

# Heifer growth

**By raising your dairy heifers to an adequate size, you can optimise the milk production of your herd. To raise good-sized heifers, you will have to feed them properly. They must be large enough to breed at 13 to 15 months old, and to calve for the first time between the age of 22 to 24 months.**

It is very important that heifers are not too fat, because this can bring down their lifetime milk production and longevity. This can happen when they are given too much concentrates or high-quality forages.

## Breed standards

Successful heifer-rearing can be achieved if you monitor the height and weight of calves and heifers. You can compare your herd's measurements with the averages of the specific breed (these averages can be obtained from the breed societies). There are different averages, for example, for Holsteins and Jerseys. Measuring and weighing heifers allows you to compare them to national standards. If they do not meet the standards for the breed, this can indicate a problem in your heifer programme.

## Measuring your heifer

- To estimate a dairy animal's body weight, you should use a weight tape.
- Make sure that the animal is standing with her head upright.
- Pull the weight tape snug, but not too tight, around the heart girth just behind the front legs and shoulder blades.
- When measuring the height at the withers, hold the animal's head upright on a clean, hard, level surface, and make sure that she is standing comfortably and is not pulling against the halter. Measure the animal at the highest point of the withers.
- Hip height or width can be measured without worrying too much about the orientation of the animal's head.
- Measure body length with the animal straight and with its head held forward and upright.

## Using a growth chart

Growth charts can help to evaluate the performance of a heifer management programme. It can also alert the producer to problem situations, such as when entire groups of animals are undersized, underweight or overweight. On the growth chart you can record the weight and age of your heifers. Some growth charts also make provision for hip width. When you connect the lines of the measurements, it should show a gradual and steady increase. To know whether your measurements are correct and up to standard for the specific breed, contact the breed society for averages. [UM](#)

# Heifer growth and progress

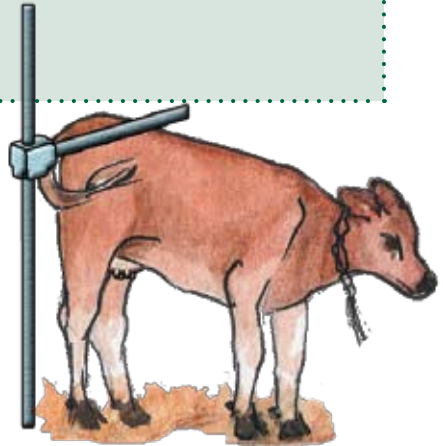
Keep track of your heifer's growth and progress, by using a **growth chart**.

- Measure her height from her withers to the ground.
- Measure her weight around the heart girth using a weight tape.
- Record her height and weight on the chart.
- Both measurements should increase steadily.
- Measure hip width.
- Measure hip height.

## Verskalwers se groei en vordering

Gebruik 'n **groeikaart** om jou vers se groei en vordering te meet.

- Meet haar gewig van haar skof tot by die grond.
- Meet haar gewig deur die omtrek van die borsmaat met 'n gewigsmatband.
- Teken haar hoogte en gewig op die kaart aan.
- Beide metings behoort stelselmatig toe te neem.
- Meet ook die heupbreedte.
- Meet ook heuphoogte.



## Inqubekela Phambili Yokukhula

Landelega ukukhula kwesithole sakho kanye nenqubekela phambili, ngokusebenzisa **Ishadi** Lokukhula.

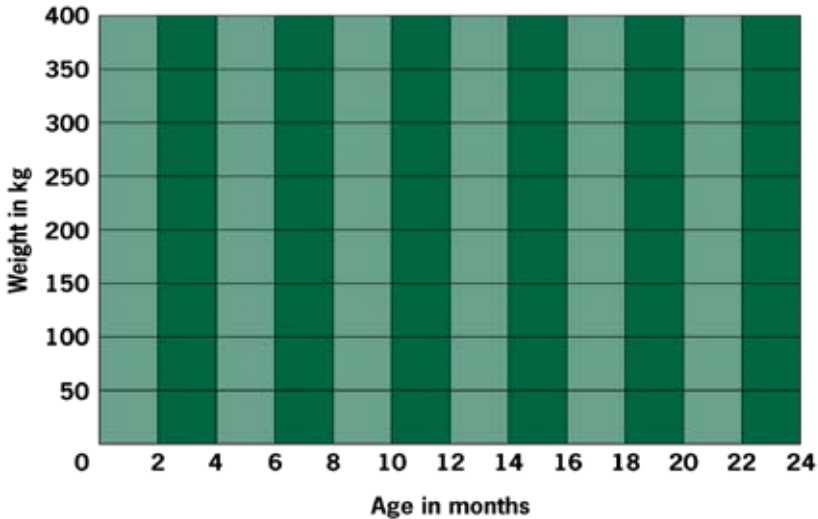
- Kala ubude baso ukusuka emagxalabeni aso ukuya phansi enhlabathini.
- Kala isisindo saso ngasezintunjini zehliziyo usebenzisa itheyiphu yokukala.
- Rekhoda ubude kanye nesisindo sayo eshadini.
- Zombili izikali kufanele zikhule kancane kancane.
- Ukukala ububanzi bezinqulu.
- Ukukala ubude bezinqulu.



## Inkqubela yokukhula

Kubeke esweni ukukhula nenkqubela yethokazi lakho lenkomo, ngokusebenzisa **itshati yokukhula**.

- Linganisa umphakamo walo ukusuka emagxeni alo ukuya phantsi emhlabeni.
- Linganisa ubunzima balo ukujikeleza umqwemesha wentliziyo usebenzisa iteyiphu yobunzima. • Rekhoda umphakamo nobunzima balo kwitshati.
- Imilinganiso yomibini kufuneka ikhule kancinci kancinci.
- Ukulinganisa ububanzi benyonga. • Ukulinganisa umphakamo wenyonga.



## Tswelopele ya kgolo

Beha leihlo kgolo le tswelopele ya sethole sa kgomo ya hao, ka ho sebedisa **tjhate ya kgolo**.

- Lekanya bophahamo ba sethole ho tloha mokotlong ho fihla fatshe.
- Lekanya boima ho potoloha sefuba sa sethole ka ho sebedisa theipi ya boima.
- Rekota bophahamo le boima ba sethole tjhateng.
- Ditekanyo tsena tse pedi di tshwanetse ho eketseha butle-butle.
- Lekanya bophara ba letheka.
- Lekanya bophahamo ba letheka. 