

The **GLW Range of heifer diets** are carefully formulated, incorporating the latest nutritional knowledge, to maximise the potential of modern rearing techniques and high genetic merit animals.

The GLW Heifer Rearing System

It is well established that high protein diets promote optimum growth and development in modern dairy heifers, maximising stature, without laying down excess body condition.

The GLW range of heifer diets allow the use of both straw and silage systems from weaned calf to point of calving.

Before all else, we must know where we are going, and use this information to decide how best to get there. To assist in this target assesment, the use of a grarowth rate guide is essential. Below is an example for Holstein cross heifers that are expected to reach an adult, second calver stature of about 57 inches.

Age (months)	Height (cm)	Weight (Kg)	DLWG (Kg/Day)
Birth	75	42	0.45
1	78	56	0.65
2	87	76	0.75
4	100	120	0.80
6	110	170	0.85
8	116	210	0.85
10	121	250	0.80
12	124	300	0.80
14	127	350	0.80
16	130	400	0.95
18	133	450	1.00
20	136	500	1.15
22	139	550	1.00
24	142	600	0.90
26	145	650	-



Feeding Heifers to Service

When feeding straw, the protein level in the rearing concentrate should be maintained at 19% protein, **GLW Heifer Grower 19 Nuts** have been specially designed for this purpose, and the quantity fed should be gradually increased until it to a maximum of 3.5kg in order to stimulate the intake of straw as the animal grows.

Good quality grass silage may be introduced from 4 months of age and gradually increased until it replaces the straw. If the silage protein level is above 14% the **GLW Cattle Rearer Nuts** should be fed. Remember that, during the pre-pubertal period, if dietary protein is limited in a high energy feed regime then the resultant depression in growth hormone secretion will inhibit mammary development. It is recommended that the growth rate at this time be restricted to maximum of 0.7kg/day

This must be the case in a low protein system, however, experience has shown that Holstein heifers fed on a protein rich diet can be grown at higher rates during this period without adversely effecting subsequent performance. The concentrate should also be used at a maximum level of 2kg per day to supplement grazing, as, apart from spring, it is unlikely that grass alone will sustain the growth pattern demanded to achieve the height and weight targets required for service at 14-16 months of age. Remember that heifers at this stage must be fed in such a manner as to be gaining weight, show strong heats, and conceive readily to service. A growth rate of about 0.8 to 1.0kg per/day should be aimed for.

Feeding Heifers to Calving

This is a very difficult task, for we must feed heifers to continue growing without laying down excess body fat. The main cause of difficult calving is not the fault of the service sire, but under sized heifers with excess fat deposits in the cervical area. Excess fat on heifers will also presuppose a higher rate of post calving health problems and reduced milk production in the heifer lactation. Ideally, heifers should be at about condition score 3.0 as they approach calving. During the last growth phase over the second half of pregnancy, protein intake is again very important in the stimulation of growth, and the control of fat deposition. The protein level of the concentrate should not drop below 19% if low protein roughages are used, or the animals will tend to fatten. One may also, at this stage, need to restrict access to high energy roughages if they are showing a fattening effect. Always remember that grass or grass silage, on their own to non-lactating cattle, are fattening rations, whereas straw acts as a rumen stimulant. During the last month of pregnancy, and assuming that target heights and condition scores have been achieved, the growth rate should be reduced to about 0.9kg/day. This will remove any chance of excess fat deposition, and prepare the heifer for a low stress calving.

It has been estimated that up to 40% of heifers fail to reach second calver status, with the main reasons being infertility and poor production. If replacement heifers are to achieve their true potential, then their rearing from calf to calving must be planned, as must receive as much management attention to detail as to detail as the milking portion of the herd.

Diet Name	Oil %	Protein %	Fibre %	Ash %
Heifer Grower 19	4.5	19	9.0	8.5
Cattle Rearer	4.5	17	9.0	8.0

As with all our feeds, the Heifer feeding range comes with the “GLW Positive Response Commitment”, including access to experienced technical support, dedicated customer service, raw material, and transport teams, ensuring that you receive what you want, when you need it.

.....Your feeding system for lifetime performance