

Fetal Programming studies in Florida

Ona Webinar
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BCS at calving vs. Pregnancy Rate, %



Photo Source: Dr. Matt Henson and John Arthington

Body condition score at calving			
4	5	6	
Spitzer et al. (1995)	56 ^a	80 ^b	96 ^c
Lake et al. (2005)	64 ^a	-	89 ^b
Lents et al (2008)	56 ^a	88 ^b	-
Bohnert et al (2013)	79 ^a	92 ^b	-
Average	63.8	86.7	92.5

^{a,b,c}P < 0.05

BCS at calving vs. days to show estrus

BCS at calving	Days to resume estrus
3	89 ^a
4	70 ^b
5	59 ^b
6	52 ^b
7	31 ^c

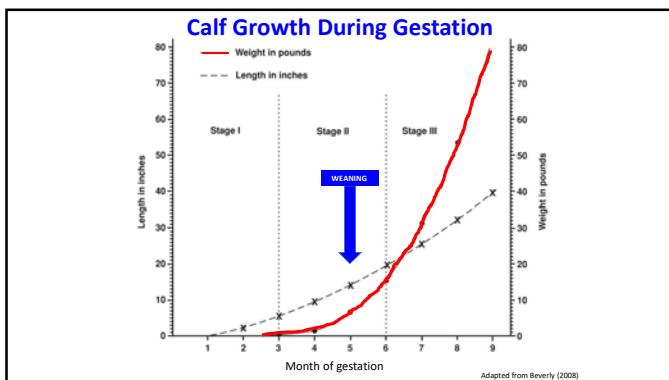
^{a,b,c}P < 0.05

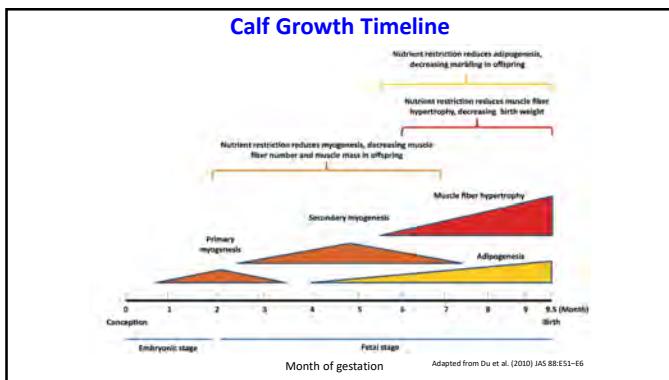
Houghton et al. (1990) JAS 68:1438

Fetal Programming?

"Maternal stimuli or insult at a critical period in fetal development has long term impacts on the offspring"

(David Barker – Southampton University)



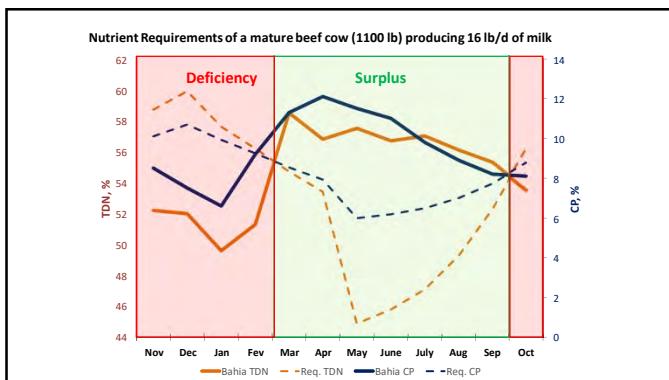
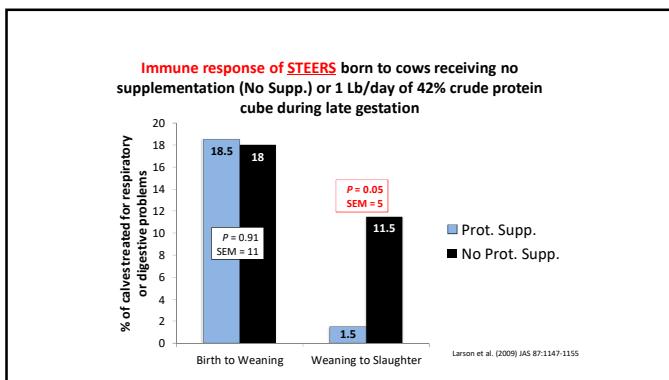


Growth performance of STEERS born to cows receiving no supplementation (No Supp.) or 1 Lb/day of 42% crude protein cube during late gestation

	Stalker et al. (2007)		Stalker et al. (2006)		Larson et al. (2009)	
	No Supp.	Supp.	No Supp.	Supp.	No Supp.	Supp.
Weaning weight, Lb	441*	463*	465*	480*	518*	531*
Carcass weight, Lb	764*	804*	800	813	802*	819*
Choice, %	-	-	85	96	71*	86*
Marbling	449	461	467	479	444*	493*

*P < 0.05

Stalker et al. (2006) JAS 84:2582-2589
Stalker et al. (2007) Rangel. Ecol. Manage. 60:578-587
Larson et al. (2009) JAS 87:1147-1155

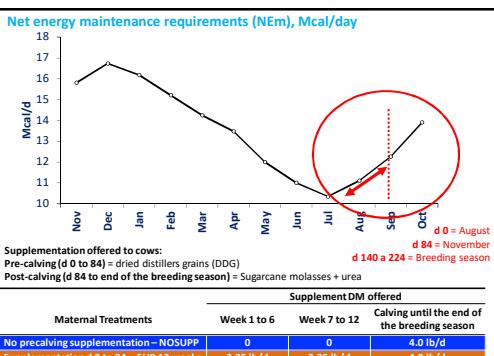
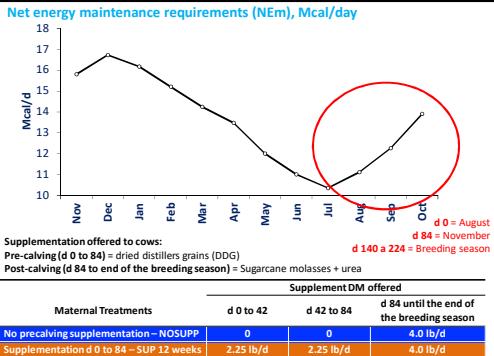


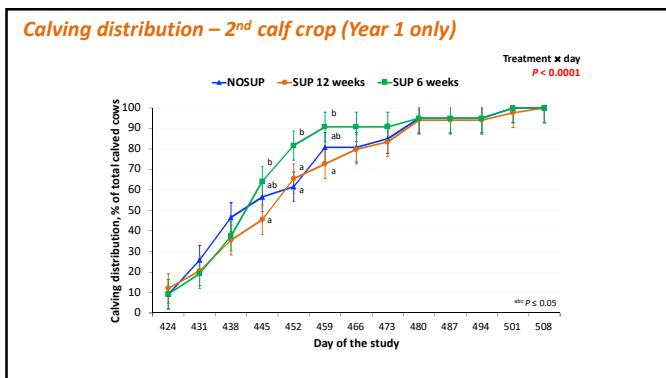
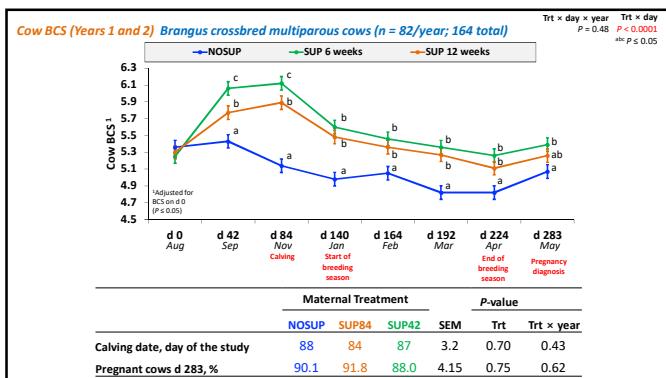
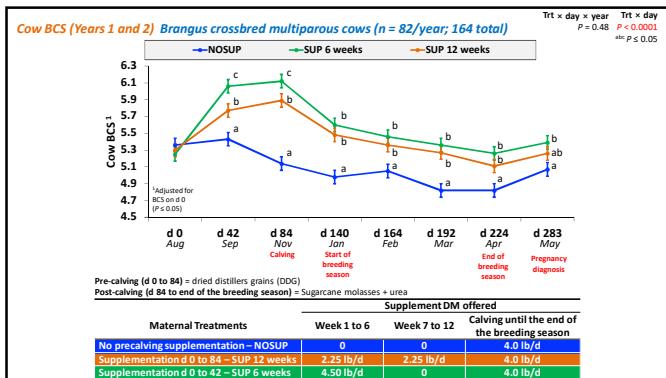
**Range Cattle REC - Fetal Programming Studies
2017 / 2018 / 2019**

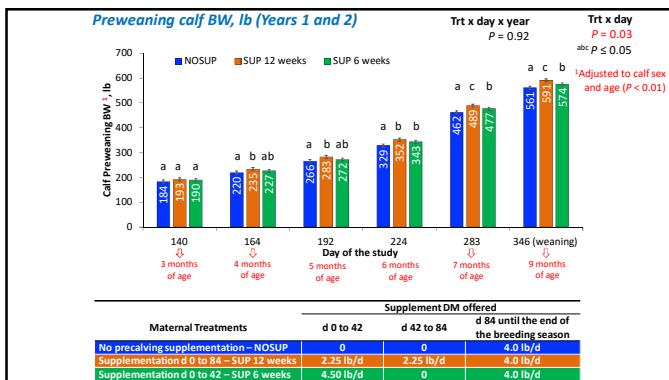
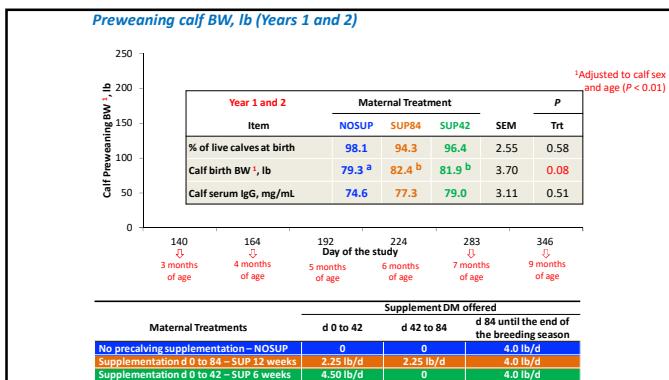
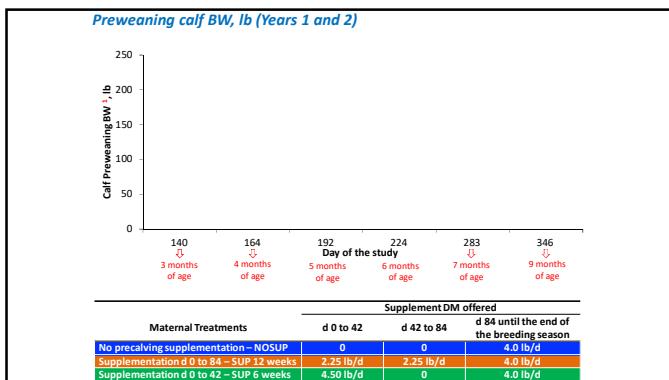
**Study #1 - Effects of timing of prepartum supplementation
on cow and calf performance**

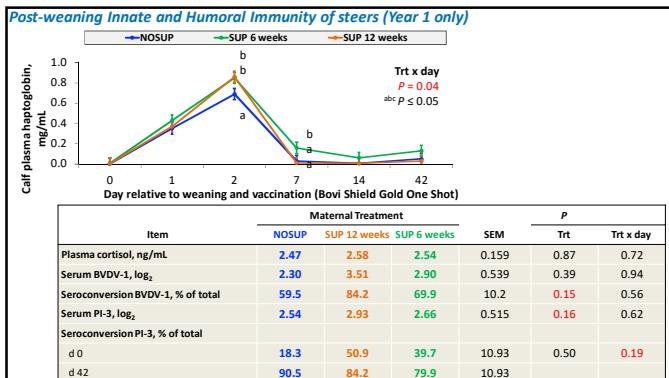
**Studies #2 - Prepartum supplementation with or without
methionine fortification**

Studies #3 – Year-round supplementation









Post-weaning feedlot performance of steers (year 1 only)

Feedlot performance	NO SUP	SUP 12 weeks	SUP 6 weeks	SEM	P-value	Contrast 'NOSUP vs. SUP'
<i>Dry matter intake, lb/d</i>						
Growing	14.5	14.4	14.4	0.27	0.93	0.71
Finishing	21.1	23.1	22.9	1.41	0.59	0.34
Total	17.8	18.7	18.7	0.78	0.69	0.42
<i>ADG, lb/d</i>						
Receiving Phase	0.66	0.72	-0.20	0.521	0.47	0.57
Growing phase	3.54	3.38	3.47	0.057	0.16	0.11
Finishing phase	3.13	3.25	3.18	0.132	0.82	0.61
Growing to Finish	3.32	3.31	3.31	0.066	1.00	0.94
Receiving to Finish	3.16	3.16	3.11	0.080	0.87	0.77
<i>G:F</i>						
Growing	0.19	0.18	0.17	0.011	0.59	0.42
Finishing	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.005	0.26	0.12
Total	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.008	0.42	0.25
<i>Dry matter intake, as % BW</i>						
Growing	1.89	1.85	1.95	0.053	0.37	0.89
Finishing	1.80	1.93	2.00	0.127	0.57	0.35
Total	1.87	1.94	2.02	0.097	0.59	0.42

Carcass quality of steers (year 1 only)

Carcass Measurements	NO SUP	SUP 12 weeks	SUP 6 weeks	SEM	P-value	Contrast 'NOSUP vs. SUP'
Hot Carcass Weight, lb	773	783	768	17.1	0.81	0.92
Dressing percent, %	60.0	59.8	60.5	0.46	0.45	0.80
12 th rib fat, cm	1.99	1.80	1.77	0.16	0.61	0.33
REA, cm ²	82.23	83.01	84.60	2.32	0.75	0.59
KPH	3.00	2.75	2.70	0.22	0.60	0.32
Yield grade	3.94	3.71	3.54	0.24	0.50	0.31
Marbling score	552	585	589	24	0.53	0.27
Quality Grade, % choice	9	33	47	12.9	0.13	0.07
Quality Grade, % low choice	91 a	58 ab	40 b	13.0	0.03	0.02
Quality Grade, % select	0	8	13	7.8	0.48	0.28

Cost vs. return (Experiment 1 – Mature cows)			
84 days of precalving supplementation of dried distillers grains (189 lb/cow)			
	NO Supplement	Supplement 12 weeks	Supplement 6 weeks
Cow precalving labor cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.50
Cow precalving supplement cost @ 230/ton, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 21.74	\$ 21.74
Cow labor + supplement cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 26.74	\$ 24.24
Calf extra weaning BW, lb	0	30	13
Income extra weaning BW @ \$1.40/lb, \$/calf	\$ 0	\$ 42.00	\$ 18.20
Net return of precalving supplementation, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 15.27	-\$ 6.04

Pregnant Brangus replacement heifers (n = 36/yr; 4 pastures/treatment; 2 yr)

- NOSUP = No Molasses + urea supplementation
- MOL = 2.2 lb/d of Molasses + urea (DM)
- MOLMET = 2.2 lb/d of MOL + 18 g/d of methionine hydroxy analog (Alimet, Novus)
 - Sugarcane Molasses + Urea
 - 20% CP and 70% TDN (DM)
 - Offered 2x/week (Tuesdays and Fridays)
 - Supplementation period
 - 56 d prepartum = **d 0 of the study**
 - Ended when all cows within each pasture have calved = **d 74 of the study**
- **d 75 until the end of the breeding season (d 164)**
 - 3.5 lb DM/d of Molasses + urea

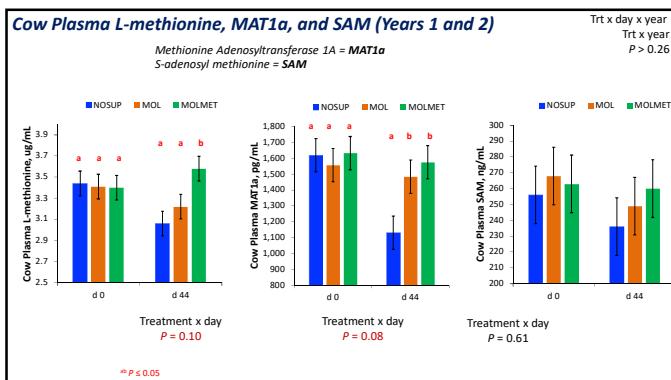


Calf Early-weaning

- **d 147...**
 - Start of the breeding season
 - Early-weaning
- **d 154 until 201**
 - Individual drylot pens
 - High concentrate-based TMR (3% of BW; DM)
 - 75% TDN and 22% CP (DM)
 - 2.2 lb/d of ground stargrass (*Cynodon nemfuensis*) hay
- **d 160 and 188**
 - Vaccination against bovine respiratory disease
 - Bovi Shield Gold 5 + One Shot

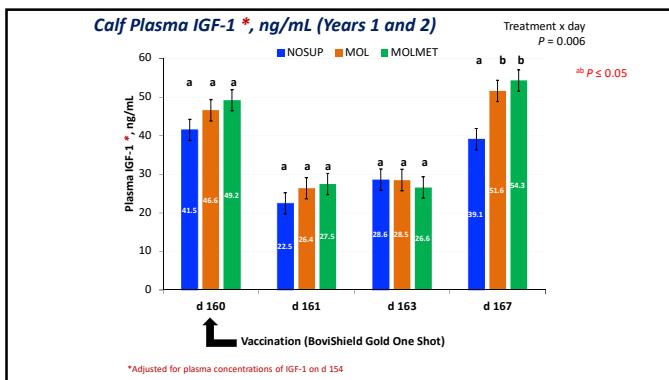


Cow pre- and post-partum performance (Years 1 and 2)						
Item	Treatments			SEM	Trt.	Trt. x day
	NOSUP	MOL	MOLMET			
Days on treatment						
Prepartum	59	57	55	5.1	0.85	
Post-partum	18	15	18	4.6	0.42	
Cow BCS (1-9 scale)						
d 0	5.67	5.65	5.69	0.084	0.04	0.10
d 44 (near calving)	5.77 ^a	6.10 ^b	6.17 ^b			
d 147 (early weaning)	4.85	4.95	5.01			
BCS change						
d 0 to 44	0.09 ^a	0.42 ^b	0.49 ^b	0.081	0.002	
d 44 to 147	-0.93 ^b	-1.16 ^b	-1.17 ^b	0.099	0.10	
Pregnant cows d 288, %	83.3	90.0	90.9	10.1	0.82	
Calving date 2 nd calf, day of the study	453	452	445	7.4	0.68	

^{a,b}P ≤ 0.05

Years 1 and 2						
Item	Treatment			SEM	Trt.	Trt. x day
	NOSUP	MOL	MOLMET			
Calf birth Body Weight ¹ , lb	55.5	61.6	58.2	2.2	0.13	
Body Weight ¹ , lb						
d 147 – Early weaning	174 ^a	185 ^b	189 ^b	7.0	0.54	0.10
d 154 – Drylot entry	178 ^a	194 ^b	196 ^b	7.0		
d 201 – Drylot exit	275 ^a	293 ^b	293 ^b	7.0		
ADG, lb/day						
Birth to early weaning (d 147)	1.28	1.26	1.37	0.064	0.48	
Drylot (d 154 to 201)	1.85 ^a	2.00 ^b	2.18 ^b	0.068	0.02	
Birth to d 201	1.41 ^a	1.59 ^b	1.65 ^b	0.081	0.10	
Drylot (d 154 to 201)						
Total DM intake, lb/d	8.22	8.63	8.63	0.249	0.41	
G:F, d 154 to 201 ¹	0.246	0.243	0.236	0.006	0.51	

¹Adjusted for calf sex ($P \leq 0.05$)^{a,b}P ≤ 0.05



Innate and humoral immune response of calves (Years 1 and 2)

Trt x day x year
Trt x year
P > 0.15

Item	Treatment			P		
	NOSUP	MOL	MOLMET	SEM	Trt.	Trt. x day
Plasma glucose, mg/dL	89.0	90.2	90.4	1.13	0.66	0.72
Plasma cortisol, µg/dL	2.05	1.99	1.87	0.15	0.71	0.99
Plasma haptoglobin, mg/mL	0.56	0.51	0.50	0.044	0.56	0.33
Serum BVDV-1						
Titters, log ₂	2.45	3.20	2.42	0.306	0.13	0.11
Seroconversion, % of total	56.1 ^a	84.2 ^b	78.7 ^b	7.16	0.02	0.11
Serum PI-3, log ₂						
Titters, log ₂	4.72	4.67	4.74	0.266	0.99	0.22
Seroconversion, % of total	83.9 ^a	100 ^b	94.3 ^b	4.15	0.01	0.27

Cost vs. return (Experiment 2 – First calf cows)

74 days of precalving supplementation of molasses+urea (2 lb/cow/day)

	Mineral	Mineral + Molasses/urea
Cow precalving labor cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 2.50
Cow precalving Molasses+urea @ 240/ton, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 17.76
Cow labor + supplement cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 20.26
Calf extra weaning weight, lb	0	18
Income extra weaning weight @ \$1.40/lb, \$/calf	\$ 0	\$ 25.20
Net return of precalving supplementation, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 4.94

Experiment 3 – Multiparous Brangus Cows – 70 d prepartum

Experiment 3 – Multiparous Brangus cows – 70 d prepartumMIN = 2 oz trace mineral salt
MIN + Molasses = 2 oz TM salt + 3 lb/d of Molasses + urea

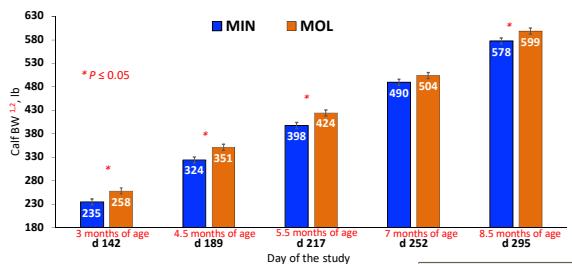
Item	Supplement type		SEM	P	SUP x day
	MIN	MIN + MOLASSES			
Cow BCS					
d 0	5.49	5.50	0.071	0.96	<0.001
d 70 (near calving)	4.99	5.45	0.071	<0.001	
d 142	4.86	5.15	0.071	0.003	
d 189 (end of breeding)	4.66	4.77	0.071	0.21	
% of male calves	57.4	60.8	11.5	0.80	
Calving date, day of the study	54	46	2.45	0.02	
Calf birth BW ¹ , lb	83.7	79.0	6.54	0.62	
Pregnant cows, d 252	72.9	80.2	8.41	0.55	

¹ Adjusted for calf sex (P < 0.05)² Adjusted for calving date (P < 0.05)

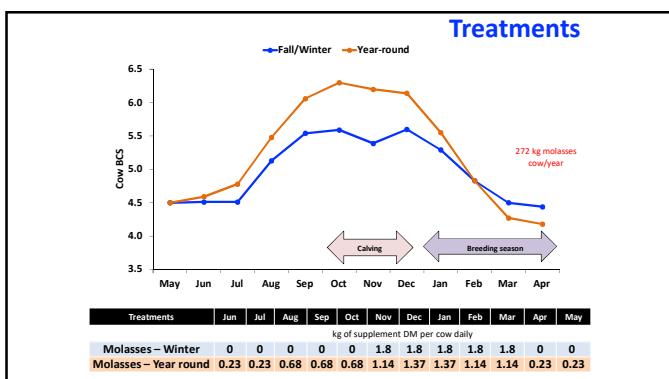
Breeding season = d 132 to 222

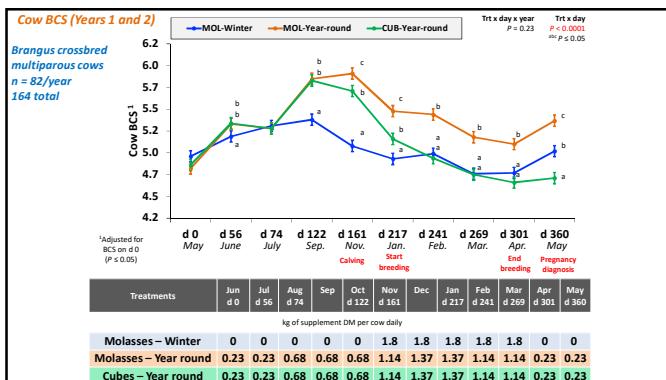
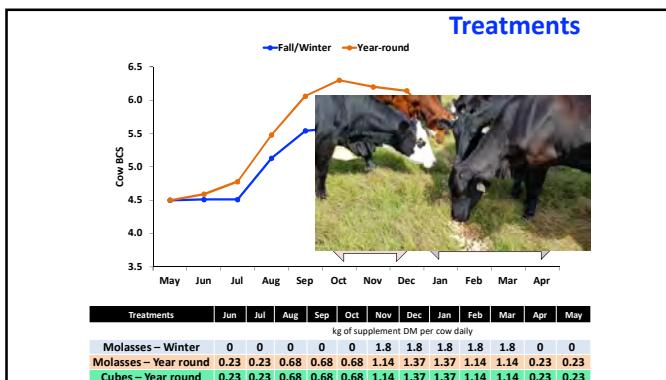
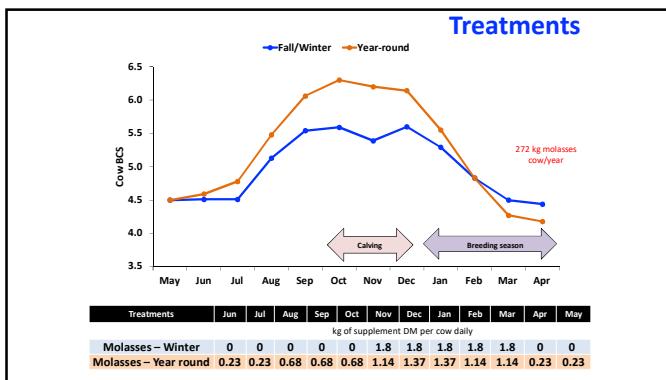
Experiment 3 – Multiparous Brangus cows – 70 d prepartumMIN = 2 oz trace mineral salt
MIN + MELACO = 2 oz TM salt + 3 lb/d of Molasses + urea

SUPP x day (P < 0.0001)

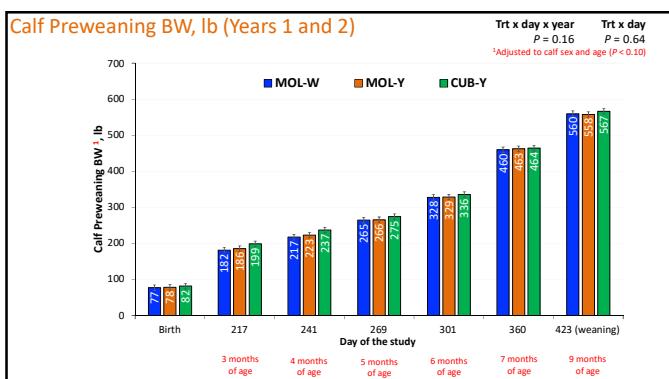
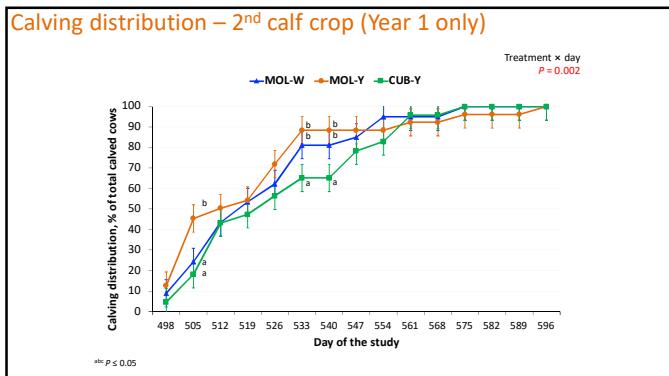
¹ Adjusted for calf sex (P < 0.05)² Adjusted for calving date (P < 0.05)Pre-weaning ADG
MIN = 2.03 ± 0.03 lb/day
MOL = 2.10 ± 0.03 lb/day
P = 0.10

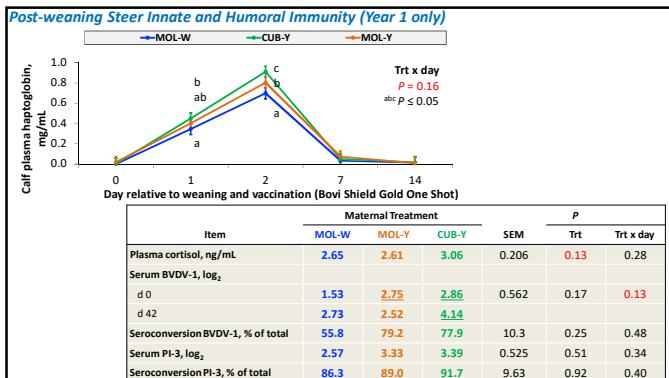
Cost vs. return (Experiment 3 – Mature cows)		
70 days of precalving supplementation of molasses+urea (3 lb/cow/day)		
	Mineral	Mineral + Molasses/urea
Cow precalving labor cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 2.50
Cow precalving Molasses+urea @ 240/ton, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 25.20
Cow labor + supplement cost, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 27.70
Calf extra weaning weight, lb	0	21
Income extra weaning weight @ \$1.40/lb, \$/calf	\$ 0	\$ 29.40
Net return of precalving supplementation, \$/cow	\$ 0	\$ 1.70





Item	Treatments			P-value										
	MOL-W	MOL-Y	CUB-Y	SEM	Treatment	Year	Treatment x year							
1st calf crop														
Calving date, d of the study	164	161	158	4.3	0.65	0.30	0.70							
Calving live calf, % of total	99.9	92.4	96.4	2.57	0.12	0.37	0.45							
Male calves, % of total	50.9	49.8	48.4	7.16	0.97	0.97	0.35							
Calf birth BW, lb	77.3	78.5	82.4	2.25	0.31	0.13	0.90							
2nd calf crop														
Pregnant cows on d 360, %	92.0	90.0	83.4	4.25	0.33	0.34	0.38							
Calving date, d of the study	527	526	532	5.2	0.75	-	-							
Male calves, % of total	43.7	38.8	56.8	13.05	0.70	-	-							
Calf birth BW, lb	76.4	82.6	81.9	3.17	0.32	-	-							
kg of supplement DM per cow daily														
	Jun d 0 0.0	Jul d 56 0.56	Aug d 72 0.72	Sep d 122 0.122	Oct d 161 0.161	Nov d 217 0.217	Jan d 241 0.241	Feb d 269 0.269	Mar d 301 0.301	Apr d 360 0.360	May			
Molasses – Winter	0	0	0	0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0				
Molasses – Year round	0.23	0.23	0.68	0.68	0.68	1.14	1.37	1.37	1.14	1.14	0.23	0.23		
Cubes – Year round	0.23	0.23	0.68	0.68	0.68	1.14	1.37	1.37	1.14	1.14	0.23	0.23		





Post-weaning feedlot performance of steers (year 1 only)

Feedlot performance	Mol-Winter	Mol-Year-round	Cube-Year-round	SEM	Treatment P-value	Contrast 'Winter vs. Year-round'	Contrast 'Mol Win vs. Mol Year'
Dry Matter Intake, lb/d							
Growing	14.5	14.1	14.3	0.30	0.76	0.55	0.50
Finishing	21.1	21.3	20.1	1.00	0.70	0.77	0.90
Total	17.8	17.8	17.2	0.64	0.78	0.72	0.96
ADG, lb/d							
Receiving Phase	0.66	0.34	0.78	0.735	0.60	0.82	0.46
Growing phase	3.55 a	3.50 a	3.15 b	0.046	0.04	0.0002	0.71
Finishing phase	3.13	3.13	2.95	0.069	0.56	0.30	0.97
Growing to finishing	3.33 a	3.30 a	3.04 b	0.046	0.05	0.01	0.85
Receiving to finishing	3.17 a	3.11 a	2.91 b	0.046	0.08	0.01	0.69
G:F							
Growing	0.19 ab	0.20 a	0.17 b	0.006	0.07	0.93	0.26
Finishing	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.011	0.63	0.59	0.92
Total	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.006	0.80	0.80	0.61
Dry Matter Intake, % of BW							
Growing	1.89	1.84	1.92	0.053	0.64	0.96	0.61
Finishing	1.80	1.82	1.81	0.095	0.98	0.86	0.84
Total	1.87	1.87	1.89	0.081	0.99	0.93	1.00

Carcass quality of steers (year 1 only)

Carcass Measurements	Mol-Winter	Mol-Year-round	Cube-Year-round	SEM	Treatment P-value	Contrast 'Winter vs. Year-round'	Contrast 'Mol Win vs. Mol Year'
HCW, lb	773	763	732	20.3	0.32	0.31	0.74
Dressing percent, %	60.0	59.2	59.8	0.52	0.61	0.46	0.33
12th rib fat, cm	1.99 a	1.57 b	1.53 b	0.13	0.03	0.01	0.04
REA, cm ²	82.2	82.0	80.8	2.41	0.90	0.78	0.95
KPH	3.00	2.89	3.00	0.23	0.93	0.86	0.76
Yield grade	3.94	3.48	3.43	0.21	0.16	0.06	0.14
Marbling score	5.52	5.78	5.82	0.24	0.62	0.34	0.46
Quality Grade, % choice	9	33	33	13.5	0.35	0.15	0.23
Quality Grade, % low choice	91 a	44 b	67 ab	13.8	0.08	0.04	0.03
Quality Grade, % select	0 b	22 a	0 b	7.13	0.07	0.21	0.04

Studies 2019/2020 & 2021/2022**Study #5 – Frequency of concentrate supplementation during late gestation**

- 4 treatments offered during the last trimester of gestation:

– Same weekly supplement amount

- No supplement
- Supplement offered daily (7X)
- Supplement offered 3 times weekly (3X)
- Supplement offered once weekly (1X)

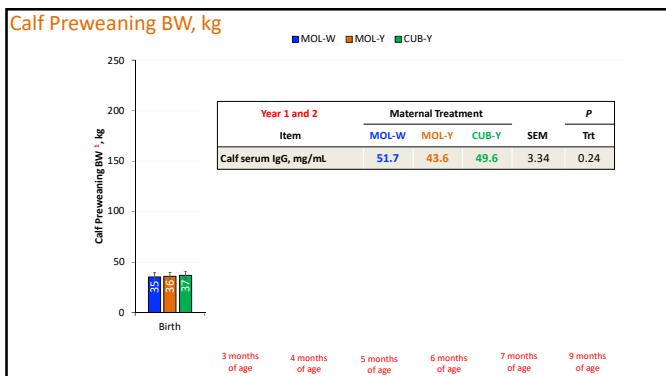
Study #6 – Combining pre- and post-calving nutrition**– Fetal programming + metabolic imprinting = Additive effects?**

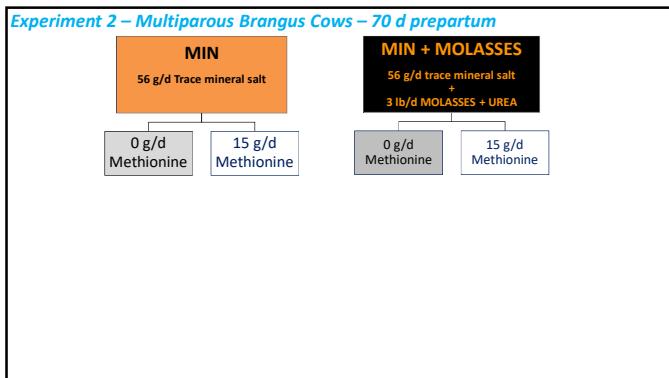
- No pre-calving supplementation of cows + calf normal weaning at 9 months of age
- Pre-calving supplementation of cows (2 lb/day) + calf normal weaning at 9 months of age
- No pre-calving supplementation of cows + calf early-weaning at 3 months of age
- Pre-calving supplementation of cows (2 lb/day) + calf early-weaning at 3 months of age

Study #7 – Monensin fortification of pre-calving supplements

- No pre-calving supplementation of cows
- Pre-calving supplementation of cows (2 lb/day)
- Pre-calving supplementation of cows (2 lb/day) + Monensin fortification (20 ppm)







Experiment 2 – Multiparous Brangus cows – 70 d prepartum

Item	Supplement type				P	Methionine addition				P
	MIN	MIN + MOLASSES	SEM	P		0 g/d	15 g/d	SEM	P	
Cow BCS										
d 0						5.56	5.43	0.072	0.17	0.36
d 70 (near calving)						5.23	5.21	0.072	0.78	
d 142						5.06	4.95	0.072	0.21	
d 189 (end of breeding)						4.74	4.70	0.072	0.67	
% of male calves						50.0	68.2	11.6	0.21	
Calving date, day of the study						50	50	2.43	0.92	
Calf birth BW ¹ , lb						35.2	36.1	0.86	0.38	0.97
Pregnant cows, d 252						69.7	83.3	8.38	0.28	

¹ Adjusted for calf sex (P < 0.05)
² Adjusted for calving date (P < 0.05)
 Breeding season = d 132 to 222

Experiment 2 – Multiparous Brangus cows – 70 d prepartum

Item	Supplement type				P	Methionine addition				P
	MIN	MIN + MOLASSES	SEM	P		0 g/d	15 g/d	SEM	P	
Cow BCS										
d 0	5.49	5.50	0.071	0.96	<0.001	5.56	5.43	0.072	0.17	0.36
d 70 (near calving)	4.99	5.45	0.071	<0.001		5.23	5.21	0.072	0.78	
d 142	4.86	5.15	0.071	0.003		5.06	4.95	0.072	0.21	
d 189 (end of breeding)	4.66	4.77	0.071	0.21		4.74	4.70	0.072	0.67	
% of male calves	57.4	60.8	11.5	0.80		50.0	68.2	11.6	0.21	
Calving date, day of the study	54	46	2.45	0.02		50	50	2.43	0.92	
Calf birth BW ¹ , lb	83.7	79.0	6.54	0.62		82.6	80.2	6.48	0.79	
Pregnant cows, d 252	72.9	80.2	8.41	0.55		69.7	83.3	8.38	0.28	

¹ Adjusted for calf sex (P < 0.05)
² Adjusted for calving date (P < 0.05)
 Breeding season = d 132 to 222

