

A Calva Calf Care Series Product<sup>SM</sup>

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## **OPTIMUM GROWTH PROGRAM FOR HOLSTEIN HEIFERS**

THIS PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 3 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS:

1. THE CALF MILK REPLACER – A CMR THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO SUPPLY HIGH PROTEIN, A BALANCED RATIO OF ESSENTIAL AMINO ACIDS TO METABOLIZABLE ENERGY, A BALANCED FATTY ACID PROFILE AND OPTIMAL MINERALS AND VITAMINS TO ALLOW FOR AN ACCELERATED GROWTH.
2. THE FEEDING PROGRAM – THE FEEDING PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A GRADUAL BUT PROGRESSIVE INCREASE IN NUTRIENTS SO THAT THE CALF CAN GROW TO ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL. DO NOT FORGET THAT FREE ACCESS TO WATER IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM TO SUCCEED.
3. CALF MANAGEMENT – THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IS MANAGEMENT OF THE CALF.

### **FEEDING PROGRAM**

1. FEED CALVES 3 QUARTS OF HIGH QUALITY COLOSTRUM WITHIN 1 HOUR OF BIRTH. FEED AN ADDITIONAL 3 QUARTS OF HIGH QUALITY COLOSTRUM WITHIN 12 HOURS OF BIRTH.
2. MIX CALF MILK REPLACER WITH HOT WATER IN THE RANGE OF 125°-140° FAHRENHEIT FOR ½ OF THE WATER NEEDED. ADD THE MILK REPLACER POWDER TO THIS HOT WATER AND MIX THOROUGHLY. WHILE MIXING ADD COOLER WATER IN THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO REACH THE DESIRED VOLUME AND ACHIEVE PROPER FEEDING TEMPERATURE. DO NOT OVER-MIX THIS MILK REPLACER. THE HIGHER PROTEIN CAN CAUSE MORE FOAMING, WHICH MAY MAKE FILLING BOTTLES MORE DIFFICULT.
3. STARTING ON DAY 2 PROVIDE THE CALF ACCESS TO CLEAN, FRESH WATER AT ALL TIMES.
4. IF AN ESOPHAGEAL FEEDER IS USED, DO NOT FORCE FEED MORE THAN ONE FEEDING PER DAY. NOT ALL CALVES WILL BE ABLE TO CONSUME THE FULL AMOUNT OF MILK REPLACER OFFERED EVERY DAY. IF A CALF DOES NOT EAT ALL THE MILK REPLACER OFFERED REDUCE THE AMOUNT OFFERED THE NEXT FEEDING OR SKIP A FEEDING.
5. HEIFERS THAT WEIGH LESS THAN 80 POUNDS AT BIRTH SHOULD BE FED ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE THAT IS ½ QUART LESS THAN THE REGULAR FEEDING SCHEDULE.

CONTINUED

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#### FEEDING PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

6. FEED A HIGH QUALITY STARTER FEED (MINIMUM 22% CRUDE PROTEIN) ON A FREE-CHOICE BASIS TO EACH CALF BEGINNING ABOUT DAY 5. ENSURE THAT STARTER IS FRESH BY CHANGING IT DAILY. CONTINUE FEEDING 22% STARTER TO ABOUT 12 WEEKS OF AGE. BEGIN FEEDING A HIGH QUALITY GROWER FEED (MINIMUM 18% CRUDE PROTEIN) AT ABOUT 12 WEEKS OF AGE AND CONTINUE FEEDING THROUGH APPROXIMATELY 22 WEEKS OF AGE. DO NOT OFFER HAY UNTIL CALF HAS BEEN WEANED.
7. CALVES FED ON THIS PROGRAM MAY HAVE A STOOL THAT IS MORE WATERY THAN TRADITIONAL FEEDING PROGRAMS. DO NOT USE ANTIBIOTICS TO TREAT WATERY STOOLS THAT ARE CAUSED BY ACCELERATED FEEDING. USE OTHER MANAGEMENT TOOLS SUCH AS BISMUSAL SOLUTIONS OR OTHER ADDITIVES DESIGNED TO REDUCE WATERY STOOLS. CONSULT YOUR SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
8. THERE IS INFORMATION INDICATING A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO VACCINATING CALVES AGAINST 'CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS' TYPES C & D WHEN FED THE OPTIMUM GROWTH PROGRAM.
9. FOLLOW THE FEEDING SCHEDULE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE.

#### CALF MANAGEMENT

1. CALVES MUST BE CLOSELY MONITORED ON A REGULAR BASIS AS DIFFERENCES IN SIZE, WEIGHT AND HEALTH MAY REQUIRE PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS.
2. ENSURE THAT THE CALF BIRTHING AREA IS CLEAN, DRY AND SANITIZED BEFORE EACH USE.
3. CALF NAVELS SHOULD BE DIPPED IN TINCTURE OF IODINE AS SOON AFTER BIRTH AS POSSIBLE.
4. STARTING ON DAY 2 PROVIDE THE CALF ACCESS TO CLEAN, FRESH WATER AT ALL TIMES.
5. EQUIPMENT USED TO MIX AND FEED MILK REPLACER (INCLUDING BUCKETS, BOTTLES AND NIPPLES) MUST BE CLEANED BETWEEN FEEDINGS. USE HOT WATER (160° F) AND A SOAP CAPABLE OF DISSOLVING FATS AND OILS. SANITIZE WITH A CHLORINATED WATER SOLUTION AFTER CLEANING.
6. CALVES CAN BE WEANED WHEN THEY ARE CONSUMING 1 ½ TO 2 POUNDS (1% OF BODY WEIGHT) OF STARTER PER DAY FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. WHEN MILK REPLACER HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONCE PER DAY FEEDING, CALVES SHOULD BE FED IN THE MORNING.