Concentrates for the Calf

• Early concentrate intake is critical for high calf health and performance.

• The development of the rumen is stimulated by dry food intake.

• After the milk feed is drank, place a small amount of concentrate in the bucket.

• This will encourage concentrate intake as the calf will 'nose around' in the bucket.

• Change available concentrate daily, thereby keeping available concentrate fresh.

• Use a measure for dispensing concentrate, as it prevents overfeeding.

• Overfeeding concentrate causes digestive upsets and scouring.

• Increase concentrate gradually and watch that dungs do not loosen too much.

• The dispensing measure will also serve as a check for loss of appetite.

• Feeding a source of roughage will encourage and enhance rumen development.
- Do not feed mouldy or musty roughage, it must be fresh and clean.

- Either hay or straw will work but they must be clean.

- 'Pot Bellied' calves arise when concentrate is underfed.

- The calf is hungry so it eats too much roughage.

- Concentrate intake and water intake are closely related.

- Lack of water will restrict concentrate intake.

- The rumen microbes need water to develop and thrive.

- Fresh and clean water should be available, even for baby calves.

- GAIN Startacalf stimulates early concentrate intake.

- GAIN Startacalf is a highly palatable and nutritious starter muesli.

**GAIN Startacalf ensures a good start for the young calf**