

**Effect of a Multispecies Probiotic Mixture on the growth and incidence of diarrhea, immune function, and fecal microbiota of pre-weaning dairy calves**

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**Supplementary material**

Supplementary Table 1. Taxonomic analysis of the principal fecal phyla in Holstein dairy calves, classified according to multispecies probiotics and time point

Phylum (%)	Treatment (Trt) <sup>1</sup>				SEM <sup>2</sup>	<i>P</i> -value					
	C	T1	T2	T3		Trt	Time	Trt×Time	C×T1	C×T2	C×T3
<b>Bacteria</b>											
<i>Firmicutes</i>											
WK2	73.29	69.70	61.45	71.45	4.99	0.45	0.24	0.08	0.82	0.46	0.91
WK4	79.24	71.71	61.00	76.87	3.23				0.39	0.05	0.78
WK6	63.24	74.36	63.89	59.97	3.90				0.35	0.96	0.78
WK8	49.73 <sup>b</sup>	78.68 <sup>a</sup>	76.31 <sup>a</sup>	90.52 <sup>a</sup>	4.40				< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>											
WK2	17.23	17.06	8.90	17.86	4.09	0.36	0.31	<0.01	0.99	0.52	0.96
WK4	10.51 <sup>b</sup>	13.21 <sup>ab</sup>	28.24 <sup>a</sup>	18.11 <sup>ab</sup>	2.50				0.65	0.01	0.22
WK6	19.37	18.64	27.52	29.15	3.54				0.95	0.45	0.37
WK8	45.42 <sup>a</sup>	15.51 <sup>b</sup>	17.16 <sup>b</sup>	0.21 <sup>c</sup>	4.59				< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
<i>Actinobacteria</i>											
WK2	13.43	11.27	29.09	5.87	0.35	0.64	0.06	0.29	0.87	0.25	0.57
WK4	8.26	12.61	8.86	3.56	2.29				0.53	0.93	0.50

WK6	14.27	5.00	4.91	5.85	2.35				0.19	0.19	0.24
WK8	1.01	2.59	2.29	8.99	1.47				0.69	0.75	0.06
<i>Proteobacteria</i>											
WK2	0.48	1.69	0.19	2.05	0.54	0.20	0.25	0.26	0.46	0.86	0.35
WK4	0.34	0.04	0.15	3.78	0.89				0.90	0.95	0.21
WK6	0.09	0.15	0.18	0.08	0.01				0.23	0.09	0.84
WK8	0.18	0.10	0.16	0.10	0.02				0.30	0.80	0.32
<i>Fusobacteria</i>											
WK2	0.05	0.02	0.61	0.07	0.15	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.96	0.18	0.88
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1	1	1
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1	1	1
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1	1	1
<i>Tenericutes</i>											
WK2						0.54	0.60	0.37			
WK4	0.38	1.29	0.91	0.73	0.19				0.137	0.372	0.548
WK6	1.66	0.83	0.82	1.14	0.28				0.346	0.336	0.55
WK8	1.46	1.37	3.18	0.23	0.61				0.959	0.312	0.495
<i>Patescibacteria</i>											
WK2											
WK4	1.14	0.25	0.20	0.12	0.19	0.47	0.65	0.08			
WK6	0.37	0.02	0.09	0.43	0.12				0.39	0.484	0.879
WK8	0.02	0.62	0.33	0.00	0.12				0.094	0.361	0.95
Fungi											
<i>Ascomycota</i>											

WK2	61.67	97.06	84.77	57.81	8.58	0.69	0.06	0.19	0.16	0.35	0.87
WK4	92.35	91.52	94.07	93.14	1.33				0.84	0.68	0.86
WK6	96.54	70.43	91.35	91.25	5.25				0.10	0.73	0.72
WK8	96.09	91.30	95.48	88.12	1.24				0.12	0.84	0.02
<i>Basidiomycota</i>											
WK2	4.89	2.88	13.62	41.54	6.90	0.07	0.10	0.14	0.91	0.63	0.06
WK4	5.33	5.05	5.16	6.72	0.86				0.92	0.95	0.63
WK6	3.00	5.42	8.33	6.59	1.32				0.54	0.19	0.37
WK8	3.56	8.25	4.06	9.61	1.11				0.12	0.86	0.05
unclassified_k__Fungi											
WK2	0.48	0.00	1.61	0.13	0.41	0.46	0.44	0.38	0.69	0.36	0.77
WK4	2.32	0.34	0.61	0.11	0.57				0.26	0.32	0.21
WK6	0.47	22.50	0.28	0.33	5.43				0.18	0.99	0.99
WK8	0.34	0.40	0.41	1.81	0.24				0.92	0.91	0.02
<i>Neocallimastigomycota</i>											
WK2	7.96	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.99	0.49	0.49	0.41	0.18	0.18	0.18
WK4	0.00	2.23	0.00	0.00	0.56				0.18	1.00	1.00
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>a-b</sup> The values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ), while values with the same or no superscripts mean no significant difference ( $P > 0.05$ ).

<sup>1</sup>Treatments: C = no supplementation (control); T1 = 0.5 g/calf/day; T2 = 1 g/calf/day; T3 = 2 g/calf/day.

<sup>2</sup>SEM = Standard error of mean.

Supplementary Table 2. Taxonomic analysis of the principal fecal genera in Holstein dairy calves, classified according to multispecies probiotics and time point

Genus (%)	Treatment (Trt) <sup>1</sup>				SEM <sup>2</sup>	<i>P</i> -value					
	C	T1	T2	T3		Trt	Time	Trt×Time	C×T1	C×T2	C×T3
<i>Bacteria</i>											
<i>Blautia</i>											
WK2	4.275	4.5633	10.4275	11.0475	3.06	0.38	0.03	0.84	0.977	0.513	0.472
WK4	17.1725	22.6225	21.37	22.2125	2.52				0.896	0.948	0.915
WK6	11.435	16.7625	7.7875	14.725	2.26				0.436	0.591	0.628
WK8	15.7375	27.765	6.87	20.7375	4.18				0.324	0.463	0.677
<i>Collinsella</i>											
WK2	11.535	4.9725	7.4925	4.975	1.93	0.53	<0.01	0.79	0.272	0.492	0.273
WK4	0	0.64	0.71	0	0.23				0.781	0.724	1
WK6	2.775	0	0	0.5175	0.69				0.19	0.19	0.28
WK8	0.0375	0.105	0	1.7175	0.42				0.957	0.976	0.193
<i>Bacteroides</i>											
WK2	7.6875	5.585	5.3875	9.6325	2.17	0.79	0.05	0.89	0.76	0.738	0.777
WK4	1.8275	2.6725	2.6775	5.4475	0.79				0.981	0.981	0.407
WK6	2.775	5.5925	2.75	4.095	0.85				0.285	0.992	0.61
WK8	0.7625	0	4.8275	1.03	0.74				0.677	0.042	0.883
<i>Bifidobacterium</i>											
WK2	0.1	0.4	0.51	20.39	4.64	0.65	0.2	0.47	0.982	0.141	0.05

WK4	1.2775	0	0	9.2175	2.3				0.997	0.634	0.997
WK6	0.485	0	8.7475	0	2.18				0.939	0.939	0.207
WK8	0.0725	0.2275	0	1.2525					0.788	0.75	0.9
<i>Faecalibacterium</i>											
WK2	3.79	0.8075	13.92	3.18	0.12	0.23	0.81	0.76	0.987	0.178	3.79
WK4	1.635	0.4775	3.2725	0.83					0.997	0.554	1.635
WK6	0	0	1.15	0.22					1	0.031	0
WK8	0	0	2.9575	0.73					1	0.183	0
<i>Lactobacillus</i>											
WK2	3.4225	2.5875	9.1125	2.48	1.7	0.51	<0.01	0.56	0.868	0.268	0.851
WK4	2.855	0	0	0	0.35				0.515	0.515	0.515
WK6	0	0	0	0							
WK8	0	0	0	0							
<i>Subdoligranulum</i>											
WK2	5.725	2.6075	8.79	0.225	2.48	0.67	0.15	0.95	0.681	0.686	0.471
WK4	0	1.1125	0	0.765	0.32				0.659	1	0.853
WK6	0	0	0	0	0				0.906	0.672	0.38
WK8	9.4	8.245	5.2375	0.6575	3.15						
<i>Tyzzarella</i>											
WK2	4.5425	7.145	0.28	4.25	1.92	0.59	0.06	0.86	0.659	0.474	0.96
WK4	0	1.0525	0	0	0.17				0.121	1	1
WK6	0.9175	0	0	2.915	0.74				0.679	0.679	0.374
WK8	0.3775	0.715	0.44	0	0.21				0.614	0.925	0.573
<i>Butyricicoccus</i>											

WK2	4.78	7.3975	1.76	1.735	1.83	0.62	0.01	0.85	0.632	0.609	0.578
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					1.00	1.00	1.00
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					1.00	1.00	1.00
WK8	0.0725	0.3275	0	0.1475	0.08				0.344	0.784	0.777
<i>Ruminococcus-2</i>											
WK2	0	3.6325	0.425	0.325	0.25	0.33	0.24	0.63	0.084	0.83	0.869
WK4	1.2175	3.7625	4.045	0	0.79				0.623	0.544	0.934
WK6	0	1.6225	0	0.6675	0.42				0.215	1	0.6
WK8	0	1.095	2.12	0.2125	0.54				0.499	0.202	0.895
<i>Dorea</i>											
WK2	2.15	3.565	3.1075	1.8725	1.1	0.96	<0.01	0.99	0.689	0.786	0.937
WK4	0	0	0	0					1.00	1.00	1.00
WK6	0	0	0	0					1.00	1.00	1.00
WK8	0.52	0.3575	0.34	0.215	0.16				0.764	0.74	0.575
<i>Ruminococcaceae_UCG005</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	<0.01	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
WK4	7.54	7.12	7.89	9.48	1.10				0.91	0.92	0.58
WK6	10.43	5.40	2.34	12.02	1.73				0.28	0.10	0.73
WK8	9.07	21.01	19.91	0.00	2.38				0.00	0.00	0.01
<i>norank_f_Muribaculaceae</i>											
WK2	2.97	0.01	0.00	2.37	0.62	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.10	0.10	0.72
WK4	4.79	4.58	5.59	2.28	0.92				0.94	0.78	0.38
WK6	14.24	2.12	0.72	6.59	1.97				0.02	0.01	0.11
WK8	15.86	5.95	7.05	0.01	1.63				0.00	0.00	0.00

<i>Ruminococcaceae_UCG-014</i>											
WK2	1.46	0.00	1.87	11.37	1.75	0.58	0.21	0.02	0.73	0.92	0.03
WK4	6.74	5.53	6.60	6.73	0.84				0.66	0.96	1.00
WK6	7.38	7.57	1.81	5.25	1.05				0.95	0.06	0.45
WK8	4.84	4.79	5.03	0.23	0.96				0.99	0.94	0.10
<i>Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group</i>											
WK2	0.16	0.01	0.00	1.55	0.39	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.89	0.889	0.23
WK4	5.99	9.87	3.46	1.31	1.72				0.43	0.61	0.35
WK6	4.45	5.91	0.00	8.75	1.25				0.64	0.16	0.18
WK8	21.59	3.15	3.62	0.00	2.30				0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Peptostreptococcus</i>											
WK2	0.07	32.31	0.07	0.00	4.16	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.00	1.00	0.99
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.39	0.35				1.00	1.00	0.18
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1	1	1
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.41	1.45				1.00	1.00	1
<i>[Ruminococcus]_gavreaii_grou</i>											
<i>p</i>											
WK2	1.54	0.02	0.27	1.60	0.39	0.47	<0.01	<0.01	0.18	0.26	0.95
WK4	4.76	2.44	4.07	6.70	0.87				0.36	0.78	0.44
WK6	0.36	4.33	5.44	1.76	0.68				0.01	0.00	0.32
WK8	0.00	0.49	0.46	0.78	0.23				0.49	0.52	0.28
<i>Olsenella</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.93	0.85	0.28	0.27	0.19	0.28	0.14	0.26	0.30	0.72
WK4	3.13	8.22	0.49	1.08	1.20				0.10	3.78	0.49



WK6	1.75	6.54	2.07	0.00	1.16				0.15	0.92	0.58
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.79	5.69	1.42				1.00	0.85	0.19
<i>[Eubacterium]_coprostanoligenes</i>											
<i>_group</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.70	0.17	0.67	0.29	0.62	0.99	1.00	0.17
WK4	1.08	2.61	3.51	0.65	0.60				0.37	0.17	0.80
WK6	0.49	0.57	0.00	3.75	0.47				0.93	0.58	0.00
WK8	1.13	2.02	2.33	0.00	0.28				0.10	0.03	0.04
<i>norank_f_Lachnospiraceae</i>											
WK2	3.11	0.53	13.31	0.32	3.22	0.43	0.27	0.53	0.78	0.29	0.77
WK4	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.14				0.08	1.00	1.00
WK6	0.00	2.99	1.92	0.00	0.60				0.08	0.25	1.00
WK8	0.00	0.37	0.28	1.11	0.17				0.40	0.52	0.02
<i>Romboutsia</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	0.44				1.00	1.00	0.06
WK4	0.00	4.63	4.61	5.96	1.61				0.35	0.35	0.23
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.84	2.49	0.46				1.00	0.49	0.06
WK8	0.00	2.37	1.93	0.00	0.74				0.30	0.39	1.00
<i>Ruminococcaceae_UCG-013</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
WK4	1.70	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.30				0.10	0.63	0.63
WK6	7.34	1.05	0.00	0.95	1.38				0.11	0.07	0.11
WK8	7.32	1.50	1.62	0.00	1.29				0.11	0.12	0.05
<i>Fusobacterium</i>											
						0.41	0.35	0.47			

WK2	0.00	14.40	0.77	0.00	3.57				0.18	0.94	1.00
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1.00	1.00	1.00
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1.00	1.00	1.00
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1.00	1.00	1.00
<i>[Ruminococcus]-torques-group</i>											
WK2	1.81	8.39	1.39	1.50	2.08	0.43	0.31	0.36	0.30	0.95	0.96
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1.00	1.00	1.00
WK6	0.00	1.33	6.48	0.00	1.61				0.78	0.19	1.00
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.14				1.00	1.00	0.00
Fungi											
<i>Aspergillus</i>											
WK2	1.49	45.93	13.75	37.66	6.60	0.39	0.01	0.91	0.01	0.43	0.03
WK4	54.17	65.28	20.32	50.05	5.05				0.21	0.00	0.63
WK6	44.27	47.72	30.49	74.38	6.82				0.84	0.44	0.11
WK8	52.00	62.77	59.47	26.36	4.47				0.20	0.37	0.01
<i>Thermomyces</i>											
WK2	0.00	18.06	5.03	12.48	4.92	0.38	0.61	0.18	0.24	0.74	0.41
WK4	1.18	0.67	4.77	4.04	0.80				0.81	0.11	0.20
WK6	0.32	18.51	0.96	0.27	3.73				0.10	0.95	0.10
WK8	5.53	0.01	0.03	16.78	2.82				0.44	0.45	0.13
<i>Saccharomyces</i>											
WK2	0.00 <sup>b</sup>	1.59 <sup>b</sup>	4.73 <sup>b</sup>	15.19 <sup>a</sup>	3.18	0.24	0.74	0.24	0.86	0.60	0.01
WK4	0.00	5.30	8.30	3.07	1.96				0.37	0.17	0.60
WK6	0.00	4.76	4.72	0.68	1.11				0.14	0.14	0.83

WK8	0.00	2.49	6.60	18.26	4.44				0.85	0.62	0.18
<i>Melanocarpus</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.21	2.53	16.11	2.94	0.90	0.51	0.57	0.98	0.74	0.05
WK4	1.71	0.00	11.76	2.51	1.54				0.60	0.01	0.80
WK6	0.96	2.68	0.10	0.18	0.43				0.13	0.44	0.48
WK8	2.54	0.09	0.01	20.04	2.79				0.67	0.66	0.01
<i>Cutaneotrichosporon</i>											
WK2	20.62	0.42	29.20	0.02	6.96	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.32	0.67	0.31
WK4	2.43	0.17	0.50	0.24	0.35				0.02	0.04	0.02
WK6	0.00	0.05	0.90	0.38	0.18				0.92	0.09	0.45
WK8	0.98	0.01	0.69	0.96	0.34				0.36	0.78	0.96
<i>Pichia</i>											
WK2	46.78	1.08	0.00	0.00	7.99	0.49	0.13	0.73	0.04	0.03	0.03
WK4	0.00	3.37	0.47	0.02	0.84				0.19	0.85	0.99
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Wallemia</i>											
WK2	0.00	2.10	3.21	4.74	0.92	0.28	0.78	0.89	0.44	0.21	0.08
WK4	0.55	2.46	5.21	1.00	0.64				0.19	0.01	0.75
WK6	0.29	1.51	4.42	2.18	0.90				0.64	0.16	0.47
WK8	2.36	1.51	1.54	0.51	0.31				0.33	0.35	0.05
<i>Chrysosporium</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.03	0.07	1.70	0.29	0.79	0.29	0.60	0.97	0.92	0.03
WK4	0.87	0.00	0.00	12.12	2.28				0.89	0.89	0.08

WK6	7.23	3.47	1.09	0.31	1.81				0.49	0.27	0.21
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Acrostalagmus</i>											
WK2	2.31	7.47	0.79	1.13	1.78	0.05	0.50	0.71	0.34	0.77	0.82
WK4	1.79	0.27	5.77	0.08	0.98				0.55	0.13	0.50
WK6	5.05	1.36	0.18	0.00	1.26				0.33	0.20	0.19
WK8	0.70	0.15	0.03	0.72	0.22				0.41	0.32	0.98
<i>Microascus</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.62	0.01	0.30	0.16	0.64	<0.01	0.68	0.20	0.99	0.54
WK4	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.49	0.09				0.09	1.00	0.03
WK6	3.69	0.07	0.33	1.73	0.70				0.08	0.10	0.32
WK8	2.89	5.26	2.67	0.33	0.77				0.26	0.92	0.22
<i>Nigrospora</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.47	0.47	0.90	0.21	0.04	0.23	0.20	0.45	0.45	0.16
WK4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
WK6	3.27	0.97	0.97	0.24	0.81				0.35	0.35	0.23
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Kazachstania</i>											
WK2	0.00	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.71	0.11	0.29	0.03	1.00	1.00
WK4	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.07				0.84	0.84	0.26
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.82				1.00	0.04	1.00
WK8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>unclassified_c_Sordariomycetes</i>											
WK2	0.00	1.40	3.32	2.20	0.78	0.45	0.26	0.76	0.55	0.17	0.35

WK4	1.01	10.96	3.05	6.63	1.90				0.08	0.70	0.30
WK6	10.48	1.60	2.64	2.88	1.47				0.03	0.05	0.06
WK8	4.61	2.94	2.86	1.52	0.84				0.52	0.50	0.24
<i>unclassified_f_Plectosphaerellaceae</i>											
WK2	0.06	0.23	3.17	0.78	0.61	0.65	0.23	0.31	0.92	0.08	0.67
WK4	0.17	2.09	0.00	2.31	0.54				0.22	0.91	0.18
WK6	0.77	0.83	0.15	1.21	0.31				0.95	0.52	0.65
WK8	9.34	4.27	5.10	0.20	1.72				0.31	0.39	0.08
<i>unclassified_k_Fungi</i>											
WK2	0.25	3.25	0.38	0.93	1.02	0.80	0.02	0.63	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
WK4	2.68	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.58				0.12	0.11	0.11
WK6	0.48	0.70	22.05	0.21	5.43				0.99	0.19	0.99
WK8	1.30	0.86	0.43	0.34	0.24				0.53	0.24	0.20
<i>unclassified_f_Sporormiaceae</i>											
WK2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.85	0.91	1	1	1
WK4	9.51	0.23	0.41	2.22	1.63				0.05	0.05	0.10
WK6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				1	1	1
WK8	3.39	0.83	1.22	0.01	0.85				0.33	0.40	0.20

<sup>a-b</sup> The values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ), while values with the same or no superscripts mean no significant difference ( $P > 0.05$ ).

<sup>1</sup>Treatments: C = no supplementation (control); T1 = 0.5 g/calf/day; T2 = 1 g/calf/day; T3 = 2 g/calf/day.

<sup>2</sup>SEM = Standard error of mean.

T