

# MF 18% Calf Weaner Blend

## Application

Animal:

**Dairy**

Livestock Category:

**Calves (8-16 weeks old)**

Feeding Rate:

**1.0 – 2.0 kg/day**

Feeding Method:

**Hand Feeding - Troughs**

Product Form:

**Blend of Rolled Grains, Molasses  
& Lucerne Chaff**



## Why use MF 18% Calf Weaner Blend?

- Designed to improve weaning transitions from milk to hard feed.
- Maintains principles of MF 20% Calf Starter delivering a palatable, balanced blend of proteins and starches to maintain strong growth rates.
- Protein levels designed to reflect stage of life.
- Bovatec for prevention of Coccidiosis.
- Consistent particle size to provide an evenly blended feed for consistent intake.
- Lucerne Chaff for rumen health and muscle wall development

## Product Specifications DM Basis

<b>Crude Protein</b>	<b>18.0 % <i>min</i></b>
<b>Metabolisable Energy</b>	<b>12.2 MJ/kg <i>min</i></b>
<b>Calcium</b>	<b>0.7 % <i>min</i></b>
<b>Phosphorus</b>	<b>0.5 % <i>min</i></b>

### 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**

## CALF REARING TIPS FROM BIRTH TO WEANING

### Successful calf rearing utilises the 5 C's – Colostrum, Calories, Cleanliness, Comfort and Consistency

Looking after your calves is basically investing in the future of your dairy. They represent the direction your dairy will take and the productivity you will achieve. Getting calves off to a good start is essential for getting them on track for a productive life in your herd. Inadequate nutrition and care in the early stages will reduce the calf's ability to meet growth targets which in turn will impact age at first calving, causing her to be more prone to disease, cost more from rearing, production & reproductive losses, and likely will not be in the herd as long.

#### COLOSTRUM - 3 Q's: Quantity, Quality, Quickly

Getting calves the right quantity of quality colostrum quickly give calves the best chance. A newborn calf has no active immunity and is highly vulnerable to infection. Protection is achieved by ensuring the calf consumes about **10% of its bodyweight of good quality colostrum within its first 6 hours**. Colostrum contains immunoglobulin's (antibodies) and is rich in vitamins that provide the calf with immunity. Quick feeding is essential as the calf's ability to absorb the antibodies declines rapidly, within 6 hours it can be reduced by 30-50% and between 24-36 hours it completely stops. Colostrum can be frozen and is useful to have on hand just in case.

#### CALORIES - Energy, Protein, Fibre

Feeding the calf high quality grain blend rich in energy and proteins will aid in rumen development, while providing suitable roughage/fibre source promotes rumen health and size. A calf concentrate should be available from day one and replaced daily to ensure freshness and palatability. Roughage should also be replaced daily and differ from the bedding material to reduce calves chewing on bedding that may be soiled. In addition, ensure calves have **access to clean, fresh water** at all times.

- **Water** - Water is essential for animal health and in calves it encourages consumption of dry feeds. Water should be positioned close to concentrates and replaced/cleaned regularly. Milk and water are not interchangeable.
- **Energy** - Energy is essential for growth and needed to maintain body temperature and function. Feeding grain based concentrates drive rumen development which allows for earlier weaning. Milk and concentrate supply a high level of energy which is best utilized by the calf rather than lower energy pastures and hays.
- **Protein** - Proteins are required by the calf to maintain biological processes on a daily basis and is an integral part of growth and laying down muscle. Concentrates should provide at least 18-20% crude protein.
- **Fibre** - Both the abrasive nature of plant material and the microbial digestion of the fibre stimulate development of muscles in the rumen wall. Fibrous feeds also stimulate saliva production during chewing and rumination, this also aids to maintain rumen health. Fibre sources offered should be different to bedding material.
- **Ionophore** - Bovatec is a unique feed additive approved for the control of coccidiosis in calves. It also has desirable effects in rumen development by shifting the balance of bacteria from lactic acid producing species to lactic acid *utilizing* species. This results in more propionic acid, allowing more glucose production resulting in a better energy balance, health and growth rate in calves.

#### CLEANLINESS - Health

As previously stated calves have a reduced immune system and are quite susceptible to disease. Thus it is important to ensure soiled bedding is replaced and calf pens are thoroughly disinfected between batches. Calves should have no contact with older cows/calves especially not with their manure. This is very important for calf health.

#### COMFORT - Warm, Dry Environment

Often comfortable calves are healthier calves. Ensuring calves have access to bedding that is clean and dry helps them to maintain body temperature allowing for less energy to be used for warmth and more for growth. There are a range of bedding options including bark chips, large wood shavings and straw. It is important to look at the pro and cons of bedding materials as well as costs and availability. Having a calf rearing area set up properly to enable calves to escape the elements, in particular the wind and rain, is also important for the wellbeing of young calves.

#### CONSISTENCY - Is KEY

Cattle are creatures of habit, and calves do benefit with routines set in place. It also makes it easier if the regular calf rearer is absent that whoever replaces them sticks to the same routine. It is vital for calf health that milk temperature is consistent feed to feed. Milk can be given warm or cool as long as it is fed consistently. It should be noted that very cool milk has the potential lower a calf's body temperature and may result in slower growth as energy is being used to warm up the calf.