

MF 15% Heifer Grower Blend

Application

Animal:

Dairy Cattle

Livestock Category:

Heifer (15 weeks – 8 months)

Feeding Rate:

2.0-2.5kg/day

Feeding Method:

Hand Feeding - Troughs

Product Form:

**Blend of Rolled Grains &
Molasses**



Why use MF 15% Heifer Grower Blend?

- Delivers required protein and energy levels for growing heifers during some critical post-weaning development phases in a heifer's life.
- Cost effective feed formulation without compromising nutritional integrity.
- Ideal feed to compliment average quality forages.
- Continues to deliver sound mineral nutrition ensuring growth is not compromised by deficiencies present.
- Ensures heifers do not suffer from potential 'set backs'.
- Contains Acid Buf to maintain rumen pH & reduce likelihood of acidosis

Product Specifications DM Basis

Crude Protein	15.5 % <i>min</i>
Metabolisable Energy	12.5 MJ/kg <i>min</i>
Calcium	0.7 % <i>min</i>
Phosphorus	0.5 % <i>min</i>

Contains the following added vitamins & minerals:

Calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, chlorine, iron, zinc, copper, manganese, selenium, cobalt, iodine, Vitamins A, D & E.

Made from a selection of the following ingredients and their byproducts:

Lupins, canola meal, peas, soybean meal, wheat, barley, triticale, oats, maize, sunflower seeds, molasses, vegetable oil, lucerne chaff, oaten chaff, acid buf, salt, bentonite, limestone, di-calcium phosphate, magnesium oxide

Contains the following Rumen Modifiers:

Sodium Lasalocid - Bovatec (30ppm)

DO NOT feed this blend to horses or other equids as it may be fatal.

This product contains 0.0% Urea MAX

This product does not contain Restricted Animal Material

HEIFER GROWTH RATE TARGETS

- Fertility of heifers is directly related to their liveweight at mating and calving. If heifers are too light at mating it will take longer for them to get in calf and their first calving will be delayed. If they are too light at calving, heifers will have more calving difficulties, produce less milk and have greater difficulty getting back in calf.
- Failure to reach target liveweights at first calving can reduce lifetime milk production by 20 to 23 litres per kilogram below target liveweight at first calving. This means a heifer who is 50kg behind her herd mates would be 1,000-1,150L behind. For heifers that calve 50kg heavier than their herd mates it can amount to an additional 1,040L of milk over her first 3 lactations.
- The only way to ensure heifers are well grown is to set liveweight targets and monitor progress by weighing them every three months.

Table 1. InCalf target liveweights based on mature cow weights calving at 24 months.

<i>Holstein Mature Weight</i>			<i>AGE</i>	<i>Jersey Mature Weight</i>		
<i>550kg</i>	<i>600kg</i>	<i>650kg</i>		<i>400kg</i>	<i>440kg</i>	<i>480kg</i>
100	100	100	3 months (weaning)	75	75	75
151	157	162	6 months	112	116	121
204	216	228	9 months	150	160	169
256	274	292	12 months	188	202	217
307	331	355	15 months (mating)	224	243	263
358	387	417	18 months	261	285	308
413	449	485	21 months	300	329	358
468	510	553	24 months (pre-calving)	340	374	408

- Selecting the right time to wean calves is a two-part decision: they must have reached their target weight and be eating at least 0.75kg – 1kg of concentrate each day. Holstein calves should be weaned between 100-110kg and Jersey calves between 75-85kg. The decision should also be made on rumen development. If heifers are eating at least 1kg of concentrates and hay/straw, the rumen will be well developed and weaning should go relatively smooth.
- The first 12 months are the most critical for skeletal and muscle development. Supplements are needed as young heifers are unable to achieve high growth rates on pasture and hay alone. Protein content and quality is important to ensure good skeletal and muscle development. Older heifers will also require supplements at strategic times of the year when pasture is unable to fulfill requirements for energy and protein (summer & autumn).
- Heifers need to have target growth rates of 0.6-0.78 kg/day depending on the season.
- For good reproductive performance, late-born heifers must achieve the same liveweights as the earlier-born heifers by mating. To achieve this, they must grow more quickly than earlier born heifers. Consider preferentially feeding late-born heifers to achieve the same liveweights as their older counterparts.
- Vaccinate for clostridia and leptospirosis at 3 and 12 months of age. Have a control program for worms, tick and lice.
- Keep heifers away from poisonous plants and areas grazed by mature cattle or irrigated with effluent (to manage Johnes disease).