

THE FIBER FRESH CALF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This table shows the approximate progression of both the Milk and *Fiber Fresh Start*[®] or *Fiber Fresh Gain*[®] supplements through the raising period based on an indoor program



	STAGE 1 – Early Rumen Function				STAGE 2 – Rumen Transition				STAGE 3 – Full Rumen Function		
	Milk reliant diet Early rumen function begins <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] consumption gradually increasing each week				Transition off milk Increased rumen function Significant increase in <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] consumption				Supplementary feeding until 11-12 weeks Fully functioning rumen Sustained growth with no weaning check		
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9 – 12		
Milk											
Milk	Inside calf shed							Outside at pasture			
Colostrum/ Whole Milk or Calf milk replacer (CMR)	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	4-5 litres per calf per day	Transition off milk Milestones for successful weaning off milk: Calves should weigh at least 70kg - Jersey 80kg - Crossbred 90kg - Friesian AND Consuming at least 2kg Fiber Fresh daily			
	Split into two equal daily feeds		Gradually reduce to one feed per day over 5 days	One feed per day			Gradually wean off milk				
The volume of milk fed and how soon the calves are put out to pasture will alter the feeding recommendations detailed below											
<i>Fiber Fresh Start</i>[®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i>[®]											
	Calves only nibbling & experimenting	Progressively eating more	Daily consumption will begin to increase					Supplement grass with <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] adlib for the first 7 - 10 days	Continue to feed <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] once weaned and out on grass until calves are consuming sufficient pasture that they can maintain desired growth rates on pasture alone. <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] may continue being fed if desired.		
Feeding Recommendation	Remove any uneaten <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] each day to keep feed fresh		KEEP THE FEED FRESH Feed a small amount daily and blend with uneaten <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] TOP TIP: Aim for a handful of feed to be left over in the feed trough each day. If the feed trough is empty you need to put more <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] in the feed trough than the day before					By this stage the consumption per calf should be 2kg per day	Maintain a supplementary feeding rate of 2kg of <i>Fiber Fresh Start</i> [®] or <i>Fiber Fresh Gain</i> [®] per calf per day. Higher feeding rates may be fed for maximum weight gain. NOTE: Always consider the weather, availability and the quality of pasture		
Approximate feed consumption per calf per day	60g Approximately 1 handful per calf	170g	285g	428g	570g	1.2kg	1.7kg	2kg	2kg		
Approximate feed consumption per calf per week	500g	1.2kg	2kg	3kg	4kg	8.5kg	12kg	14kg	14kg		

The table above is calculated on rearing Friesian calves. For smaller breeds (e.g. Jerseys) reduce the rates of milk and solid feed by up to 25%. Always ensure clean fresh water is available. Offering a mineralised salt block will provide a free choice option for calves to obtain additional minerals they may require.

Note: The four golden rules of: 1: Warmth, 2: Controlled milk, 3: Restricted grass/no hay and 4: Large trough space need to be followed to achieve these results.

