



## **Solacyl® briefing**

### **About the research**

The research was carried out at three English calf rearing units run by Meadow Quality Ltd between November 2017 and May 2018.

It involved four groups of beef calves from different dairy farms.

The 258 calves were given Solacyl®, a non steroidal anti inflammatory, in-feed on the five days immediately upon arrival at the units (a high-risk period for animals to contract bovine respiratory disease).

The results were analysed by dairy veterinary consultant Owen Atkinson BVSc DHCP MRCVS, a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons recognised specialist in cattle health and production.

### **About the findings**

- The use of Solacyl®, a prophylactic oral treatment, for five days resulted in a reduction in antibiotic use of between 16 per cent and 73 per cent (based on doses), depending on the farm
- Across all four groups of calves in the study the overall reduction in antibiotics was a very significant 43 per cent
- The health of the calves was not compromised
- The profitability of the rearing operations was not compromised
- Daily live weight gains remained similar
- Mortality rates were unaffected (no statistically significant difference)

### **About Solacyl®**

Solacyl has the active ingredient sodium salicylate, which has similar fever controlling,

pain managing and inflammation reducing benefits in livestock as aspirin can have in humans.

It can be administered to groups of animals to alleviate pyrexia which means it can be given prior to known stress points in animals' lives. This can be continued through and after those events, providing a welfare benefit and reducing the risk of a loss of appetite and its resulting effects.

Solacyl® has the following practical benefits:

- can be given in water, milk and milk replacer or wet feed
- has excellent solubility
- has zero withdrawal period
- remains stable in hard water, acidified water and wet feed for at least 24 hours
- remains stable in milk of 40°C for at least six hours
- can be given in combination with antibiotics
- has high bioavailability
- has a low gastric lesion index (easy on the stomach)
- opened bags can be stored for up to six months in the appropriate conditions (avoiding waste)
- unopened bags have a three-year shelf life
- available from vets under prescription

### **Other facts**

Using Solacyl® could reduce overall antibiotic use nationwide by an estimated 4.4 tonnes per year