

How to wean calves successfully

There are three important things that your calves need when you wean them off milk. Calves will need fresh water, fresh calf starter meal, and hay.

Calf feeding takes place in four phases:

- The colostrum phase (which lasts 3 to 4 days after birth)
- The pre-ruminant phase (which can last from 3 days after birth to between 20 and 30 days)
- The transition stage (when liquids and dry feeds are given)
- The post-weaning stage (when only dry feeds are given).

Water

Calves must have fresh water to drink at any time from the day that they are born. For the first three weeks after birth, calves drink between 1 and 1,5 litres of water a day. As the calves start to eat more dry feed, they drink more water.

Make sure that their water is always clean. It is best to replace the water twice a day. Calves must drink water so that their rumens develop properly. The rumen is the cow's first stomach where the feed that it eats, is digested and turned into milk.

Calves that are allowed to drink water, eat more calf starter than calves that do not have water. On hot days, the calves will need to drink more water. On cold days calves drink less water. If they are given water that is warm (37°C), they will drink more.

Calf starter meal

Together with the water, calves must also eat calf starter meal. The calf starter meal should be fed from the fourth day after birth, until they are between 6 and 8 weeks of age. Then a complete calf meal that is urea free, can be fed. Complete calf meal usually consists of about 14% crude protein. Encourage the calf to eat the meal by placing a small amount of meal in its mouth every day at feeding time. Never mix the starter meal with milk.

Hay

Calves need roughage and good quality hay must be available to the calf at all times. Eating hay is good for the development of the rumen muscle.

Weaning

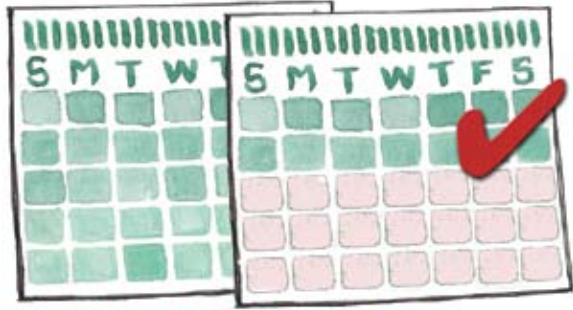
Calves are usually ready to wean when they are between 30 and 40 days old. Weaning should not occur before the calf has consumed half a kilogram of calf starter meal per day for three days. Milk feeding can be stopped suddenly or gradually. Do this by making the milk supply less every day over a week. If calves still drink large volumes of milk daily, they must be weaned gradually. When you wean your calves, they must not be stressed. Do not move them to new pens, and do not castrate or dehorn them while they are being weaned. You can move the calves to their new pens about 7 to 10 days after weaning. [UM](#)



How to wean calves

- **Hoe om kalwers te speen**
- **Ukulumula amankonyane**
- **Uwakhumla njani amathole**
- **O kgwesa jwang manamane**

- Wean calves between 30 and 40 days old. The calf should eat half a kilogram of calf starter meal per day. Stop milk feeding suddenly or gradually (by feeding less every day over a week).



Wean between 30 and 40 days

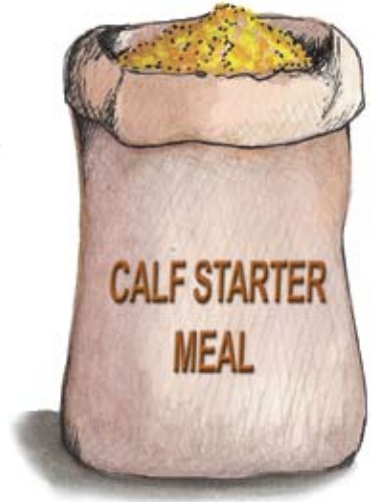
- Kalwers moet tussen die ouderdomme van 30 en 40 dae oud gespeen word. Die kalf behoort al 'n halwe kilogram kalfaanvangsmeel per dag te eet. Melkvoeding kan skielik of geleidelik gestop word (deur vir 'n week lank elke dag minder te gee).
- Lumula amankonyane anezinsuku eziphakathi kwezingamashumi amathathu namashumi amane ubudala. Inkonyane kumele idle ukudla kokuqala okunguhhafu wekhilo ngelanga. Yeka ukuyinika ubisi ngokuphelele noma kancane kancane (ngokuyipha ubisi oluncane luye ngokuncipha isikhathi esingangesonto elilodwa).
- Khumla amathole xa ephakathi kweentsuku ezingama-30 nezingama-40 zobudala. Ithole kufuneka litye isiqingatha sekhilogram sokutya okuqala ukutyiwa lithole ngosuku. Yeka ukulinika ubisi msinyane okanye ulehlise kancinane (ngokulinika kancinane yonke imihla oko ukwenza ngeveki).
- Kgwesa manamane a pakeng tsa matsatsi a 30 ho isa ho a 40 ka boholo. Namane e lokela ho ja halofo ya kilograma ya dijo tse qalang tsa namane ka letsatsi. Kgaotsa ka phepo ya lebeso hanghang kapa butlebutle (ka ho e fepa le lenyenyane letsatsi le letsatsi nakong ya beke).
- **Prevent stress:** Do not move calves to new pens, castrate or dehorn them while being weaned.
- **Voorkom stres:** Moet nie kalwers na nuwe hokke toe skuif, of hulle kastreer of onthoring terwyl hulle gespeen word nie.
- **Vimbela ukukhathazeka:** Ungawayisi amankonyane ezibayeni ezintsha, ungawatheni noma uwanqinde izimpondo ngesikhathi esalunywulwa ebeleni.
- **Thintela uxinzelelo:** Ungawasusi amathole uwase kwizibaya ezintsha, uwathene, okanye uwanqumle iimpndo ngexa ekhumlwa.
- **Qoba kगतello ya madi:** O se ke wa isa manamane dipaneng tse ntjha, wa di fahola kapa ho di poma manaka nakong di kgweswang.

Calves need

- 1. Clean fresh water**
- 2. Calf starter meal**

Start to feed 4 days after birth until 6 to 8 weeks old.
Place a small amount of meal in its mouth every day at feeding time.

- 3. Hay.**



Kalfies benodig

- 1. Vars water**
- 2. Kalkaanvangsmeel**

Begin om dit 4 dae na geboorte te gee, totdat hulle tussen 6 en 8 weke oud is. Sit elke dag na etenstyd 'n klein bietjie meel in die kalf se bek.

- 3. Hooi.**

Amankonyane adinga

- 1. Amanzi ahlanzekile**
- 2. Ukudla okululana okulungele amankonyane**

Qala ukondla amankonyane anezinsuku ezine ezelwe kuze kube amaviki ayisithupha kuya kwayisishiyagalombili ubudala.

Faka umthanyana emlonyeni zonke izinsuku emlonyeni ngesikhathi sokudla.

- 3. Utshani obusikiwe bomiswa.**

Amathole afuna

- 1. Amanzi acocekileyo**
- 2. Ukutya okuqalwa ukutyiwa lithole**

Qala ukuwanika ukutya kwiintsuku ezi-4 ezisemva kokuba ezelwe de abe neeveki ezi-6 ukuya kwezisi-8 zobudala. Beka intwana encinane yokutya emlonyeni walo yonke imihla ngexesha lokuwanika ukutya.


- 3. Ifula.**

Manamane a hloka

- 1. Metsi a hlwekileng**
- 2. Dijo tse qalang tsa namane**

Ho feptjwa matsatsing a 4 kamora ho hlaha ho fihlela dibeke tse 6 ho isa ho 8 ka boholo.

Ho kengwa dijo tse nyenyane ka molomong letsatsi le letsatsi nakong ya phepo.

- 3. Furu **

