

## Milk Replacer Feeding Guidelines

- Feed Colostrum for first 4 days at 10% of bodyweight e.g. 4.5L/day/45kg calf.
- Feed cow's milk until 7 days of age, at 10% of bodyweight.
- Milk replacer can be introduced abruptly at 7 days of age.
- Bought-in calves should receive an electrolyte solution as a first feed.
- Provide clean long roughage and water to appetite at all times.
- Provide palatable concentrate fresh daily to appetite from 7 days of age.
- Wean when consistently eating at least 1kg/day concentrates.
- Provide concentrates to appetite until at least two weeks after weaning.
- Concentrates can be limit-fed twice per day for older calves.

### Restricted feeding, twice-a-day

- To feed at 12.5% solids (125g/Litre), equivalent to whole milk:-  
Mix 1kg up to 8 Litres, or mix 1.25 Lbs up to 1 Gallon.  
Mix a 20kg bag up to 160 Litres or 35 Gallons.
- To feed at 10% solids:-  
Mix 1kg up to 10 Litres, or mix 1Lb up to 1 Gallon.  
Mix a 20kg bag up to 200 Litres or 44 Gallons.
- Add powder to warm 40C water, whisk immediately, and feed at max 37C.
- Feed milk at approx 10% bodyweight per day split into two equal feeds.  
Example: 45kg calf, 4.5L/day (1 gal), split into two feeds of 2.25L (half gal).

### Restricted feeding, once-a-day

- Once-a-day feeding is possible from 2 weeks of age to cut labour.
- Mix 1kg powder up to 6 litres and feed approx 3L/day.

### Machine ad lib

- Mix a 20kg bag up to 200 Litres (44 gallons) or set machine to 10%.
- Start at 7% (20kg bag makes 285 L) and build up to 10% over first week.

### Mixing with cow's milk

- Ideally, modern milk replacers should be fed alone, not mixed with cow's milk.
- Milk replacers can be mixed with cow's milk if the mixing ratio is constant.
- Gain Easi-Mix and cow's milk are digested differently by the calf.
- Cow's milk contains Casein milk protein which is digested by forming a curd.
- Gain Easi-Mix contains Whey milk protein which forms no curd.
- Feeding varying ratios of milk replacer and cow's milk will lead to scour.
- Gain Shine is a skim based milk replacer and is digested in the same way as cows milk