

VIGORTONE PRODUCER PROFILE



M&C Farms Finds Success In Raising Dairy Replacement Heifers

Brothers Martin and Curt Christensen have had good success using Vigortone on both their beef cow herd and dairy heifers.

M&C Farms is near Fort Morgan, Colorado, approximately 50 miles south of the Wyoming border. The two brothers have been working together for the past 20 years and have been using Vigortone since the early 1980s.

Vigortone premix products work well with the dairy heifer rations because they mix well in the TMR and can be adjusted according to on-farm forages.

Explains Martin, ***“Vigortone helps fortify the ration without buying protein. We like to put a lean gain on the heifers and try to keep their gain to 1.5-1.75 lbs. You just don't want to get a heifer fat. Once they are bred, we will feed them more generously.”***

The Christensens regularly test their forages and silages and adjust rations accordingly. More than 8,000 tons of haylage and silage will be put up each year in cement bunkers. **Vigortone Vigorsile® III** silage inoculant is used to help preserve the value of forages.

The brothers have been custom raising dairy heifers for eight years. Depending on the producer's preference, heifers are bred between 13 and 15 months of age. Generally, Angus bulls are utilized for easy calving. When heifers are one month from calving, they are sold back to the producer. The brothers will also buy additional 400-pound dairy heifers to fill their 1,000-head feedlot.

The Holstein heifers are fed a TMR of haylage, corn silage, and high moisture ear corn. Martin and Curt feed a receiving ration including a Vigortone premix for two to three weeks after the calves come to the farm. For most of the feeding period, **Vigortone Feedlot 46S (GP)** (contains Gainpro® for increased rate of weight gain) is fed. **Vigortone Bovotone 32SCTC** with chlortetracycline for control of bacterial pneumonia is also available to heifers. After six months, as heifers are readied for sale, they're switched to a ration



From left: Martin Christensen, Vigortone Area Sales Manager Cindy Fiscus, D.V.M., and Curt Christensen.

including **Vigortone Lactator DA6210** to prepare them for lactation.

The brothers also have a 100 head cow-calf herd on grass. Calving is in March and April with weaning in October at 650-750 pounds. Most calves will be sold at weaning but some replacement heifers will be kept back to restock the herd. Cattle on pasture receive Vigortone 32SCTC. In the past 5 years, the conception rate of the cow herd has been 99%.

Another Vigortone product the Christensens like for their cow/calf herd is **Vigortone 32SG** with Safe-Guard®. ***“We can deworm our calves on grass now, and it's so much easier,”*** says Martin.

Over the years, the brothers have been pleased with the results they've seen using Vigortone. ***“It has excellent weatherability, and we've had really good luck with it,”*** comments Martin.

Martin and Curt farm 1,150 acres and have two full-time employees as well as two part-time seasonal employees. They also do custom hay and corn silage chopping for area dairy producers.

Martin has been a Vigortone dealer since the early 1980s, with Vigortone 32SCTC as a top seller.