

PROTOCOL CALF REARING

In this protocol is given some general information and advice to have the best possible and healthy rearing of calves. Further some instructions and advice how to use the Sprayfo milk replacer.

If there are any remarks or questions please feel free to contact us at any time:

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1. Around birth

- Take care that the calf is born in a dry clean place like separate calving place or box;
- Rub the calve dry directly after birth (with some straw) and bring it in a clean and dry place (single box) In this way you can reduce the infection pressure and prevent diseases like diarrhoea (E coli);
- (on bigger farms) Separate female from male calves. In this way you have a better control on the feeding program later on.

2. Colostrum

- Give 1,5 to 2 litre colostrum directly after birth (within one hour after birth);
- If possible give a second time colostrum (1,5 to 2 litre) within 6 hours after birth;
- Give during 3 - 4 days twice a day 1,5 to 2 litre colostrums;
- Female calves **only colostrum from the own mother or colostrum from a cow of minimal the fourth lactation!!!** This, to prevent the carry over of certain diseases, like John disease;
- Male calves preferable colostrum from the own mother but for male calves this less critical as they are used for fattening and not for breeding.

3. Calf feeding

- After 3 - 4 days colostrum: change over on Sprayfo milk replacer gradually;
- The first feeding may be 50 % colostrum/ cows milk from the own mother + 50% Sprayfo;
- General feeding schedule:

○ 4-7 days:	2 x 1,5 litre	Sprayfo
○ 2 nd week:	2 x 2 litre	„
○ 3 rd week:	2 x 2,5 litre	„
○ 4 - 7 th week:	2 x 3 litre	„
○ 8 th week:	2 x 2,5 litre	„
○ 9 th week:	2 x 2 litre	„
○ Weaning:	end of 9 th week/ beginning 10 th week a few days 1 x 2 litre -> stop giving milk	
- Start from day 3 or 4 with extra water. After the milk feeding the milk bucket has to be cleaned and can be used as water bucket. There must be minimum 30 minutes between the feeding of the milk and the supply of fresh water.
- Start to give **good** quality calf concentrates at day 4 to 5. Start with small quantities **every day fresh**. Increase the quantity day by day. Remove every day the remaining out of the feeding bucket or trough. This can be fed to older (> 5 months) **male** calves.
- Start after 3 weeks with roughage like good quality (alfalfa) hay.
- Weaning: the calves should eat at least 1 kg to 1,5 kg concentrates per day and have a minimum live weight of 75 kg (male calves 80 kg).
- Preparing the Sprayfo
 - 1 kg powder plus 8 litres water = 9 litres milk
 - Take the quantity water required of 42 - 45 ° C
 - Add the milk replacer while stirring the water



- Mix 2 to 3 minutes till the powder is completely dissolved (= no small “lumps” in the solution anymore)
- Feeding temperature 40° C
- **Please note: the water used for mixing Sprayfo should be fit for human consumption**

When can the calf be switched from calf starter to regular concentrates; Normally we advise to continue to feed the calf starter till one week after weaning. One week after weaning change over gradually (by mixing calf starter and normal concentrates) in 3 to 4 days to normal concentrates. If the normal concentrates doesn't have a good formulation it is better feed for a longer period 50/50 calf starter and normal concentrates.

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