

CALF 911

BOTTLE FEEDING CALVES



COLOSTRUM

Volume: Feed 2L.

Timing: Feed as soon as possible after birth—ideally within the first two hours of life.

Quality: Home sourced is best, but if not available use a trusted commercial product with at least 100g IgG per feeding.



CONSISTENCY

Volume: Follow mixing instructions from the manufacturer. Mix powder into half of the volume of warm water, then top up to remaining volume.

Mixing: No lumps or unmixed powder.

Timing: Feed calves at the same time interval every day.



CONDITIONING

Water: Access to clean water will increase feed intake and provide necessary hydration.

Calf Starter: Calves' stomachs need to transition from single stomach digestion to a four chamber digestion system. Providing a fresh calf starter feed mix will help stimulate rumen activity.

Hay: Offer good quality green hay. Look for plenty of alfalfa leaves and new grass stems. Avoid coarse, mature or dusty hay.

Weaning: Weaning can occur when a calf eats two pounds of calf starter per day for three days in a row.



CLEANLINESS

Equipment: Wash all feeding equipment and allow to fully dry between uses. Inspect bottle nipples for damage and replace as needed.

Housing: Keep calves warm and dry with plenty of clean bedding.

Feed: Replace calf starter daily; never allow feed to become wet or contaminated. Hay should be high quality and free from dust or mold.

Water: Provide plenty of fresh clean water. Ensure waterers or water bowls are cleaned regularly and are readily accessible to calves.



CARE

Vaccines: Keep bottle calves on an appropriate vaccine schedule for your herd in consultation with a veterinarian.

Monitor: Watch closely for signs of illness, as bottle calves are more prone to infections.

Quarantine: Don't mix orphaned calves from different farms together; quarantine any calves being brought in.



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Calf 911
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