



UK Dairy farmers are wasting a significant number of their dairy replacements. Kingshay reported recently that 14% of dairy herd culls are 1st lactation heifers. With the current cost of replacements being £1,500-£2000 it may be time to focus on calf and heifer rearing. Weight at calving has a direct influence on milk production and on the cow's ability to show her genetic potential. It is important that every heifer should succeed, and any surplus stock could make a useful addition to the milk cheque. High health status heifers in particular will always attract a premium.

A well fed calf is a healthy calf

Calves do well on whole milk but there are risks of disease carry-over to heifer calves retained for breeding and whole milk can also be inconsistent and needs warming up. Weak heifers and Friesian bulls do better on high quality milk substitute whilst older calves will thrive on cheaper milk powders. It is important to choose a milk powder that is based on skim or whey powder and highly digestible fats and oils. Feeding rates can be adjusted to target specific daily liveweight gains. Milk powder costs approximately 15p/litre mixed which can save £15/calf over whole milk.



**HARPER
ADAMS**
University College

Recent Wynnstay sponsored trials at Harper Adams University College, showed the total feed costs of rearing a calf to 12 weeks of age to be around £70/calf.

If labour is scarce, it maybe worth considering an ad-lib, warm milk machine. Machine hire can be arranged for a one-off payment of £150. An increasing number of rearers are now looking at computerised feeders which are very economical on milk powder and can be set to achieve different target growth rates. Weaning is also a controlled process and minimises the 'post-weaning' check. Machines will rear from 40 up to 100 calves in a batch. Please ask for advice.



Minimise stress, maximise performance

- Stress is caused by poor housing, poor feeding and poor management, any of which will trigger calf disease
- Calves are on a 'see-saw' – with stress and challenges from bugs at one end and immunity at the other
- Every effort should be made to improve the calf's immunity
- Adequate colostrum is of utmost importance
- Vitamins and probiotics will also boost the calf's immunity
- Reducing the challenge from pathogens is of equal importance



- Sunlight is the cheapest disinfectant but Sorgene 5 is a very broad spectrum disinfectant and will even kill ringworm spores
- Stalosan F kills coccidiosis, E Coli and other pathogens and will also keep the bedding fresh and dry

CALF FEEDS AND SUNDRIES – available from Wynnstay Stores

Wynngold Calf Milk Powders ~ high quality protein, fats & oils; instant; highly digestible
& **British made**



- Rich Cream ~ skim, Greenline gut enhancer, Protimax, high vitamin E
- Bloom ~ whey, Greenline gut enhancer, Protimax, high vitamin E
- Enerlac ~ whey, Gardion gut enhancer (freeflow version also)
- Thrive ~ whey, Greenline gut enhancer, Protimax

Calf Feeding Machines

- Volac ad-lib ~ available to rent or buy
- Holme & Laue computerised feeder ~ available to buy; built to order
- Urban computerised feeder ~ available to buy; built to order
- Forster Technik



Calf Starter Feeds

- Start 'n' Wean pellets ~ 4mm pellet. 25kg bags; 500kg tote bags; bulk
- Super Krunch coarse mixture ~ 25kg bags



Electrolytes

- Effydral; Life Aid Extra; Provita Prolyte; Teisan Vegelyte; Diarex; Volac Anti-Scour Gold

Calf Sundries in stock

Speedy-feeder (3-speed, 2 litre milk bottle + teat) - ideal for feeding colostrum - quick, effective

Stomach bags

10%, Strong Iodine (in spirit) for navels

Milk warmer (electric wand to warm up cold milk)

Multi buckets

Spare teats

Whisks

Thermometers

Teat bar units for ad lib feeding

'Recovery' ringworm spray

Glucose

Liquid paraffin

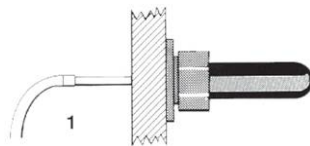
Probiotics – e.g. 'Provita Calf Response'; Pyes 'Bodyguard' Bolus

Lignocaine anaesthetic

Ritchey gas dehorner and Express gas dehorner (cordless, runs on lighter fuel)

Traditional propane gas dehorner

'Septicleanse' purple spray for dehorning



Wynnstay – supplying all the needs of calf rearers

for prices or advice, speak with your local Wynnstay Store or Representative or::

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