

Evaluation of raising dairy calves by foster cows in Mexico

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SUPPLEMENTARY FILE

Supplementary Table S1. Somatic cell count (SCC) and Wisconsin test values in foster cows having three foster calves for 8 weeks (n=8) compared to dairy control cows being milked twice a day (n=7) when sampled once per week shown as week 0, weeks 1-4 and weeks 5-8.

Weeks	Foster cows	Control cows	p-value
SCC			
0	1 333 ± 275 ^a	1 250 ± 318 ^a	0.58
1-4	933 ± 338 ^b	1 005 ± 248 ^b	0.58
5-8	670 ± 151 ^c	1 061 ± 226 ^b	0.003
Wisconsin score			
0	25 ± 3.4 ^a	25 ± 3.9 ^a	0.80
1-4	20 ± 4.6 ^b	21 ± 4.0 ^b	0.55
5-8	16 ± 2.9 ^c	22 ± 2.9 ^b	0.002

Values are mean ± SD. Post hoc test for comparisons between treatments within week periods, and within treatments between week period are shown below (different superscript letters indicate significant differences p≤0.05)

Supplementary Figure S1

Experimental design. Duration of the experiment was 8 weeks. 8 foster cows with 3 calves each were kept in 30m² pens, weekly weight and diarrhoea scores were recorded in calves, weekly udder health and milk production were registered for the FG. 8 cows were milked daily twice per day (10-14 h interval) and housed in regular pen. 21 control calves were housed in individual outdoor hutches, weekly weight and diarrhoea scores were recorded, 8 control cows were housed together, weekly udder health and milk production were registered.

