



How much concentrates should your calves be eating?

Your calves should have access to clean and palatable starter concentrates from the time they are three days of age, in order to encourage the eating of concentrates. From three weeks of age, calves should begin to eat considerable amounts of starter concentrates. From then on, the higher the amount of milk fed, the lower the amount of concentrates they will consume.

Introducing roughage, in the form of hay or straw, and having access to fresh water should be coincided with the gradual feeding of coarse ration or pellets.

The calf starter on the farm should be palatable, so that the calf is willing to eat the ration from a young age. The ration needs to be of high quality, so that it is highly digestible in energy and protein and contains the necessary amount of other nutrients.

When it comes to feeding calves concentrates from a young age, farmers should realise that in order to stimulate the consumption of the calf starter, less is more. Ration should be left in front of calves in a bucket or a shallow trough once they have finished their milk, so they can 'nose around' the bucket and be curious. However, the ration that is fed each day needs to be kept fresh, with the stale, older stuff fed to calves who are already eating a good bit of meal.

By two weeks of age, the allocation should be increased to two handfuls to encourage consumption while not overwhelming the calves or wasting feed – overfeeding can lead to digestive upsets and scouring. Once the calf gets a taste for concentrates, it should be a gradual process, increasing the amount allocated by a small bit each week, with calves consuming at the very least 1kg of concentrates daily by the time of weaning.

However in order for this process to happen and be successful, there are number of variables that should be considered that affect the starter intake of calves, as follows:

- The milk feeding programme – the amount being fed and the protein and fat percentage of the milk replacer
- Water intake/availability
- Calf starter formulation and its physical form
- Calf genetics, gender, and birth weight
- Calf housing, management, and environmental conditions
- The quality of the calf starter concentrate – dusty, mouldy, off-flavours will reduce the palatability.



Weaning should only take place when calves are consuming at least 1kg of starter concentrates for at least 3 days. This will happen at approximately 8 weeks of age provided there is adequate concentrate available for consumption. Where calves have access to milk ad-lib, there is less need for them to consume the starter concentrate to meet their nutritional requirements. Consequently, the weaning process needs to be delayed until the 12th week to allow concentrate intake to increase sufficiently to allow weaning to commence.

In order to promote growth and maintain health, calf rations must have energy for growth and daily function; protein for all basic metabolic processes; fibre for rumen function; vitamins for bone formation and disease resistance; and minerals for carbohydrate metabolism, cartilage, and muscle function.



Coarse Calf Starter

Get your calves off to the best possible start!



- An excellent feed formulated to ensure the best possible start for young calves
- Palatable feed that contains 18% crude protein
- Contains toasted flaked Barley, Maize and Beans to improve texture and palatability. This helps to achieve high intakes, support rumen development and prepares the calf for weaning
- Provides the correct balance of minerals and vitamins to support the immune system and ensure good development and strong bones
- Contains Buffers and Acti-Saf live yeast to encourage intakes and stabilise rumen pH
- Contains Panatec, which enhances rumen function, improves gut health, and acts as an aid in the prevention of Coccidiosis
- Available in Bulk & Minibulk

Greenline Calf Starter Cubes are an 18% crude protein wholegrain calf feed that combines the benefits of coarse and nuts in our new "Crunchy" pelleted form.

- Aids early development of the immune system and digestive tract
- Fully fortified with minerals and vitamins to promote bone growth and development
- Reduces lactic acid accumulation – reducing incidence of bloat
- Contains Buffers and Acti-Saf live yeast to encourage intakes and stabilise rumen pH
- Stimulates calves to consume feed earlier and encourage papillae growth
- Contains Panatec, which enhances rumen function, improves gut health, and acts as an aid in the prevention of Coccidiosis
- Available in Bulk, Minibulk & 25kg bags

Greenline Calf Starter

The number 1 choice for your calves this season.



Contact your local Bandon Co-op Sales Representative or nearest Retail Centre to place your order and ensure your calves get the best start this year!

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