



Concentrates for the Calf

- Early concentrate intake is critical for high calf health and performance.
- Although born with four stomachs, only the abomasum is truly functional.
- The abomasum is also known as the true stomach in the very young calf.
- The development of the rumen is stimulated by dry food intake.
- After the milk feed is drunk 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.
- 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 highly palatable and nutritious starter muesli.

GAIN Startacalf ensures a good start for the young calf