

- Increase grass with age and reduce milk intake.

8. WATER

- Fresh clean water must be available at all times. Lack of water will decrease the calf's intake of dry feeds (concentrates and grass) and thus slow down its growth.

9. HEALTH

- Keep the calf-shed floor, walls and feeding buckets/troughs hygienically clean at all times.
- Keep an ample supply of Scour ban and Vytrates for quick treatment of scouring calves. Contact your livestock officer as early as possible when calves get sick.
- Watch for Bloody scours – this is a serious problem with calves and should be diagnosed early for effective treatment.
- Take faecal samples of unthrifty calves and send to the veterinary laboratory for analysis to determine types of scours/ worms.
- Calves should be dehorned at 3-4 weeks.

10. WEANING

- With proper weaning and care you can wean your calves outdoors after morning feed in the last week of weaning to condition the calves to outdoor environment.
- Friesian and Friesian Cross calves should weigh about 80kg at weaning. Smaller breeds: 70 – 75kg.

11. AFTER WEANING

- Give the best grazing paddocks to young calves.
- Rotationally graze calves on a 28-day rotation.
- Continue concentrate feeding up until 1 year of age.
- Drench calves for worm once a month. Select heifers for replacements.
- Friesian heifers should be mated at 280kg this reach weight at 15– 18 months.

12. RECORD

Identify the calf at birth (plastic tag, metal tag) and keep the following records:

- Date of birth
- ID of DAM and SIRE
- Birth weight
- Weaning weight
- Age at first calving

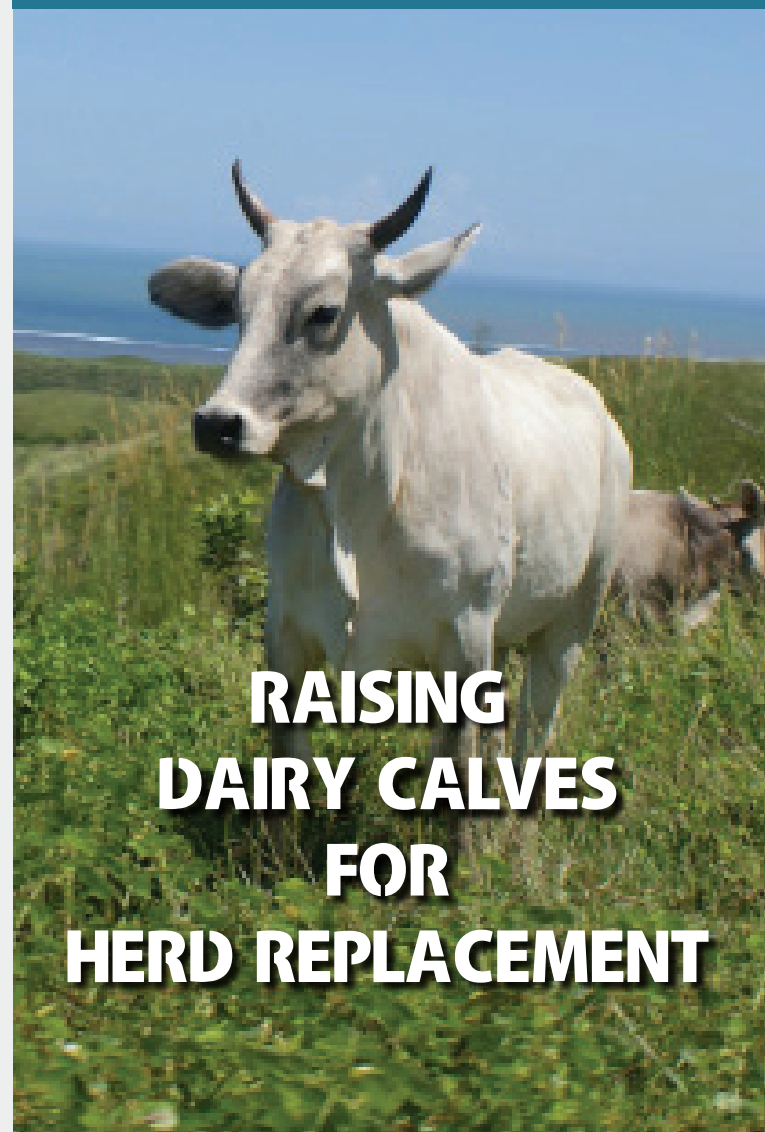
The records will help you to select the best calves for replacements.



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Ministry of Agriculture



RAISING DAIRY CALVES FOR HERD REPLACEMENT

1. NUTRITION AND CARE OF COW IN LATE PREGNANCY

Provide good nutrition for the cow in the last 3 months of pregnancy. Requirements for energy and protein in the last 2 months of pregnancy increases by 30% and 80% respectively over maintenance requirement. At this stage the cow should be dry. A cow should calve at a body condition score of 6 – 7. A well-fed and rested cow (2 – 3 months dry) should produce a healthy calf.

2. CARE OF NEW BORN CALF

- Closely supervised calving in case the cow needs help in delivery. Ensure that the calf breathes and moves normally.
- A calf should drink about 20litres of colostrum milk. Colostrum milk should be pasturized before use.
- It is virtually important that the calf receives one feeding of the first colostrums as early as possible after birth preferably during the first 30 minutes, but not later than 6 hours.
- It is important that colostrums enters



- the digestive tract before any materials (mulch, grass etc). Give all the colostrums from the cow to its calf.
- Excess colostrums can be fed to other calves or stored (deep-frozen) for later use.

3. CALF REARING TILL WEANING

- Calves should be kept dry during heavy rains.
- Calves should be housed in a specially constructed calf shed (your livestock officer can help you with design and site)

4. MILK FEEDING

- Hand-reared calves are normally fed individually in buckets (Group feeding in specially designed Calf feeders can also be used). Fresh milk or Calf Milk Replacer can be used.

5. AMOUNT OF MILK

- Use the general rule of feeding 10% of its body weight. A normal calf birth weight is 30kg so start with 3 litres of

milk and increase as the calf gains weight.

- At 2 weeks from weaning, reduce milk intake, down to 0.
- Introduce grass and water as early to develop rumen.
- A calf would normally drink 450litres of milk by the time it is weaned at 3 months. (see feeding schedule over leaf)

6. CONCERNTRATES

- A concerntrate of 20% Crude Protein should be fed – use coconut meal or special Calf Meal.
- Start feeding from 2 weeks of age at 100 grams per day and increase according to consumption.
- At weaning a calf's concerntrate intake should be 1kg per day.

7. ROUGHAGE

- Introduce grass from 2 weeks of age (cut from 'clean' uncontaminated paddocks).

