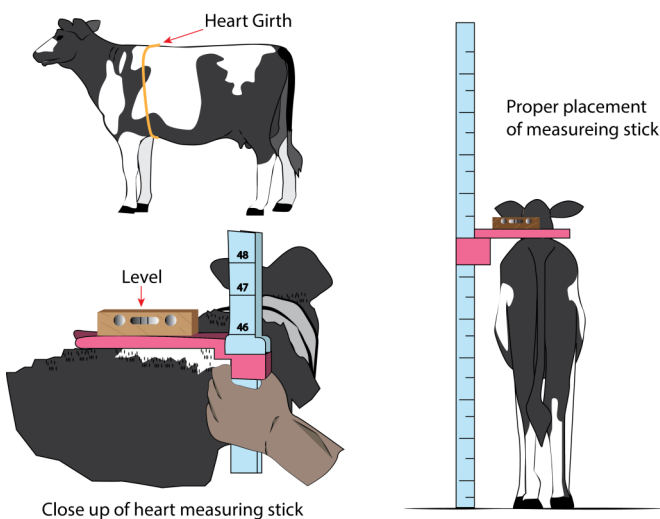


Routine weighing of calves and young stock is a good management practice

- Body weight and height at withers are three important measurements used to evaluate calf and young stock growth
- The weight can be estimated with a weigh band and height by graduated piece of timber
- The weight records will advice you when to inseminate your heifer
- A well reared heifer can be inseminated at the age of 18-24 months with a body weight of 240 kg



Girth and height measurement for calf and young stock

Remember that today's calf is tomorrow's cow

Implemented by:

Calf and Young Stock Rearing



Today's calf is tomorrow's cow

Introduction

Good calf rearing begins two months before birth. In-calf cow should get enough good quality grass plus 1-2 kg of dairy meal to cater for the calf growth. Due to their caring nature, women are known to take good care for calves.

Management of calving environment



Assist cows with difficult calving to give birth
Wash hands and cut nails before the exercise

Management of a new born calf

Clear nostril, weigh and record calf weight soon after birth. Disinfect the navel with iodine



Calf feeding before weaning

- Calf growth target 600 g/day

Age weeks	Milk liters	Early weaner pellets kg per day	Good quality roughage
1 (0-3 days) (4-7 days)	Colostrum 4	- -	
2	4	handful	handful
3	5	handful	handful
4-5	5	3/4	1 kg
6-9	5	1	1 kg
10-11	4	1	adlib
12-13	3	1	adlib
14-15	2	-	adlib
TOTAL	415	70	

Feeding schedule after weaning

- Growth target 400 g /day

Age (months)	Roughage	Young stock supplement	Minerals
4-12	Napier grass (adlib)	2 kg	85 grams
13-24	Napier grass (adlib)	1 kg	100 grams

Good calf housing for healthy calves

A good calf house should be well ventilated, easy to clean and made of locally available material.



Slatted floor calf housing

Routine calf and young stock management practices

Practice	Age months	Sex	Method
Identification	3	Both	Tattooing, Ear tagging, notching, neck straps
Castration	3	Male	Burdizzo, rubber ring and by knife
Removal of extra teats	3	Female	clipping
Disbudding	3	Both	Hot iron

At all times consider animal welfare