

FEEDING

- Early weaning and poor growth rates (pre and post weaning) can lead to lower milk yields (1000-1200L) per lactation, increasing calving interval (10-30days) and 1 less lactation.
- Water quality can at worst be a source of infection or at the very least limit dry feed intake and performance. Quantity is also important especially as dry feed intakes increase
- Fresh dry feed should be offered from 1 week of age



Recommendations

Feed milk replacer for at least 8 weeks and offer Shine calf feeds adlib for at least the first 16 weeks. Limit roughage intake to straw regardless of how good and palatable hay, haylage or silage is. Test water quality once a year and ensure calves have access to fresh water 24hrs a day.

WEANING

- Weaning calves early can reduce long term performance
- Ensure calves are eating 1 ½ KGs of dry feed/day before weaning
- A staged weaning reduces nutritional stress
- Don't let straw/hay replace milk replacer after weaning

Recommendation

Wean by feeding once a day for 7-14 days and by reducing the volume feed each day. Increase the availability of concentrates, water and roughage before commencing to wean



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COLOSTRUM

A lack of colostrum affects health, growth rates, milk yield and the number of lactations a heifer calf is likely to achieve more than any other factor after birth.



- Heifer colostrum is poor compared to mature cow colostrum
- Holstein colostrum has only 50% of the antibody protection of beef cow colostrum (Table 1) As milk yield increase colostrum quality declines.
- Calves that receive insufficient colostrum have to use energy and protein from their feed to fight disease instead of using it for growth and development.
- Feeding high levels of Iodine to dry cows significantly reduces the calf's ability to absorb colostrum antibodies.

Table 1 1st milking colostrum Ig (mg/ml) concentration

Cow breed	IgG1(mg/ml)
Charolais	159
Limousin X Friesian	170
Simmental X Friesian (X Friesian)	168
Holstein X Friesian	83

Recommendations

All calves need to drink, or preferably suckle, up to 8L of colostrum in the 1st 24hrs of life. Ensure cows udders are clean to minimise infection and help calves find a teat. If a herd is closed and free from viral or Johnes infection frozen colostrum can be used for feeding to heifer calves. Mature (5-year-old) crossbreed cows produce the best colostrum for freezing. Use a pre-calving mineral to improve colostrum quality.

MILK OR MILK REPLACER

Milk replacer prevents the spread of certain viral diseases as well as Johnes disease in a herd. Many of these diseases effect the long term health and fertility of the cows in a herd and feeding pooled non pasteurised milk is a primary cause of the spread of these diseases.

Recommendation

Always use milk replacer to rear heifers and only use waste milk for bull calves (non-breeding) if over quota.



SHINE range- the only milk replacer to look after their long-term health and your long-term wealth

Shine is made with a wide range of milk ingredients including butter and skim milk powder. We also use whey protein, concentrated milk lactoserum and whey. All ingredients are co dried to ensure easy mixing, maximum protein digestibility and uniformity. Shine is the number 1 easy mixing product in Europe and has received awards for it's dedication to quality.



SHINE

Your flexible friend for twice a day and machine feeding. Containing the ingredients listed above no other powder can match the benefits of feeding Shine. Designed for maximising growth with high index calves. Calves can be pushed to ensure high performance from day.



SHINE Once a Day

The pioneer of once a day feeding and with butter and skim milk powder, it can be fed with water or milk to reduce your work-load but not compromise the calf.



SHINE Complete

The choices for calf rearers and machine users to ensure maximum intakes of dry feed, high weaning weights and minimum problems- ideally suited to twice a day feed or through machines.

FEEDING SYSTEMS

Once a day

Calves can introduced from 4 days of age to this system and trials have shown that calves are more content, bedding is dryer, and concentrate intakes increase by up to 20% compared with twice a day feeding.

Important

Ensure calves have access to water, concentrates and straw at all times.

Twice a day

Ideal for the 1st 6-7 weeks of age and ensures calves are closely monitored. Trials have shown that calves can be fed 12-13 times/week with no ill effects and if anything less nutritional scour.

Important

Ensure calves have access to water, concentrates and straw at all times.

Machine feeding

The issue to be most aware of is housing. Adlib feed calves drink up to 12-15L of liquid/day and if drainage or airflow is impeded problem such as pneumonia will persist in this environment. Disease can also be spread by the sharing of a common teat by a pen of calves. Weaning calves should be done by reducing the access to the machine over 7-14 days

Important

Ensure calves are eating at least 1 ½ KGs of dry feed before weaning.

Computerised feeders

Again housing and pen design is important. Having a nested bedded and unbedded (feeding) area in an airy house is important.

Important

Ensure feeding programme meets calves needs when they are young and also as they get older.

Recommendations

Discuss your housing, technical ability, labour and herd health issues with our Calf Nutrition Doctor before your start your peak calving period every year.