



Feeding Bucket Calves

Feeding Bucket Calves



Nutrition Program for Bucket Calves

♣ NutraBlend 22-20 Milk Replacer

Non-medicated, all-milk, milk replacer for orphaned baby calves.

- Meets the requirements of baby calves from 4 days of age through weaning.
- Designed for easy mixing with water.
- Provides 22.0 % Protein and 20.0 % Fat.

♣ BabyCalf ShowFlake Starter 18% (D2700TP)

Texturized, sweet feed, for starting baby calves on grain.

- Offer free-choice as soon as calves will nibble dry feed (~7 days of age).
- Boosted protein level to support the growth and health needs of baby calves.
- Grain-based feed (with low fiber level), designed to aid in the development of the calves' small, immature, rumen.
- Once calves are weaned from milk-replacer, gradually increase feeding rate to 6-7 lbs daily along with good-quality hay.
- Provides 18.0 % Protein, 4.0 % Fat, 9.5 % Fiber.

♣ Star*Shine 26 % Protein Pellets (X2924BP)

A rotein supplement pellet for baby calves.

- A highly-palatable milk protein (whey), mineral, and vitamin supplement that can be top-dressed on a calves' starter grain.
- Offer to calves when increased feed intake and weight gain is desired.
- Provides 26.0 % Protein, and 4.0 % Fat.

For a Growth and Performance Boost, mix:

9 parts

BabyCalf ShowFlake Starter 18%

1 part

*Star*Shine 26% Protein Pellets*

Newborn Calves

A newborn calf is unable to produce its own antibodies (immunoglobulins) for the first few weeks after birth. Fortunately, a newborn calf can absorb antibodies from the colostrum of a healthy cow. For this reason, newborn calves must be fed 3 quarts of colostrum within an hour after birth, through at least the first 3 days of life (continued at 12-hour intervals). Rule of thumb: Starting on day 4, begin offering orphan calves milk replacer at the rate of 10% of their body weight (split into two feedings per day). Always provide free-access to fresh, clean water.

Starting Calves on Grain

Baby calves should be given milk replacer during the first month or two of life. In addition to milk, calves should be offered free access to a calf starter grain ~7 days of age. Rule of Thumb: calves can be weaned from milk replacer as soon as they are eating 2-3 lbs of dry feed for 3 consecutive days (this might happen as early as 1 month of age). Good-quality hay can be introduced once they show signs of a functioning rumen. Calves will appear to "chew bubble gum" (chew their cud) when the rumen is ready for hay. Hand-feed calves up to 6-7 lbs/hd/day + hay after weaning.

Feeding Chart for Bucket Calves

Calf Age	Which Feed to Offer	Approximate Amount to Feed	How to Feed
Newborn (1-3 days of age)	Colostrum from cow	3 quarts / 12 hour period	Cow / Bottle
Orphan (4 - 7 days of age)	NutraBlend 22-20 Milk Replacer	10% of BW / day	Bucket / Bottle
7 days old - Weaning	NutraBlend 22-20 Milk Replacer + BabyCalf ShowFlake Starter 18%	Milk Replacer: same as above Grain: ≤ 3 lbs / day	Provide grain Free-Choice
Weaning (1-2 months)	BabyCalf ShowFlake Starter 18%	3 to 7 lbs / day	Hand-Feed

NOTES: Feeding values provided are simply a guide and may not be suitable for every animal. Use the feeding chart as a recommendation where feeding rates may be adjusted for each individual calf. Provide fresh, clean water at all times.