

How do milk and forage interact in January and February?

	Old Pasture	New Pasture
Calf gain (g/d)	415	410
Calf intake (kg/d)	0.6b	0.9a
Hind gain (g/d)	240	222
Hind intake (kg/d)	4.2a	3.8b
Total ME intake (MJ/d)	49.8	49.3

This data shows some of the interactions that occur between the forage intake of the calf and the milk production of the hind.

The calf growth rate was similar on both old (ryegrass-based) and new (ryegrass/chicory/red clover based) pasture.

However, the calf forage (or pasture) intake was lower on the old pasture than the new pasture.

Hind intake was higher on the old pasture, with the total feed intake being the same. Therefore, the calves on the old pasture were getting more nutrition from milk than those calves on the new pasture.

Although the growth rate of both calves and hinds was the same, the calves eating more pasture as they approached weaning were better prepared to be weaned. Post-weaning growth rates of the calves from the new pasture was higher than calves from the old pasture because of their higher forage intake before weaning.