

REARING HEALTHY CALVES FOR THE HIGHEST MILK PRODUCTION



Rearing a calf is investing in your herd's future. To make your calf a highly productive cow, you need to provide it with the best possible nutrition. De Heus nutritional products and advice support you in creating strong and vital calves which are ready for a long-lasting and highly productive life.

BENEFITS

- Improved calf health
- Lower rearing costs
- Healthy, well-developed cows
- Reduced age at first calving
- Higher lifetime milk production

The nutritional instructions in table 1 summarize the key nutritional needs from birth up to calving. The first phase is crucial to calf health and growth in future. Good colostrum management can help to ensure your calf makes a healthy start to life. Providing sufficient high-quality colostrum boosts immunity and reduces the risk of diarrhoea. During the first three days provide the calf with colostrum from its own mother. Provide at least two litres of colostrum as soon as possible after birth, as antibodies from the colostrum are absorbed best just after birth.

AFTER BIRTH	FEED
1-3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 liter colostrum directly after calving- At least 4 liter colostrum per day.
>12 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Calf milk replacer as per CMR feeding instruction table 2.- Ad libitum water and calf feed- Offer hay and/or straw starting week 2- Ensure a minimum of 1.5 kg calf feed intake at weaning
> 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ad libitum water and good quality hay or straw- 3 kg calf feed per day. Increase if body condition is poor.
6 months till calving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heifer feed, 3 kg per day. Increase if body condition is poor.

Table 1: Calf nutrition instructions from birth up to calving

Calf feed can be prepared through mixing De Heus dairy concentrate according to the calf feed mixing instructions. These calf feed mixing instructions can be found on our website in the calves section: <https://www.deheus.co.ke/animal-nutrition/feed-types/young-animal-feed>.

HOW TO USE THE DE HEUS CALF MILK REPLACER?

As mentioned in the calf nutrition instructions, you can switch to De Heus Calf Milk Replacer at day four. To know how much CMR solution to feed to your calves please follow the guidelines for your calves as shown in the calf milk replacer feeding instruction.

AFTER BIRTH	CMR SOLUTION IN LITRES/ CALF
Day 1-3	Colostrum 2x2
Days 4-7	4-5
Week 2	5
Week 3	6
Week 4	6
Week 5	6
Week 6	6
Week 7	6
Week 8	5
Week 9	4
Week 10	3
Week 11	3 (2 x 1.5)
Week 12	1.5 (1 x 1.5)

Table 2: Calf Milk Replacer Feeding instruction



To make sure you get the most out of your De Heus CMR for your calves please follow the instructions below for the preparation of the calf milk replacer solution.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MILK PREPARATION

- Always use clean equipment.
- Check the feeding instruction table for the right amount of CMR to be prepared.
- Weigh 150 grams of CMR powder and add water to make a total of 1 liter. Weigh the correct amount of CMR and add water to reach the required amount of milk.
- Warm up the water to 45-50 °C, ensure never to exceed 70 °C. Use a thermometer.
- Mix thoroughly until the CMR powder is fully dissolved.
- Ensure the feeding temperature of the CMR solution is 41 °C, by using a thermometer.
- Clean buckets and teat buckets carefully after each use.

EACH FARM IS UNIQUE

Every farm has its own goals, challenges and raw materials. De Heus ensures high-quality De Heus CMR and dairy concentrates are available in shops across the country.

Please talk to our farm advisors for more information and advice.

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