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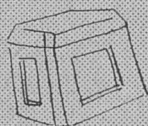
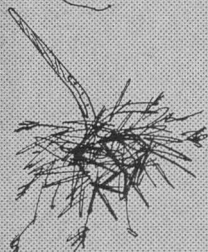
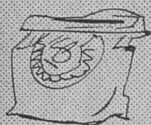
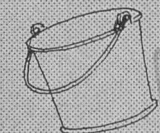
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Your Dairy Calf-

FEEDING AND CARE



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Feeding Your Dairy Calf—

First Two Weeks

Leave the calf with its mother the first two or three days after birth. The colostrum, or first milk, is rich in vitamins A and D and other nutrients that will help to keep the calf healthy. Then feed whole milk daily at rate of about one-tenth of weight of calf. Feed calf two or three times daily.

If the cows were on dry grass pasture or were fed low-grade bleached hay for several months before calving, it may be desirable to feed the newborn calf a supplement providing about 25,000 units (6,250 micrograms) of vitamin A daily in capsules during its first two or three weeks or until it begins to eat hay.

First Four Months

The kind and quantity of milk on your farm will determine how

you feed your dairy calves.

THE SKIM-MILK PLAN

When calf is about two weeks old, gradually replace whole milk in the ration with an equal amount of skim milk or buttermilk fed twice daily. Seldom feed over 16 pounds. Milk temperature should be about 95° F. Feed skim milk or buttermilk until calf is about four months old. Allow calf free access to clean water and salt.

Feed hay and grain as soon as calf will eat them. Feed the best grade of hay available and always give calf all it wants. Good quality mixed hay is usually the best.

Limit grain to four pounds daily. Almost any grain mixture that is suitable for the producing herd will be satisfactory. Suggested mixtures appear in table 1.

Table 1. Suggested Grain Mixtures for Calves Raised on Skim Milk and for Calves after They Are about Four Months Old*

Ingredients	With legume hay			With mixed hay			With grass hay		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	pounds								
Ground oats	450	400	650	200	425	300	200	275	275
Ground corn	270		225	350		250	250		
Corn and cobmeal		320			100			130	250
Ground barley		130		150	275		100	135	
Wheat bran	180			100		300	125	135	100
Linseed meal or soybean oil meal	85	150	125	200	200	150	325	325	375

* To assure an adequate supply of vitamins and minerals in mixtures add 5 to 7 per cent high grade alfalfa meal, 0.75 per cent each of trace mineral salt and steamed bone meal, and about 0.05 per cent irradiated yeast containing 9,000 units vitamin D per gram.

THE MINIMUM-MILK PLAN

On farms selling whole milk, calves may be raised by the minimum-milk calf starter plan. It requires much less milk but more care than the skim milk plan.

Continue feeding whole milk daily at the rate of about one-tenth of weight of calf during the first six to eight weeks, or shift to reconstituted skim milk or buttermilk, or a milk replacer when calf is about three weeks old. Feed either of these products until calf is eating at least one pound of hay and two pounds of grain mixture daily. Save the labor of mixing and feeding the dry product with water by gradually including it in the grain mixture fed.

Start feeding hay and grain when calf is only a few days old. The best starter mixtures for calves raised on the minimum-milk plan contain 10 to 30 per cent of dry skim milk or powdered buttermilk. Blood meal, fish meal, and dry rendered tankage may be used in place of some of the dry milk.

As you shift from milk to the starter mixture encourage the calf to eat more of the grain mixture, up to four pounds daily. After weaning and until calf is about three and a half months old, feed up to four pounds daily of same concentrate mixture as before. Shift gradually to plan of feeding given below. Always let calf have all the hay it will eat and provide plenty of clean water and salt.

Table 2. Calf Starter Mixtures for Calves Raised on Minimum-Milk Plan*

Ingredients	Mixture number				
	1	2	3	4	5
	pounds				
Crushed oats	375	200	300	250	250
Ground corn	175	250	350	275	250
Wheat bran	125	150			125
Linseed meal or soybean oil meal	125	250	200	175	250
Dried skim milk or dried buttermilk	200	100	150	100	65
Dried whey				100	60
Distiller's solubles				100	
Molasses (cane)		50			

* To assure an adequate supply of vitamins and minerals in mixtures add 5 to 7 per cent high grade alfalfa meal, 0.75 per cent each of trace mineral salt and steamed bone meal, and about 0.05 per cent irradiated yeast containing 9,000 units vitamin D per gram.

After Four Months

Whatever feeding plan is followed until calf is four months old, all calves may be fed alike after that if they are healthy and thrifty. Feed them all the hay they will eat and up to four pounds of grain daily. When they are seven

months old gradually reduce the amount of grain fed. At nine months, discontinue it entirely if heifer is normal in size and physical condition, is receiving either good quality legume or mixed hay, or is on good pasture.

The grain mixture fed during this period should fit the kind and quality of roughage provided as indicated in table 1.

Turn calves on good pasture at almost any age but continue to feed their regular ration until they are nine or more months old. You can feed 3 to 5 pounds of silage daily when calf is about four months old, but seldom feed more than 10 to 12 pounds daily until after heifer is nine months old.

Care of Your Dairy Calf

✓ Arrange to have calf born in clean, well-bedded box stall.

✓ Very soon after birth dip its navel cord in 20 per cent solution of tincture of iodine.

✓ After removing calf from its mother, keep it in a clean, dry pen by itself.

✓ See that feeding pails and mangers are kept clean.

✓ Provide rack for hay and feed fresh supply daily.

✓ If several calves must be kept in a pen, provide suitable stanchions for each for feeding milk and grain.

✓ Don't change feeds or feeding methods suddenly.

✓ If calf develops scours, reduce milk fed by one-half and try to find cause of trouble and correct it. Boiling the milk, feeding two raw eggs in place of a feeding of milk, and adding lime water to the milk are common home treatments.

✓ Mark each calf for identification. The most common methods of marking are ear tag, brass number plate on neck strap, or tattoo mark in the ear.

✓ De-horn calf before it is a week old. Use a clipper or carefully apply caustic soda or potash to horn buttons. Keep calf in barn out of rain several weeks after the application.

✓ Protect calves from lice and mites. Apply raw linseed oil on affected parts and along spinal column to control lice. Ground sabadilla seed dusted on calves will kill lice. Commercial preparations also are available.

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

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