

FROM BIRTH TO WEANING

(Level 1)

Topic	Training & information Content
6.1	Selection of bulls, use of sexed semen, feeding management of dry cows
6.1.1	The calving process
6.1.2	Use of equipment around calving
6.1.3	Care of cow and calf after calving
6.1.4	Colostrum management
6.2	Milk (replacer) feeding schedule
6.3	From birth to weaning
6.4	Disease and health management
6.5	Handling of calves after difficult birth
6.6	Young stock rearing info and Key Performance Indicators



1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- ❑ How to guide the calf throughout the first period of its life.
- ❑ Management decisions required to optimize calf growth till weaning.
- ❑ Setting and monitoring goals;
 - Length of the milk period
 - Bodyweight at the end of the milk period
 - Weaning protocol.
- ❑ Some awareness, that you are dealing with your future cow.



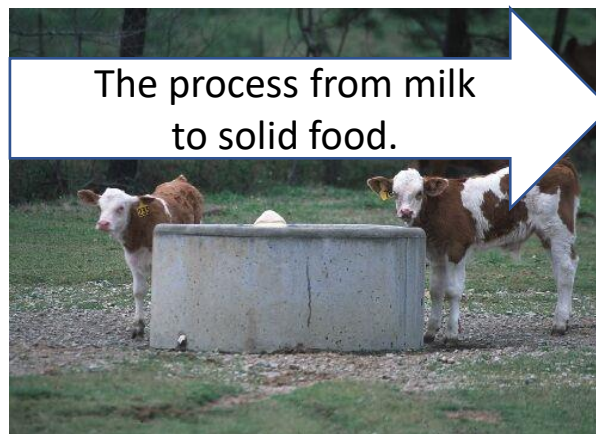
2. Background

- In several other topics we already emphasized on Colostrum management, Calf care after calving and Calf milk replacers (CMR)/Milk schedules.
- Before you start with this topic (From Birth to Weaning) it is recommended to look at these topics first.
- After that you may continue with “From Birth to Weaning”.



3. Setting weaning goals/objectives

- Simply put, weaning is the process of caring for the calf from milk to solid feed



3.1 Setting weaning goals/objectives

- Weaning process takes about 90 days



January 2021.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

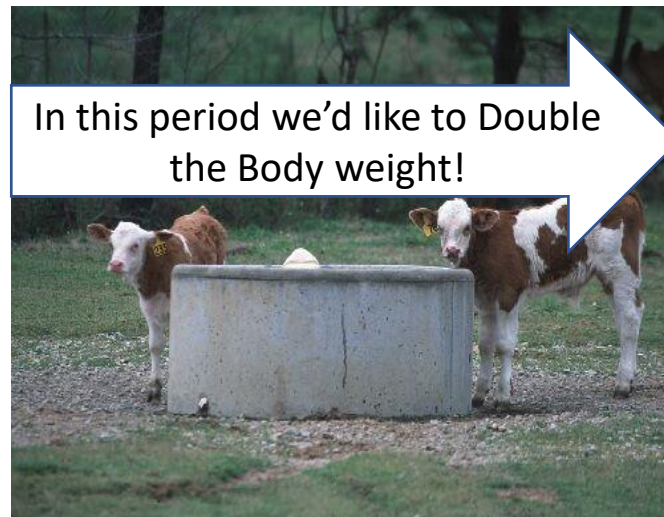


April 2021.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

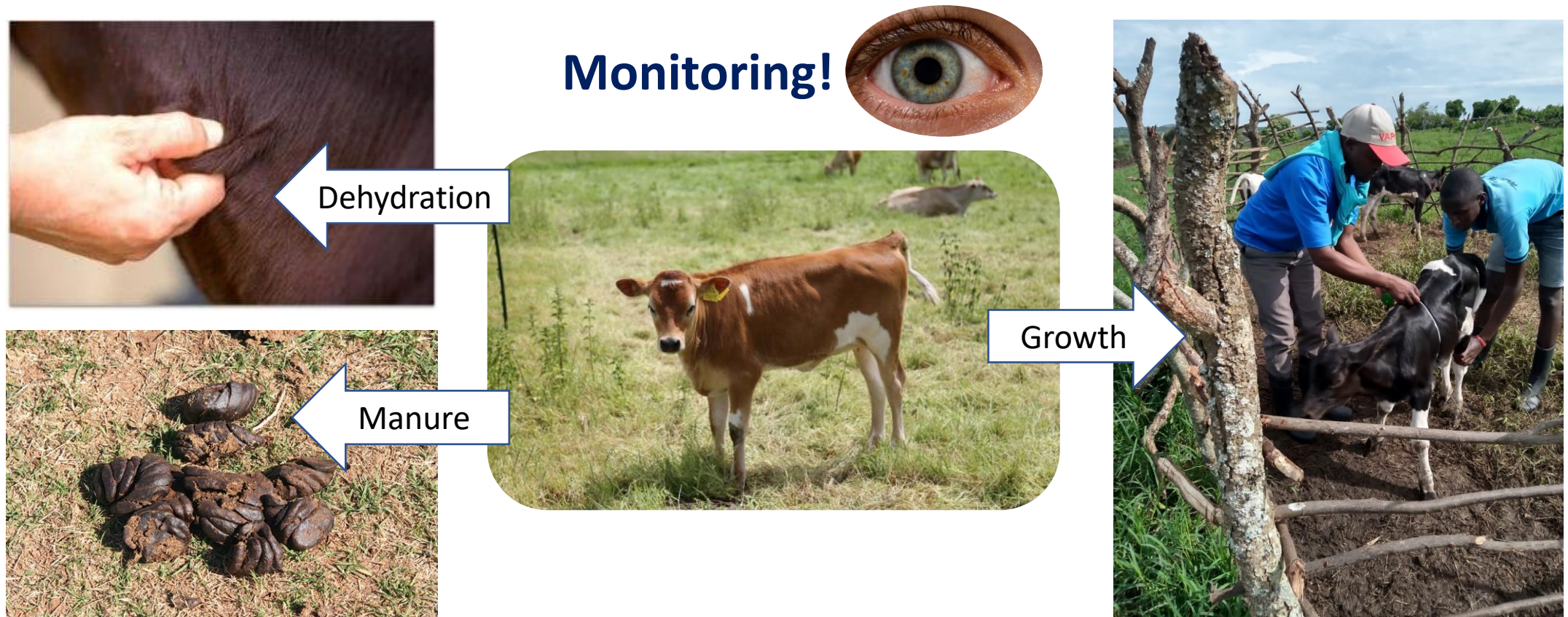
3.2 Setting weaning goals/objectives

- The aim is to double the body weight.



4. Monitoring weaning goals

- Monitoring the calf throughout this period pays back i.e.; Dehydration check, manure score, regular weighing (weight) and general health checks.



5. Safe weaning procedure

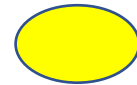
January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Suckling time (hours/day)



24 hours - 51 days



16 hours - 18 days



12 hours - 15 days



8 hours - 6 days



0 hours (No milk)



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

April 2021.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5.1 Weaning Protocol/Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

-  24 hours. 51 days
-  16 hours. 18 days.
-  12 hours. 15 days
-  8 hours. 6 days.
-  0 hours.



Increase roughage to to improve rumen capacity



Reduce the amount of milk to be fed daily



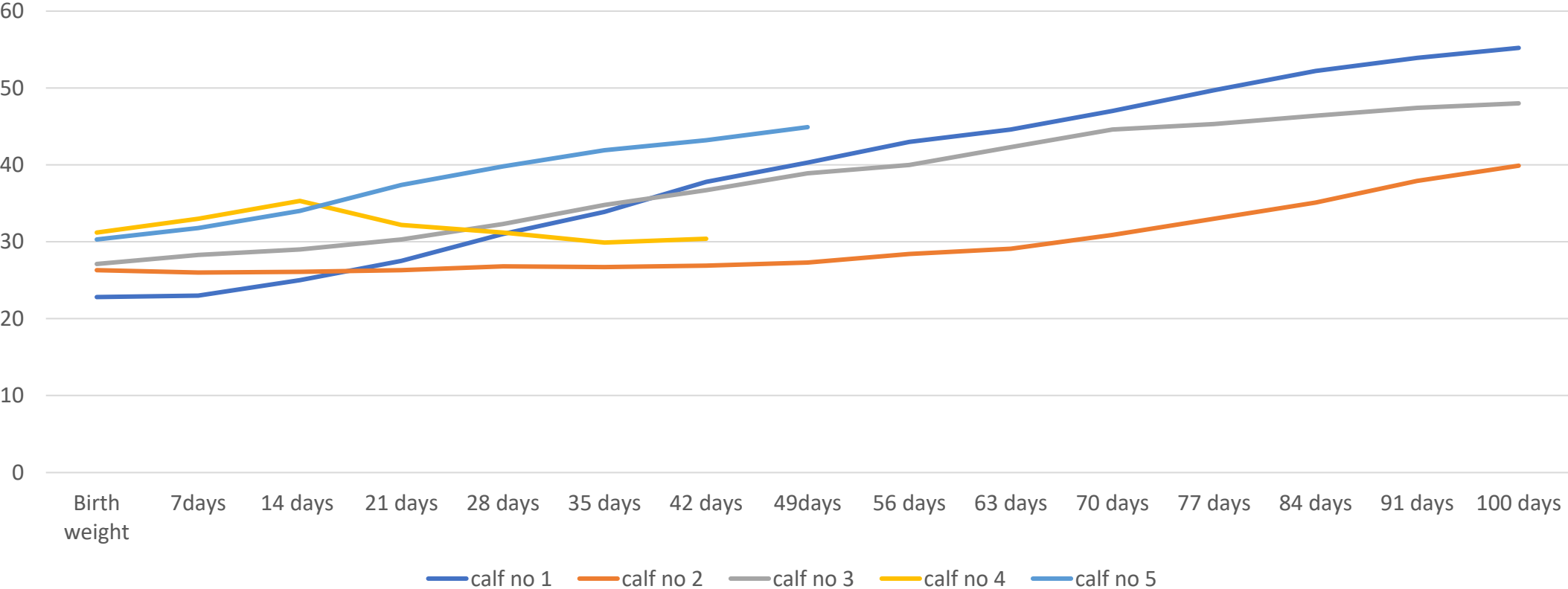
Always allow access to clean fresh water



Provide concentrate feed

6. Growth rate: Example of Growth curves in a farm

Example;
"2021" Growth rate in kilogrammes from Birth to Weaning;
Farm name;.....



6.1 Growth rate Cont'd: Explaining the Growth curves

	calf no 1	calf no 2	calf no 3	calf no 4	calf no 5
Birth weigh	22,8	26,3	27,1	31,2	30,3
7days	23	26	28,3	33	31,8
14 days	25	26,1	29	35,3	34
21 days	27,5	26,3	30,3	32,2	37,4
28 days	31	26,8	32,3	31,2	39,8
35 days	33,9	26,7	34,8	29,9	41,9
42 days	37,8	26,9	36,7	30,4	43,2
49days	40,3	27,3	38,9		44,9
56 days	43	28,4	40		
63 days	44,6	29,1	42,3		
70 days	47	30,9	44,6		
77 days	49,7	33	45,3		
84 days	52,2	35,1	46,4		
91 days	53,9	37,9	47,4		
100 days	55,2	39,9	48		

Calf no 1: Grows quite well, doubled its birthweight.

Calf no 2: Slow growth, because of low milk production from the mother ?? Extend suckling period!

Calf no 3: Has a good start, 2nd part of growth is decreasing.

Calf no 4: Had a great start, must be sick, or the mother is sick. Take action!

Calf no 5: Looks very promising, fast growing.

9. Summary video

Watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKAEY9FiGJM>



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