



406 Research paper

**Effects of butyric acid supplementation of acidified milk on digestive**

by Sun, Y.Y., Li, J., Meng, Q.S., Wu, D.L. and M. Xu  
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**In Significant Impact Groups:**

Feed / gut health \ Early feeding (colostrum/feed)

Species targeted: Dairy;

Age: Young;

**Summary:**

Feed supplements can enhance the health and productivity of livestock. The effects of butyric acid supplementation of acidified milk (AM) on the digestive function of calves and weaning stress were investigated. Thirty-six Holstein calves with a mean age of  $5 \pm 1$  d were selected and divided into three groups (n = 12) and fed: (1) AM (CON); (2) AM + 0.3% butyric acid (BA0.3); or (3) AM + 0.6% butyric acid (BA0.6). Body weight (BW) and body size indicators were recorded during the preweaning stage. At 56 d, 18 calves were euthanized to determine the length and width of their ruminal papillae, duodenum villi, jejunum villi, and ileal villi; emptied rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum weight; and small intestinal mucosa thickness. In conclusion, the addition of butyric acid to AM can reduce the rate of diarrhea, weaning stress and improve metabolic and physical development of the gastrointestinal tract.

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**Where to find the original material:**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S187114131930318X?via%3Dihub>;

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