



serval

ADVICE SHEET

Troubles
Rumen Milk
Appetite
Abomasum
Glutter
Digestion

REARING CALVES

Development of digestive system



DIGESTIVE SYSTEM



FROM 1 TO 15 DAYS

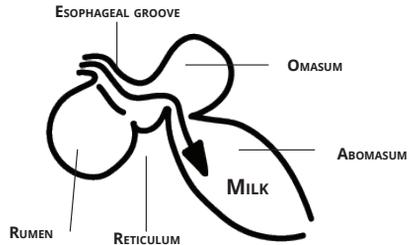
The consumption of milk causes a reflex closure of the esophageal groove. Temperature 40°C (+ or - 2°C).

At the beginning, only the rennet bag is functional. Growth is due to the only intake in solids contained in the milk.

Whole milk or milk replacers with skim milk powder will form curds in the rennet bag. Digestion time will be around 6 hours.

Whey-based feeds will not stop much or will not stop in the rennet bag and will be digested in the intestinal tract. Digestion time is around 2 hours.

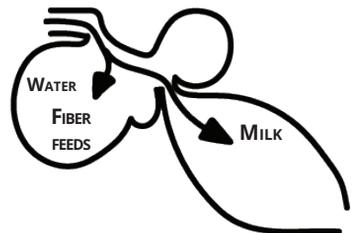
Be careful: Any dysfunction of the esophageal groove or the rennet bag will cause digestive disorders (cf end of the document).



SECOND WEEK

Rumen starts functioning from the consumption of first solid feeds. Its development will be all faster since the animal early eats concentrates and fodders (development of rumen papillae).

Water consumption will act on the development of microorganisms of the rumen that converts solid feeds.



The growth objective of + 900 g per day may be reached thanks to milky feed and solid feeds.

From the 8th week, it is advisable to reduce the milky feed in order to increase the consumption of concentrates and straw. The increase of appetite is mainly due to the growth of the rumen.



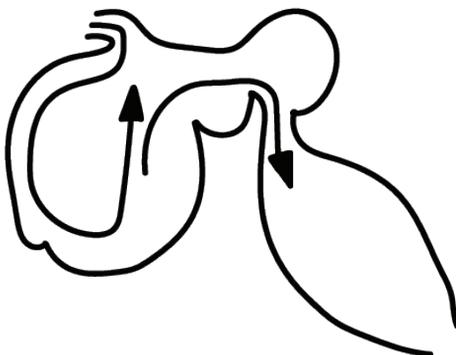
THIRD MONTH

Always prepare the calf to weaning enhancing the consumption of solid feeds in order to obtain a sustained growth of around + 900 g/day. It is necessary to aim at 200 kg at the age of 6 months for ideal calving age. There are many heifers that do not reach this aim.

Any delay in growth during the first 6 months of life of the animal will never be compensated.

Consequences :

- Loss of income for the breeder.
- Lower size hence a lower weight at the time of culling.
- Lower performances during the first lactation.
- Shorter lifetime.
- Lower ingestion capacity therefore less metabolic disorders (cetose).



DIGESTIVE DISORDERS



A BAD FUNCTIONING OF THE ESOPHAGEAL GROOVE

>> The groove does not close. Milk falls directly into the rumen what causes a distension of the calf (left side). Causes are:

- Too fast ingestion
- Bad quality of the milk
- Presence of lumps
- High changes in temperature from one meal to another
- The bucket that contains milk is placed too low
- Sodium or magnesium deficiency

>> The groove closes at the time of the ingestion of solid feeds causing colics.

- « Greedy » calves

A BAD FUNCTIONING OF THE RENNET BAG

- Too much milk = digestive disorders
- The volume of the rennet bag is from 2 to 2.5 litres during the first week. If the volume of milk that is distributed is too important, there may be an expulsion in the rumen or a bad coagulation of the milk that will cause digestive disorders after a few days.
- Important changes in temperature of the milk may lead to a paralysis of the rennet bag.
- An excess of fats especially with whole milk may cause digestive disorders.

A BAD FUNCTIONING OF THE RUMEN

It may be due:

- To the pouring of the milk feed into the rumen that leads to distensions.
- To insufficient water with a dry diet that causes a dehydration of the content of the rumen.
- To the senseless use of antibiotics.
- To diets that are too rich in cereals that may lead to acidosis.



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