HIR dams can be given fresh (rich in antibodies, cells and other factors), or frozen (rich in antibodies, cells and other factors) to calves from low and average immune response dams giving all calves the best possible start.
- If a herd has been exposed to a particular pathogen, HIR dams provide colostrum that is rich in antibodies and immune cells providing protection against organisms causing disease in their environment.

"It really is exciting," says Wagter-Lesperance. "Results of colostrum from HIR cows fed to calves provides them with the protection they need until their own immune system matures."

2020 COUNTY ZONE MEETINGS

PRINCE EDWARD - ZONE 5**

In conjunction with Holstein club meeting
January 15, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Location: Bethany Christian Reformed Church,
158 Main St, Bloomfield ** Delegate elections

OXFORD, BRANT, NORFOLK - ZONE 10

In conjunction with Holstein club meeting
January 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Farm location: Roger Wikkerink,
813275 Baseline Rd, Norwich

MIDDLESEX, ELGIN, ESSEX-KENT, LAMBTON - ZONE 12

January 21, 2020, 11:00 a.m.
Farm location: Walker Dairy Inc., 50828 Talbot
Line, Alymer

PERTH - ZONE 11 **, HURON - ZONE 12

January 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Farm location: Legacy Holsteins,
7530 Rd 158, Atwood
Lunch location: Listowel Ag. Hall, 5699 Line 86,
Listowel ** Delegate elections

WATERLOO & WELLINGTON - ZONE 9

January 24, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Farm location: Glenirvine Farms,
6819 Hwy 6 N, Fergus

FRONTENAC - ZONE 4

LENNOX & ADDINGTON - ZONE 5 **

January 29, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Location: Denny's Restaurant,
33 Benson St., Kingston ** Delegate elections

GLENGARRY, PRESCOTT, RUSSELL - ZONE 2 ** CARLETON, DUNDAS, STORMONT - ZONE 3

**Guest Speakers: Dave Harvatine, Aurora Ridge
Dairy, New York & Brad Sayles, Semex**
January 30, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Location: North Stormont Place, 16299 Fairview
Dr, Avonmore ** Delegate elections

YORK, HALTON, PEEL - ZONE 6 SIMCOE - ZONE 7

January 31, 2020, 11:00 a.m.
Farm location: John, Bonnie &
Emily den Haan, 4316 5th Line, Loretto

DUFFERIN, GREY & BRUCE - ZONE 8**

February 4, 2020, 11:00 a.m.
Farm location: Elvern & Marilyn Bauman
311622 HWY 6 North, Mount Forest
** Delegate elections

ASSEMBLÉE EN FRANÇAIS

February 5, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Farm location: Jacques & Noelle
Pasquier, 1647 St Marie Rd, Embrun

NORTHUMBERLAND, HASTINGS - ZONE 5, PETERBOROUGH, DURHAM, CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES - ZONE 6**

February 6, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Brad Sayles, Semex
Farm location: Ronbeth Holsteins, 5142 CR 2, Hastings
Lunch and meeting location: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Church Hall, 35 Albert St., Hastings
** Delegate elections

PEI - HUNTER RIVER - ZONE 1

February 19, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker - Dr. Steven Larmer, Semex
Location: Hunter River Community Centre, 19818 Route
#2, Hunter River, PEI

NEW BRUNSWICK - SUSSEX - ZONE 1

February 20, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker - Dr. Steven Larmer, Semex
Location: All Seasons Inn & Restaurant, 1015 Main St,
Sussex, NB

NORTHERN ONTARIO - NEW LISKEARD ZONE 7

In conjunction with Holstein club meeting
February 25, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Location: Gilli's Restaurant., 997490 Highway 11 N,
New Liskeard

*For the most current information on the 2020 zone meeting dates
please visit www.eastgen and click on **events**.*

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