



# Calf Rearing Guide



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# Welcome to the Quinns of Baltinglass Calf Rearing booklet.

In the evolving landscape of agriculture, providing optimal nutrition and care for calves has never been more critical. At Quinns, we understand that healthy calves are the foundation of a thriving dairy or beef operation. With decades of experience in animal nutrition and a deep commitment to innovation, Quinns are proud to present our own comprehensive range of premium milk replacers and specialized calf feeds. As part of our sustainability programme, both our milk replacer and calf feed ingredients are Irish sourced leading to a lower carbon footprint.

Our philosophy is rooted in the belief that every calf deserves the best start in life. As thought leaders in calf nutrition, we continuously research and develop products that not only meet but exceed industry standards. Our milk replacers are scientifically formulated to ensure that calves receive the essential nutrients necessary for optimal growth and development during their critical early weeks. Our blends of proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals empower farmers to raise healthier, more productive animals.

Also, in this booklet, you will find detailed information on our new range of Elite calf feeds that are meticulously crafted to support various stages of growth and rumen development. Also featured is the Quinns calving checklist, all the calving and calf rearing equipment is available in any of our six Agri stores, providing a holistic approach that simplifies the rearing process.

***Enjoy the read!***



## Best start to life:

When a calf is first born it has a low immune system and has an underdeveloped rumen. Making sure the correct environment is present and that the calf receives enough colostrum will give the calf the best start possible.



Correct management of the navel is important as this is one of the most common points of infection. To reduce the risk of infection, iodine should be applied to the naval area. Keep pens clean and keep fresh bedding under calves to keep them healthy, warm and free from infection.

The calf's first feed should follow the **1, 2, 3 Rule**:

- 1)** Feed the cow's **1st** milk to the calf.
- 2)** Feed the calf within **2** hours of birth
- 3)** Make sure the calf gets **3** litres of colostrum

Colostrum is so important for antibody transfer from the dam to the calf as well as the overall health of the calf. This transfer needs to happen early in the calf's life as the ability for the antibodies to transfer greatly reduces after 24 hours. The farmer should remove the calf from the dam and feed the calf if the calf will not receive enough colostrum from the cow, especially with heifers. This will give the calves a good start and help to make sure they hit their weight targets.

Feeding a good milk replacer is vital to ensure the calf is reaching their weight targets. Milk replacers with a 0% fibre content and high quality ingredients is important. Feeding a lower quality milk replacer will lead to lower growth rates which will delay weaning, this will result in feeding higher cost milk replacer (over concentrate and silage/grass) for longer. Having fresh hay/silage and calf starter available is also important as it will encourage the calf to eat more roughage and help to develop the rumen faster.

When weaning, your calves eat at least 0.5kg per day for 2 weeks and that they reach 1kg per day for 3 consecutive days before weaning. Backing off milk feeding gradually before full weaning can be a helpful strategy for increasing meal intakes. Successful step down programs require a minimum of 12 to 14 days to prepare the rumen properly.

# Introducing our new “ELITE” Calf Feed Range

**Quinns of Baltinglass are excited to introduce our innovative new range of feeds designed to support the healthy growth and development of your calves. As you embark on this crucial journey in raising strong, resilient animals, we understand that optimal nutrition plays a vital role in shaping their future.**

Our new “ELITE” Calf Starter feed features 100% toasted flakes and a comprehensive mineral package, including the powerful Algimun and Rumigain. This exceptional formulation supports the development of beneficial microbes in the gut, promoting better nutrient absorption and overall health in your calves. By ensuring a robust microbiome, Algimun sets the foundation for solid growth.

Additionally, we proudly present our “ELITE” Grass Specialty Feed, enhanced with Diamond V, a natural yeast culture known for its ability to improve digestion and enhance feed efficiency. This specialised formula is tailored to support the calf’s transition onto a grass-based diet, ensuring they receive the essential nutrients required for optimal growth and performance.

**When you use “ELITE” calf range, you are giving your calf the best start in life**



Scan the QR  
code to view  
our Elite calf  
range



# New *ELITE* Young-stock range

## *ELITE* Calf Starter Muesli

- 18%CP, 0.98 UFV
- 100% Toasted Ration
- 19% Soyabean meal
- Complete mineral package

## *ELITE* Calf Follow On Pellet

- 18%CP, 0.97 UFV
- Rumigrow Calf
- *Algimun*

## *ELITE* Calf Follow On CR

- 17%CP, 0.97 UFV
- Rumigrow Calf
- *Algimun*

## *ELITE* Calf Grazer Pellet

- 16%CP, 0.97 UFV
- For Calves @ grass prone to summer scour
- Rumigain mineral
- *Diamond V*

## Supreme Weanling Pellet

- 16%CP, 0.97 UFV
- Rumigain mineral

## Supreme Weanling CR

- 16%CP, 0.98 UFV
- Rumigain mineral

# What is Algimun?

**Algimun-G®** is the latest ingredient in our new ELITE follow on range. Algimun is the combination of 2 seaweed extracts and reinforce calves' immune system and gut integrity.

Microgranulated form for mill/farm use

Applications : in calf feed = **5g/calf/day** until weaning, in case of challenge post-weaning apply **10g/calf/day**.



## Benefits

- Improve calves' health status
- reduce the risk of digestive and respiratory issues
- reduce the antibiotic use





# What is Diamond V technology?

Diamond V is a natural yeast added to our *ELITE* Grass Specialty Feed. It is proven to improve digestion and feed efficiency. It will help the calf's transition onto a grass based diet

Proven on Irish grass based diets

Features:

- Short, medium and long chain fatty acids
- Fatty acids are functional nutrients recognised to be deficient in typical calf diet
- Play role in bone and muscle growth and speed maturation of immature intestines and pancreas

**Benefits:**

- Improves growth (bone and muscle)
- Improves feed efficiency
- Reduces scours @ grass
- Improves measures of immunity



# Key principles to success

## Colostrum

- Quantity – 3L in 1st 2 hours of life
- Quality – Essential it's good quality
- Hygiene – Equipment used must be clean

## Milk Feeding

- Feed Transition milk for the first 4 feeds post colostrum
- Calves should be fed 4-6 litres of milk per day
- Consistent milk replacer – keep same mixing rates and feed at the same times
- Aim to double the calf's birthweight by the end of weaning
- Choose a milk replacer that is derived from milk proteins
- Calves can be weaned off milk once they are eating 1Kg of concentrates for at least 3 consecutive days

## Environmental Factors

- Good shed ventilation
- Good shed hygiene
- Clean fresh water
- Draft free environment
- Ensure air inlets are above calf height





# Successful calf rearing



## Transport & Stress Reduction

- Keep journeys to a minimum
- Feed calves before moving
- Quietly load & unload calves
- Trailer should be disinfected and dry
- No drafts
- Feed electrolytes
- Assume routine feeding quickly



## Feeding concentrate & Water

- Offer concentrates from Day 3
- Offer straw/hay from Day 3
- Feed little & often (100-200 grams/ha/day)
- Fresh clean water is essential
- Keep troughs cleaned daily



## Calf Health

- Normal calf temperature is between 38.5°C – 39.5°C
- Specific immunity of the new born calf is dependent on colostrum intake and obviously quality of colostrum from the mother
- Veterinary advice is paramount on vaccines programmes as they are farm specific



## Calving Checklist

- Calving Gloves
- Thermometer
- Refractometer
- Calving Jacks
- Calving Jack Ropes
- Red Lamps and Bulbs
- Iodine
- Disinfectants for pens
- Rehydration Supplement
- Calf Coats
- Creep Feed
- Colostrum –  
*Back up supply*
- Calving Gel
- Calcijec
- Magniject

# Quinns Calf Milk Replacer

**Quinns of Baltinglass Ltd now have its own innovative calf milk replacers: Quinn Calf 23% and Quinn Heifer 25%. Proudly made with high-quality Irish ingredients sourced from local processors, both products are specifically designed for the unique needs of Irish farmers and their calves. With 0% fibre content, these formulations are rich in skim and whey proteins, promoting healthier digestion and reducing the risk of scour and pneumonia**

These premium milk replacers feature a blend of three types of fats—palm, coconut, and butterfat—enhancing dry feed intake and facilitating rumen development. Additionally, the inclusion of sweeteners fosters improved overall intake, while plant extracts contribute to better weight gain through reduced inflammation and optimal gut health.

Enriched with pre-biotics and buttermilk to minimize stomach upsets, both Quinn Calf 23% and Quinn Heifer 25% as part of our commitment to sustainability and is at the forefront of these new offerings, which not only support Irish agriculture but also demonstrate our dedication to providing exceptional nutrition for calves.

## **Key benefits of both replacers are:**

- Fixed formulated product
- Contains pre-biotics: oligosaccharides from milk and yeast to minimize stomach upset.
- Contains buttermilk which reduces stomach upsets and feed refusals as it acts as an emulsifier enhancing fat breakdown. Additionally, it can reduce rotavirus infectivity
- Contains plant extracts which will aid the immune system in fighting pathogens



**Quinns Calf 23** is made up of sweet whey powder, low heat skim and buttermilk, This product is designed to feed calves post colostrum and transition milk.

- 23% crude protein with 20% fat
- Whey based with the addition of skim and buttermilk
- Predominantly dairy based proteins sourced from Irish dairies
- It is made with extra energy in the form of sugar, for when calves use sugar to keep warm in changeable conditions
- Addition of skim and buttermilk will add with slowing down digestion and improve dry feed intake



**Quinns Heifer 25** is also made up of sweet whey powder, low heat skim and buttermilk, This product is designed to feed calves post colostrum and transition milk.

- 25% crude protein with 18% fat
- High quantity of low heat skim, buttermilk, whey and consistent fat level
- High skim and buttermilk content to provide a slow release of nutrients throughout the day and encourage dry feed intake and rumen development



Scan the code to view our milk replacer range

**What our customers say**

**Desmond, Nigel and John Fennell milk 125 Friesian Holstein cows in Partnership in Ballyhide Co. Laois.**

*"In Spring 2023, I used Quinns Calf 23% for the first time and was delighted how the calves preformed. Calf rearing could not have gone any better as calves were healthy, showed no scours or stomach upsets and continued to perform on grass over their first summer. Quinns Calf 23 worked well with the automatic feeder and was very easy to mix when mixed for beef calves outside the feeder. Spring born calves are ahead of target which is very important when aiming to reach target breeding weights"*



## Quinns Technical Reps

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