



**COUNTERPOINT**  
Stockfeeds

## **Dairy Performa Dairy-Beef Calf Rearing Program**

Thankyou for the opportunity to present some options for feeding dairy-beef calves – we hope the following will be useful for your enterprise.

We have previous experience developing multi-stage calf feeding programs for local large scale calf producers and dairy farmers.

We have developed a three stage feeding program to take your calves through to 260kgs that we feel is an easy, and cost-effective program.

We feel this program will grow calves at an overall cheaper cost (compared with traditional “least cost” calf diets) by introducing a high-quality feed to the young dairy-beef calves, while at the same time reducing the cost of feeding the older dairy-beef calves by removing protein from the diets as quickly as possible to reduce the cost of feed without compromising the desired growth.

The proposed three stage program uses a:

- **Dairy Performa Calf Creep** for use in the first 14 to 21 days,
- **Beef Performa Weaner 20** from days 22 to 56 (8 weeks),
- **Beef Performa Grower 18** from days 57 to 98 (14 weeks),
- **Beef Performa Grower 14** from day 99 to 231 (58 weeks).

The Dairy Performa Calf Creep is a unique product, designed to drive early rumen development, promote dry matter intake, and to allow for a better transition onto the starter diet.

By including the Dairy Performa Calf Creep feed in the program, it should be possible to wean calves between 35 and 42 days of age if desired.

Early nutrition plays a critical role in lifetime performance. Research shows that carcass composition and growth potential are influenced in the first few weeks from birth, so establishing strong feed intake in the first weeks of life is essential.

For best results we recommend feeding approximately 500 g of milk solids per day (around 4 litres of milk) as a minimum. However, 700 g of milk solids per day is preferred, whether supplied through whole milk or milk replacer. Feeding around 4 litres of fortified milk can help maintain calf growth, while still encouraging early concentrate intake and reducing the risk of digestive upsets such as scours.

To achieve weaning at these ages we strongly encourage the inclusion of an in milk supplement for Calves in the diet, and in the event of digestive upsets.

Counterpoint Stockfeeds is a locally owned, progressive stockfeed manufacturer located in the Murray River town of Barham, NSW. We manufacture quality pellets and grain mixes for the dairy, beef, sheep, pig, and poultry industries.

Our range of products are formulated by our qualified and experienced Nutritionists to cater for your individual needs.

All our sites are accredited under FeedSafe® - the quality assurance program of the SFMCA. This ensures the products you receive are of the highest quality and standard.



For product support and sales enquiries  
contact our Nutritionists on:

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Our approach to calf nutrition, particularly the Dairy Performa Calf Creep draws not only on our knowledge of calf feed, but also pig nutrition, which helps to maximise growth rates, while at the same time, minimise health issues:

- Digestibility of the ingredients is key to both promoting growth and minimising the risk of digestive upsets, such as scours.
- Amino acid content of the feeds is far more important than overall crude protein levels for feed digestibility and optimal calf growth.
- Carbohydrate fractions as opposed to outright energy are important considerations.
- The inclusion of an acidifier in the Dairy Performa Calf Creep (standard practice in baby pig feeds) to help promote optimal conditions in the intestine for enzymatic action, which leads to ideal break down and digestion of amino acids and starch, and also as proven tool to minimise scouring.
- A unique yeast metabolite is included to help control pathogens, such as Salmonella and E coli. The chosen product also has proven benefits for rumen papillae development, dry matter intake, improved growth rates and frame size
- We commonly use an osmolyte in calf diets, as it has benefits for:
  - gut integrity
  - hydration
  - acts as a methyl donor
  - spares methionine (a limiting amino acid)
- Macro and trace mineral nutrition is included as per the accepted literature. The trace mineral premix used in this diet also includes organic trace minerals for better mineral availability
- A product containing a unique combination of essential oils, is included in the Creep, Weaner and Grower 18 diets feed as it has demonstrated efficacy against salmonella and E coli. in pigs, poultry and calf (as well as palatability benefits).
- Molasses products are included to improve intakes and palatability. Modified molasses used to maintain the handling characteristics of the grain mix.
- Starch levels may be moderated by including Maize or Peas in the diets because of its slow ruminal fermentation characteristics and higher post-ruminal starch digestion, which promotes greater glucose yield per kilogram of starch, which increases growth potential, while at the same time taking pressure of the developing rumen.
- The combination of canola meal, soyabean meal and lupins are our preferred protein sources rather as opposed to using only soy and peas.
  - We can achieve cost-effective lysine delivery with this combination, with the canola supplying additional methionine and other important amino acids such as cysteine, threonine and tryptophan.
  - Canola meal is also a more cost-effective protein meal in the current market.
  - Soy may be used in the creep, where high digestibility is of most value, in second phase from 6 to 12 we will use more canola and lupins.
  - Synthetic amino acids included to ensure target amino acid levels are met and the diet is balanced.



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- Fodder on offer during the grower phase needs consideration, as this will impact gut fill, growth rate, and VFA yield. High quality cereal hay is the preferred source of fibre of these animals - below 55% NDF, and above 9.5MJ ME. Protein is not a critical in the cereal hay.
- We also offer feed options under this program that contain high Neutral Detergent Fibre levels in the form of Almond Hulls or Palm Kernel Extract should you want to supply a complete feed to the dairy-beef calves. This can be fed without cereal hay.

Another important consideration is the presentation of the calf feeds. We can offer these feeds as either:

- A grain mix Pellet
- A complete feed (requiring no additional fibre)

**The proposed feeding program for your scenario is:**

	<b>STAGE 1 CREEP</b>	<b>STAGE 2 WEANER</b>
<b>CALF AGE</b>	Birth to 3 weeks, 60kgs LWT	3 weeks to 8 weeks, 75kgs LWT
<b>TARGETED GROWTH RATE</b>	430 grams/calf/day	710 grams/calf/day
<b>RATION</b>	<b><i>Dairy Performa Calf Creep Pellets</i></b> No Fibre	<b><i>Beef Performa Weaner 20</i></b> 0.5kg DM Long Fibre (cereal based)
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	Pellets	Grain Blend or Pellets
<b>ESTIMATED USAGE (CONC. &amp; FIBRE)</b>	10kgs/calf + wastage (approx. 5kgs)	35kgs/calf + wastage
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	Ration promotes calf health, dry matter intake and gut development	Ration promotes calf health, dry matter intake and gut development
<b>FIBRE FREE OPTION</b>	N/A	<b><i>Beef Performa Weaner 17 C</i></b>



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	<b>STAGE 3 GROWER 1</b>	<b>STAGE 4 GROWER 2</b>
<b>CALF AGE</b>	8 weeks to 14 weeks, 115kgs LWT	14 weeks to 58 weeks, 260kgs LWT
<b>TARGETED GROWTH RATE</b>	970 grams/calf/day	1100 grams/calf/day
<b>RATION</b>	<b><i>Beef Performa Grower 18</i></b> 0.7kg DM Long Fibre (cereal based)	<b><i>Beef Performa Grower 14</i></b> 0.85kg DM Long Fibre (cereal based)
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	Grain Blend or Pellets	Grain Blend or Pellets
<b>ESTIMATED USAGE (CONC. &amp; FIBRE)</b>	175kgs/calf + wastage	930kgs/calf + wastage
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	Retains emphasis on health and growth. Protein decrease and starch increases	Retains emphasis on health and growth. Protein decrease and starch maintained
<b>FIBRE FREE OPTION</b>	<b><i>Beef Performa Grower 15 C</i></b>	<b><i>Beef Performa Grower 11 C</i></b>

As per pig and poultry diets used in similar scenarios, we are not adverse to spending money in the Dairy Performa Calf Creep to achieve some health benefits, understanding that by doing this, the weighted cost will be lower over the entire program through improved growth and reduced health associated losses and costs (eg vet and drug costs).

While we have mentioned this earlier, but we cannot stress this enough, formulating feed for health and formulating feed for growth are intrinsically linked.

When digestive upsets occur, the compromised gut function leads to reduced nutrient uptake, and growth is reduced, from both the reduced nutrient uptake, and the immune response associated with the challenge.

Thank you for taking the time to read this program.

If you have any questions regarding the products and services offered by Counterpoint Stockfeeds, please don't hesitate to give our Nutrition Team a call on 03 5453 2107.

Counterpoint Stockfeeds (CPS) believes the information contained in this document to be true and correct for the applications as described. Updates may be made to product specifications, usage guidelines, and/or ingredients used in these products.

**Customers must seek advise from CPS if there is any doubt regarding the usage of products described.** Subject to those terms implied by statute which cannot be excluded restricted or modified, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility to the customer or any other person is accepted for errors or omissions howsoever arising, including matters arising through negligence by CPS, it's Directors, employees or agents.

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