1. PURPOSE
To provide proper nutrition for the growth of calves from birth to weaning. This will give the calf the best start at a long, healthy, productive life. The feeding needs of a calf changes quickly in the first weeks, therefore a good feeding plan is essential to get a calf off to a strong nutritional start.

2. RESPONSIBILITY
2.1 All permanent and student staff
2.2 Dairy Manager

3. MATERIALS
3.1 Colostrum (C)
3.2 Nipple bottle
3.3 Nipple pail
3.4 Transition milk (M)
3.5 Milk replacer (MR)
3.6 Grain pail
3.7 Grain scoop
3.8 Gang Feeder
3.9 Calf Feeder
3.10 Second Cut Hay
3.11 Calf Grower (pellets)

4. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS
4.1 Calves are fed twice per day: after the morning milking, and after the evening milking.
4.2 A calf may be fed mid-day if it did not drink in the morning, or if it is sick.
4.3 Types of milk: (Listed in order)
   4.3.1 Colostrum (C): Fed as soon as possible after birth. Refer to SOP DC-501: Colostrum Management
   4.3.2 Transition milk (M): Fed to calves when Colostrum is no longer available or required.
   4.3.3 Milk Replace (MR): Fed to calves when transition milk is no longer available. Refer to SOP 502: Milk Replacer Preparation.

5. PROCEDURE

\* NOTE
The quantity, type of milk and method feeding is indicated on the feeding chart. Any changes to the chart must be approved by the lead technician or dairy manager.

5.1 Refer to Feeding Chart for feeding instructions
5.2 MILK FEEDING:
   5.2.1 The following types of milk are fed in the following order from birth to weaning age.
      5.2.1.1 Colostrum (C): Fed as soon as possible after birth. Refer to SOP DC-501: Colostrum Management
      5.2.1.2 Transition milk (M): Fed to calves when Colostrum is no longer available or required.
5.2.1.3 Milk Replace (MR): Fed to calves when transition milk is no longer available. Refer to SOP 502: Milk Replacer Preparation.

5.2.2 Feeding method: The method of feeding depends on the calf’s age, type of milk fed and number of pen mates.

5.2.2.1 Newborn calves are fed colostrum with a nipple bottle.

5.2.2.2 When the calf is drinking well, a nipple pail is introduced.

5.2.2.3 When there are two or more calves in a pen, a gang feeder is introduced.

5.2.3 The quantity of milk fed is gradually increased according to the calf’s appetite to a maximum of 12 liters of milk per day (or 3 MR per feeding).

5.2.4 At about 7 weeks of age the transition to weaning commences:

5.2.4.1 The quantity of milk fed is reduced during a period of several days.

5.2.4.2 The evening feeding is eliminated during a period of several days.

5.2.4.3 The morning feeding is eliminated.

5.2.4.4 The calf is weaned and no longer drinking milk.

5.3 GRAIN FEEDING:

5.3.1 A grain chart, indicating the quantity and type of grain to feed to each pen is located on the calf barn door.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAIN FEEDING LEGEND:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>1 scoop Calf Starter/calf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>1 scoop Pellets/calf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS+P</td>
<td>½ scoop Calf Starter + ½ scoop Pellets/calf (transition feeding)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the quantity of grain to be fed per pen is not indicated on the chart, then feed 1 scoop per calf.

5.3.2 Fresh grain is fed to younger calves, daily.

5.3.3 Each morning, pick up and measure all leftovers from the day before.

5.3.4 Leftovers are fed to the older calves.

5.3.5 Calf Starter

5.3.5.1 Introduce Calf starter to heifer calves at 3 days of age.

5.3.5.2 Add approximately ¼-grain scoop of grain to a grain pail that is held by a strap on the inside of the calf pen.

5.3.5.3 Enter the calf pen to hand feed the calf after she has finished drinking her milk.

5.3.5.4 Hand feeding continues until the calf starts to eat the grain on her own.

5.3.5.5 When the calves are noticeably eating grain from the pail, place small quantities of grain on the feed manger in order for them to become accustomed to putting their heads through the bars to the manger.

5.3.5.6 Gradually increase the quantity of calf starter according to the calf’s appetite.

5.3.5.7 Continue feeding calf starter until the calf is consuming the equivalent of 2 scoops (~ 3 kg) per day for several consecutive days.

5.3.6 Calf Grower (Pellets)

5.3.6.1 Gradually introduce Calf Grower into the diet by feeding ½ scoop calf starter + ½ scoop pellets (equivalent of 3 kg/day).
5.3.6.2 Continue feeding the Starter/Grower mixture until the calf consumes the full amount for several consecutive days.

5.3.6.3 Calves are fed pellets (3 kg/day) until about 6 months of age.

5.4 HAY FEEDING (Second cut):

5.4.1 Refer to the Hay Chart on the Calf Barn door for instruction for hay fed animals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAY CHART FEEDING LEGEND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAY</td>
<td>Feed Hay ad libidum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calves eating full portion of grain (a.m. or p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANDFUL OF HAY</td>
<td>Sprinkle a small amount on top of grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calves that are not eating full portion of grain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.4.2 Feed a small amount of hay starting at about 4 weeks of age. Sprinkle a handful of hay on top of the calf starter to entice them to eat their grain.

5.4.3 Feed hay ad libidum ONLY when the calves are eating all of their grain.

5.4.4 Allow the calves to eat their full portion of grain (a.m. or p.m.) before feeding them hay. Grain is very important for the development of the rumen. It is very important that the calves eat their grain before filling up on hay

Document Status and Revision History

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