

CONCENTRATES FEEDING CHECKLIST

How do your procedures measure up? Do they provide the opportunity for your calves to grow into their genetic potential?

Let's consider procedures for starter grain. Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist. When making this evaluation I like to use these scores:

1=never, 2=seldom, 3=often, 4=usually, and 5=almost always.

- _____ 1. During the entire preweaning period calves have ad-lib access to concentrates.
- _____ 2. Good quality concentrate is provided that is free from:
 - mould,
 - urine, and
 - faeces.
- _____ 3. Good quality concentrate is provided that is:
 - clean and
 - dry.
- _____ 4. Before calves are regularly eating at least 110-125g of concentrate daily, the concentrate is replaced daily.
- _____ 5. Good quality concentrate is provided that is palatable. Less than 5 percent will pass through a 0.8mm screen – about the size of window screening. At least 80 percent of the pellets are still whole after a day in a bucket.
- _____ 6. Access to concentrate is not restricted due to:
 - lack of palatability,
 - contamination,
 - being frozen, or
 - bucket or feed trough being too high to reach.
- _____ 7. When concentrate is fed in buckets, these buckets are separated from water buckets by enough space to minimize the amount of wet concentrate.