

ENSURE THE HERD GETS THE CALCIUM THEY NEED!

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using Calcimate® - and why we use it. ”



MEGAN THOMSON

WAIKATO DAIRY FARMER

CALCIMATE®
FINES



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KEEP CALCIUM LEVELS UP!

Megan Thomson sharemilks 350 cows on a 120 ha effective family farm in the lush farmland on the outskirts of Matamata. She's fond of Ayrshires and they make up a fair percentage of her Ayrshire/Friesian mixed herd.

It's 6.45am on a chilly, late June Waikato morning when we arrive to talk to Megan Thomson about how she uses Calcimate® to supplement much needed calcium into her herd at calving time.

We're greeted by Megan carrying an early arrival calf to the pens, while in the background among the general noises of the cowshed, the high pressure hose can be heard, signaling the end of milking.

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Megan runs a system 3 operation where pasture and grass silage made on farm is supplemented with a palm kernel mix, which includes tapioca and DDG. She added maize silage for the first time last year.

Megan has had a long and successful association with Calcimate® during her 10 years of sharemilking on the current farm, and other properties on which she's worked previously. Before meal feeders she drenched, but now dusts onto paddocks post-calving.

With the recent addition of maize, Megan and staff have also been mixing Calcimate® into the maize to ensure the herd gets the calcium they need.

The need to use Calcimate® is clear to Megan, and when asked if staff are on board too, she explained "staff understand the importance of using Calcimate® - and why we use it."



Tips for keeping calcium levels up

- ▶ Have cows in the correct Body Condition Score (BCS) at calving (5.0 to 5.5).
- ▶ Reduce calcium intake before calving and avoid any added oral calcium, allowing the cow to mobilise her own calcium from the skeletal system after giving birth.
- ▶ Avoid lush pasture for autumn calving cows and avoid supplementing with magnesium in shed.
- ▶ Feed a good quality dry cow mineral that is high in magnesium just prior to calving, and has no added calcium or low added levels.
- ▶ Use a nutritionist to assist with diet formulation throughout lactation, thereby helping to improve productivity and reduce metabolic disorders.