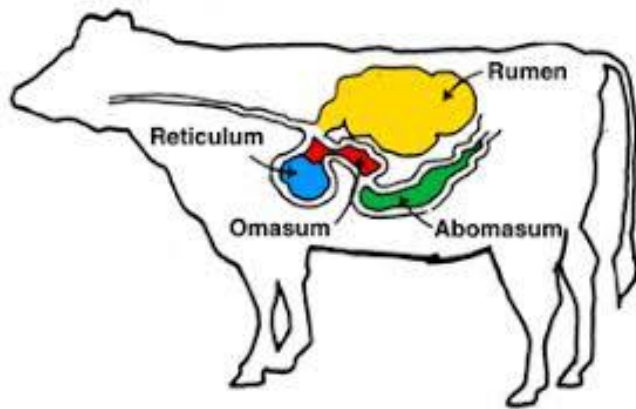


# CATTLE FEEDING & NUTRITION

## The amazing grass converting machine



Cows are ruminants. The rumen is a big pouch filled with microbes (tiny bugs) that digest fiber. This is why cows can eat grass, hay etc. and we as humans can't.

### Cows have 4 Stomachs

- Rumen
- Reticulum
- Omasum
- Abomasum

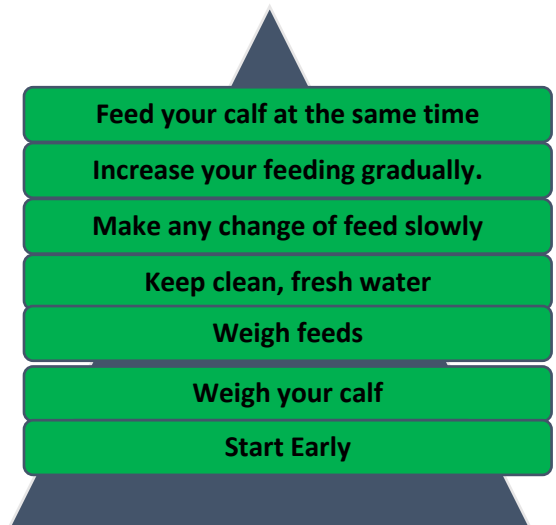
## Cows Love Consistency

- Feed your calf at the same time every day.
- Feed the same thing every day.
- Keep feed and water fresh

Change their feed slowly, especially when you are introducing a new type of feed i.e. supplement or beet pulp and when you are adding more grain to their diets.

Start early. It's much easier to start to feed you calf, heifer or steer, early and get them into the condition you are looking for to show and then keep them their or slow down their feed than trying to catch them up. Feeding cattle too hard and too fast is risky. Feeding them too hard can be hard on their stomachs and even risk affecting their growth and feet.

Estimate the final market weight you would like your animal to weigh at show time and calculate the number of days between beginning weigh-in and show date. Using your animal's beginning weight, calculate the average daily gain he needs to meet your end weight. Remember that this is the goal for the entire feeding period, and they need to gain a little more in the early part of the feeding period because their gain will slow as they get heavier, and the weather gets hotter.  $(\text{End Wt} - \text{Beg. Wt})/\text{days} = \text{Average Daily Gain}$



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## Monitor your Calf

- Weigh your animal – monthly is ideal
- Weigh your feeds.
- Watch your calf

### Calf Checks

Watch to see that they are bright eyed, have a good hair coat. Are they growing at a rate you expect? Are they eating everything you offer or are they leaving some behind? Is it a specific feed or a bit of everything. OR are they hungry and run to up to the bunk as soon as they see you?

### Oh crap!!!

Manure observation—Each animal differs in its capacity to consume and digest feed. A better way to determine the optimal amount of feed for each steer is to observe its manure. A consistent, firm manure patty that does not splatter when dropped to the ground shows that the steer is on full feed with the proper amount of concentrate. A watery stool (scours) usually means that the animal is taking in too much energy, and either the amount of feed or the energy level portion of the diet should be reduced. If this problem persists, severe acidosis usually results, and the steer goes off feed. If the manure are too firm and dry, the animal needs more feed or a higher energy concentration (more corn) in the ration. Bloody manure can be a sign of



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