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NF92-60 Feeding the Club Calf Properly

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Feeding the Club Calf Properly

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Over the years, proper feeding of club calves has been a problem for some people. Many calves fall victim to acidosis, bloating and other feed-related problems. Most of the time these calves never reach a desired finish level and subsequently fail to attain their potential.

This most often happens when club calves are fed in small groups (less than five). While this is the most educational method and allows the young person to be actively involved in management certain efforts must be made regarding feeding for this system to work.

The program that follows is manageable, effective and designed for the special aspect of club calves. This is not going to be the cheapest way to feed cattle; it is not designed to be. It is, however, effective and simple. If you have a program that works well for you, stay with it, but if you are looking for another feeding program, consider this one.

Before discussing the composition of the ration, choose a feeding routine that feeds the calf or calves twice a day — morning and night. Roughage can be fed at noon or after the grain has been eaten. A fresh, adequate water supply is also essential for good results.

As you develop rations consider those recommended below. They are described in the form recommended for this ration:

Corn -	Either rolled corn or whole corn. (Avoid finely ground corn)
Oats -	Whole oats
Bran -	Wheat bran
Molasses -	Either dry or liquid
Show supplement -	Commercial product

Supplement - An all natural supplement containing at least 40 percent protein with no urea (no ionophores).

Hay - Prairie or grass hay

Assuming that calves that have been weaned and are adjusted, four rations are proposed and can be fed at the prescribed method previously described. This would begin in mid-January to mid-February, depending on county fair dates. Ration I can be used up to starting date at 1.5 percent of body weight daily with free choice of prairie hay.

RATION I - FED 20-30 DAYS	RATION II - FED 20-30 DAYS
· Corn 880 lbs	· Corn 1100 lbs
· Oats 880 lbs	· Oats 665 lbs
· Supplement 40% 190 lbs	· Supplement 40% 175 lbs
· Molasses <u>50 lbs</u>	· Molasses <u>50 lbs</u>
2000 lbs	2000 lbs
Alfalfa Hay 2 lbs/day	Alfalfa Hay 1.25 lbs/day
Prairie Hay 4 lbs/day	Prairie Hay 4 lbs/day
Salt & Mineral Free Choice	Salt & Mineral Free Choice
Total Consumption 8-13 lbs/day	Total Consumption 10-15 lbs/day
RATION III - FED 20-30 DAYS	RATION IV - FED UNTIL ANIMALS ARE MARKETED
· Corn 1340 lbs	· Corn 1570 lbs
· Oats 450 lbs	· Oats 230 lbs
· Supplement 40% 160 lbs	· * Bran May substitute 50 lbs. bran for 50 lbs. oats — useful for hair growth.
· Molasses <u>50 lbs</u>	
2000 lbs	
Alfalfa Hay .75 lbs/day	· Supplement 40% 150 lbs
Show Supplement .75 lbs/hd/day at may be fed at 1/2-1 lbs/hd/day	· Molasses <u>50 lbs</u>
Prairie Hay 3.5 lbs/day	2000 lbs
Salt & Mineral Free Choice	Show 1-2 lbs/hd/day
Total Consumption 15-20 lbs/day	Supplement
	Prairie Hay 3-4 lbs/day
	Total Consumption 22-26 lbs/day

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