

Fiji DAIRYNOTE P1 – Use of CMR for Calf Rearing



When feeding your calves, it is important to make sure that you are giving the right amount of milk for your calf's needs. If using calf milk replacer (CMR), always follow the instructions on the CMR packaging. It is also important to monitor the progress of your calves regularly. If fed properly, your animals should be gaining 500-750 grams of live weight per day. The guide on the right should help you with feeding practices from the time your calf is born to when it is weaned from its mother.

Target liveweight – birth to 3 months (based on a daily gain of .70gms)

Birth weight (kgs)	Week 2 target	Week 4 target	Week 6 target	Week 8 target	Week 10 target	Week 12 target
15	25	35	45	55	65	75
20	30	40	50	60	70	80
25	35	45	55	65	75	85
30	40	50	60	70	80	90
35	45	55	65	75	85	95
40	50	60	70	80	90	100

Quick calculation for CMR requirements for twice per day feeding (mgs)

Age	Litres per feed	Litres per day	CMR mg/litre	CMR mg/feed	Total CMR mg/day
5-10 days	2	4	125	250	500
11-24 days	2.5	5	125	315	630
25+ days	3	6	125	375	750

· 2 litres colostrum twice a day

 milk the colostrum out of the cow cand feed by hand with a bottle and teat; if possible, pasteurise the colostrum

water and cut pasture/forage

• 2 litres whole milk or 2 litres CMR (at 125gms/litre) twice a day

water and cut pasture/forage

5-10 days • high quality calf meal available from one week of age¹

11-24 days

25+ days

Weaning

0-4 days

- 2.5 litres whole milk or 2.5 litres CMR (at 125gms/litre) twice a day
- water and cut pasture/forage
- 1 days high quality calf meal available

• 2.5 litres whole milk or 2.5 litres CMR (at 125gms/litre) twice a day

water and access to good quality pasture outside

high quality calf meal (each calf should be eating 1-2kg per day by now)

wean off milk only when calves reach 90-100kg liveweight
continue feeding high quality calf modes 2 kg per calf per

 continue feeding high quality calf meal at 2kg per calf per day for at least 3 months

¹ Calf meal can be home mixed or commercially prepared. If you are home mixing, seek qualified advice on how to do this.