

# How to mix and feed calf milk replacer

Follow these steps to help deliver a consistent milk replacer diet to your calves.

## 1. Weigh



**Weighing milk replacer powder will always be the most accurate.**

Use a calibrated scale to weigh the powder needed to feed all the calves.

## 2. Mix



**Batch mixing is recommended.**

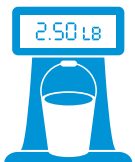
Fill the mixing container with half of the total volume of 110° to 120°F water needed.

Pour the powder on top of the water.

Mix while adding the remaining water to reach the total volume of solution to feed all calves.

Inspect closely to ensure that all powder is thoroughly mixed. A sieve can be a good way to check for clumps.

## 3. Serving Size



**Ensure the appropriate volume of solution is fed to each calf.**

The amount of milk replacer a calf receives at each feeding depends on the number of times a day you feed.

A full potential milk diet should be fed at 2.5 lbs of dry matter/day and can be delivered 2x/day or 3x/day. This is typically done in 3 - 4 qts of total volume per feeding.

## 4. Feed



### Buckets

Use a flow meter or mark the correct volume on buckets to improve accuracy.

### Bottles

Nipples should be replaced at any significant signs of wear to avoid bacterial buildup and leaking milk which could cause aspiration pneumonia.

Check to make sure the nipple valve is working properly to avoid restricting consumption and collapsed bottles. Proper function of the opening size and the valve should result in milk replacer only dripping when the bottle is inverted.

## 5. Temperature



**Target temperature of solution fed to calf should be 101° to 105°F.**

Check the temperature of the milk replacer fed to the first calf, a middle calf and the last calf fed. This is especially important in winter when milk cools faster.

## The right tools

- Bucket or bottle
- Calibrated scale
- Whisk or paint mixer
- Thermometer
- Sieve



**There is no second chance to feed calves right.**

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