



# Midcontinent Livestock Supplements

**PROVEN PERFORMANCE**

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## Strategies for Successful Weaning

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Weaning is the single most stressful event in a calf's life. Calves are subjected to the psychological stress of leaving their dam, dietary stress from no longer having milk as a primary nutrient source, and depending on weaning strategies, additional stresses of new feedstuffs, a new environment, transportation, and handling. Furthermore, dietary stress also stems from poor feed and water consumption during this period. Decreasing dietary and psychological stress during the weaning phase pays dividends when calves recover quickly from weaning and enter their next phase healthier and heavier. Applying a few key management strategies prior to and during weaning can make a world of difference in how calves respond to this stressful point in their lives.

The removal of milk as a primary nutrient source for calves is simply unavoidable. What can be managed is the diet available to calves once milk is removed. Provide feedstuffs to calves that are familiar, compensate for protein and energy previously found in milk, and with minimal risk for overconsumption. High quality grass or mixed hay is a must-have, as is supplementation that provides adequate protein while preventing over-consumption. If calves are unaccustomed to ensiled forages, they may be hesitant to consume them at first and consequently, dry hay may be the better option until intakes are adequate. If calves have previously been exposed to grain, such supplementation is an option but the risk of binge-eating, acidosis, and bloat may outweigh the benefit early in the weaning period. The #5 Tub from MLS is a great option as it contains 18% protein and 5% fat in a low-moisture form that helps prevent calves from binge-eating; a digestive and economic benefit.

It is optimal for the cowherd to have regular access to mineral supplementation and when needed, protein supplementation. Unfortunately, it can be hard to determine whether calves are consuming supplement out on pasture. Even if calves have had regular access to mineral supplementation, trace mineral status can start to decrease when feed intake decreases due to stress, and a decrease in trace mineral status can lead to sub-optimal immune function and growth. Providing a more readily-absorbed supply of trace minerals, like the zinc, copper, manganese, and cobalt from Availa®4 found in the MLS #5 Tub can help replenish trace mineral status in the calf and maintain growth. In work published by Colorado State University in 2006 (Dorton et al., AAJAS), calves supplemented with Availa-4 for 58 days after weaning had greater average daily gain than steers supplemented with ordinary sulfate and carbonate forms of zinc, copper, manganese, and cobalt. Moreover, the Availa-4 calves had less sickness than calves fed the sulfate and carbonate mineral forms (7.3% versus 13.5 % morbidity).

Providing calves with a safe, palatable source of protein, energy, Availa-4 trace minerals, and other nutrients via the MLS #5 Tub is a big step towards a successful weaning period but additional steps can also be taken. Consider providing the #5 Tub to calves for at least two weeks prior to weaning by using a creep gate setup. Not only will it help prepare calves nutritionally for weaning, it also gets them familiar with the supplement ahead of time. Fence-line weaning has been shown to reduce weaning stress and decrease weight loss (Price et al., JAS, 2003). If this method is utilized, place the #5 Tubs where calves will encounter them while pacing the fence. Position a water source in their path as well, to encourage water consumption. If calves have rarely encountered an automatic waterer before, consider initially providing an open water source where water can splash into the tank to get calves' attention. At the very least, initially remove the ball, disc, or other cover from automatic waterers to help calves drink from them. When providing the #5 Tub to calves post-weaning in a dry-lot setting or where a feed bunk is utilized, consider placing the tub several yards back from the bunk or wherever hesitant calves congregate to encourage consumption when calves are not yet approaching the bunk for primary feedstuffs. Additionally, don't forget to provide shade and ensure the weaning pen has dry areas for lying.

The weaning period can be less stressful for calves, cows, and producers by applying simple strategies and providing supplementation like MLS #5 Tubs that are palatable, nutritionally balanced, and require limited labor. Decreasing stress during the weaning phase will result in healthier, heavier calves, and inevitably, a heartier paycheck.



Congratulations to McKenzie Wansing, Harrisonville, MO. and Rylee Mills Jackson, MO. for earning spots in the National High School Rodeo. Both are sponsored by MLS Missouri. Rylee competes in Team Roping while McKenzie will compete in Breakaway Roping and Goat Tying.

The National Rodeo is scheduled for July 15-21, 2017 in Gillette, WY. From the MLS Management Team, Production Team, and Sales Staff, we want to recognize both young people for this accomplishment.

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## MLS#5 STRESS TUB

An energy, protein, vitamin, and trace mineral tub for young cattle during weaning, shipping, or situations leading to stress. Contains Availa® 4 from Zinpro® and CELMANAX™ SCP.

% Protein	18
% Fat	5
% Crude Fiber	2.5
% Calcium	0.75 - 1.25
% Phosphorus	1
% Salt	2
% Magnesium	0.5
% Potassium	3
Copper ppm	345
Cobalt ppm	14
Iodine ppm	70
Manganese ppm	510
Selenium ppm	6
Zinc ppm	1,440
Vit. A IU/LB	150,000
Vit. D IU/LB	28,000
Vit. E IU/LB	300
Vitamin C	✓
9 B-Vitamins	✓
aspergillus oryzae	✓
Availa® 4	✓
CELMANAX™ SCP	✓
MFP™ Methionine	Available



Feeding Directions MLS #5: Feed equivalent total of 20 lbs. per head. (example 100 calves X 20 lbs. equals 2000 lbs. total fed then switch to appropriate MLS product)

## MLS #16 EQUINE MINERAL PLUS WITH CELMANAX™ SCP and Zinpro® Availa® 4

A complete vitamin and mineral supplement with added fat specifically designed to balance trace minerals and vitamins as well as increase energy to horses grazing large pastures, or whose diet consists mainly of forage.



Availa® 4 organic zinc, manganese, copper & cobalt. Essential trace minerals for maximizing the health and performance of your horses.



CELMANAX™ SCP can be effective in reducing the incidence and/or severity of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) and scours caused by E. coli or salmonella.



## MLS #16 EQUINE MINERAL PLUS IS AVAILABLE WITH CLARIFLY®

ClariFly® Larvicide is a feed additive that prevents adult house flies, stable flies, face flies and horn flies from developing in manure. Use of ClariFly® Larvicide helps keep flies from becoming a nuisance to horses and humans.

### MLS #16 Equine Mineral Plus – Product concept and development

As the result of much discussion, including input from some equine industry professionals, MLS set out to develop an equine mineral tub product. During the initial contact with Dr. Dennis Sigler, Texas A&M Extension Equine Specialist, Dr. Sigler offered “the industry needed a product that supplied minerals and vitamins for all classes of equine”. He assisted in the formulation process which includes organic trace minerals, organic selenium, probiotics, and is balanced for calcium and phosphorus. Including ingredients that add value, are supported through research, and have a positive impact on gut health was our focus. Since the initial product introduction, MLS has made more improvements through including some additional additives.

Testing the MLS #16 Equine Mineral Plus with horse farms, veterinarians and backyard horses began several years ago. The product was well received, so MLS began introducing it to the market through our dealer network. Observations that these horsemen shared were “my horses look so much better”, “they seem to have more stamina”, and “they seem more satisfied and not hungry all the time”. By offering several tub sizes, including a 25 pound stall bucket, every feeding situation can be addressed.

The MLS #16 Equine Mineral Plus product was designed to supplement a horse with the best vitamin, mineral, and additional additives all in one package, regardless of the forage program the horse is on. It allows horse owners to feed more hay/forage and less concentrate feed. It also eliminates the need for a horse owner to add the handful of daily supplements they are currently feeding. The right nutrition is all there in one easy to feed package, and it allows the horse to do what it was designed to do...eat forage.

Chad Holt, MLS Sales Representative, Texas