

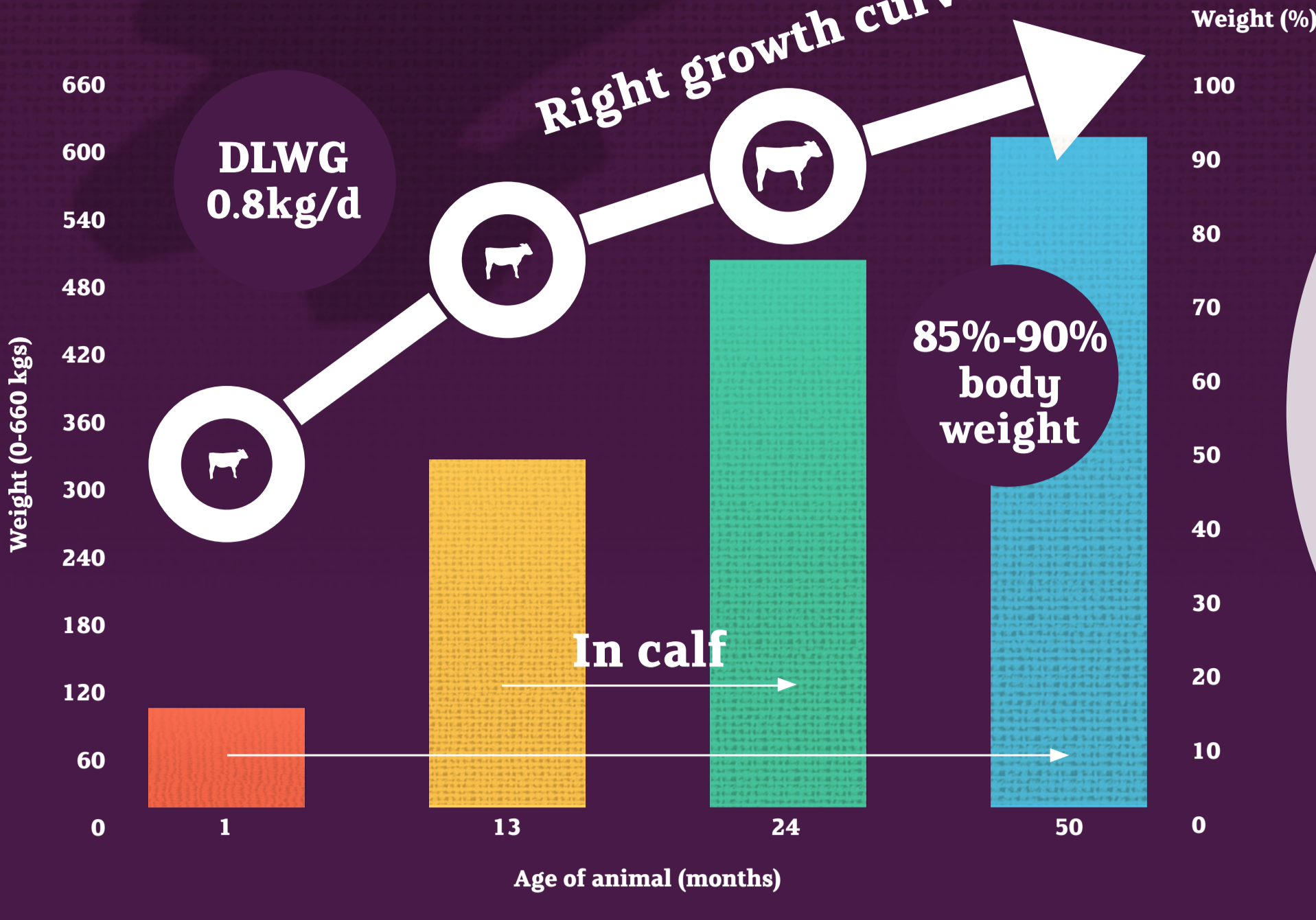
# Feeding For Efficiency



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The average age of first calving in the UK is 27 months (NMR, Aug 2020) but calving heifers at 24 months of age is proven to be more beneficial to their lifetime performance.

Dairy heifers that fail to grow adequately from Day 1 won't meet this important target.



## How to create an efficient system

Careful colostrum management will ensure your calves get off to the best start. To hit calving at 24 months, start at Day 1 to ensure heifer calves are on the right growth curve.

To get heifer calves off to the best possible start and hit the DLWG target of 0.8kg/day, create a positive 'growth triangle' around 3 key elements:

- environment
- nutrition
- health



### Healthy calf vs Sick calf:

A healthy calf in a warm, low disease environment has more energy available and can grow more efficiently.

### A healthy, warm calf – efficient



### A sick, cold calf – inefficient



# The benefits of feeding more milk replacer

The primary source of nutrition for a calf during the first 3-4 weeks is milk and feeding more milk replacer from a few days of age will help:

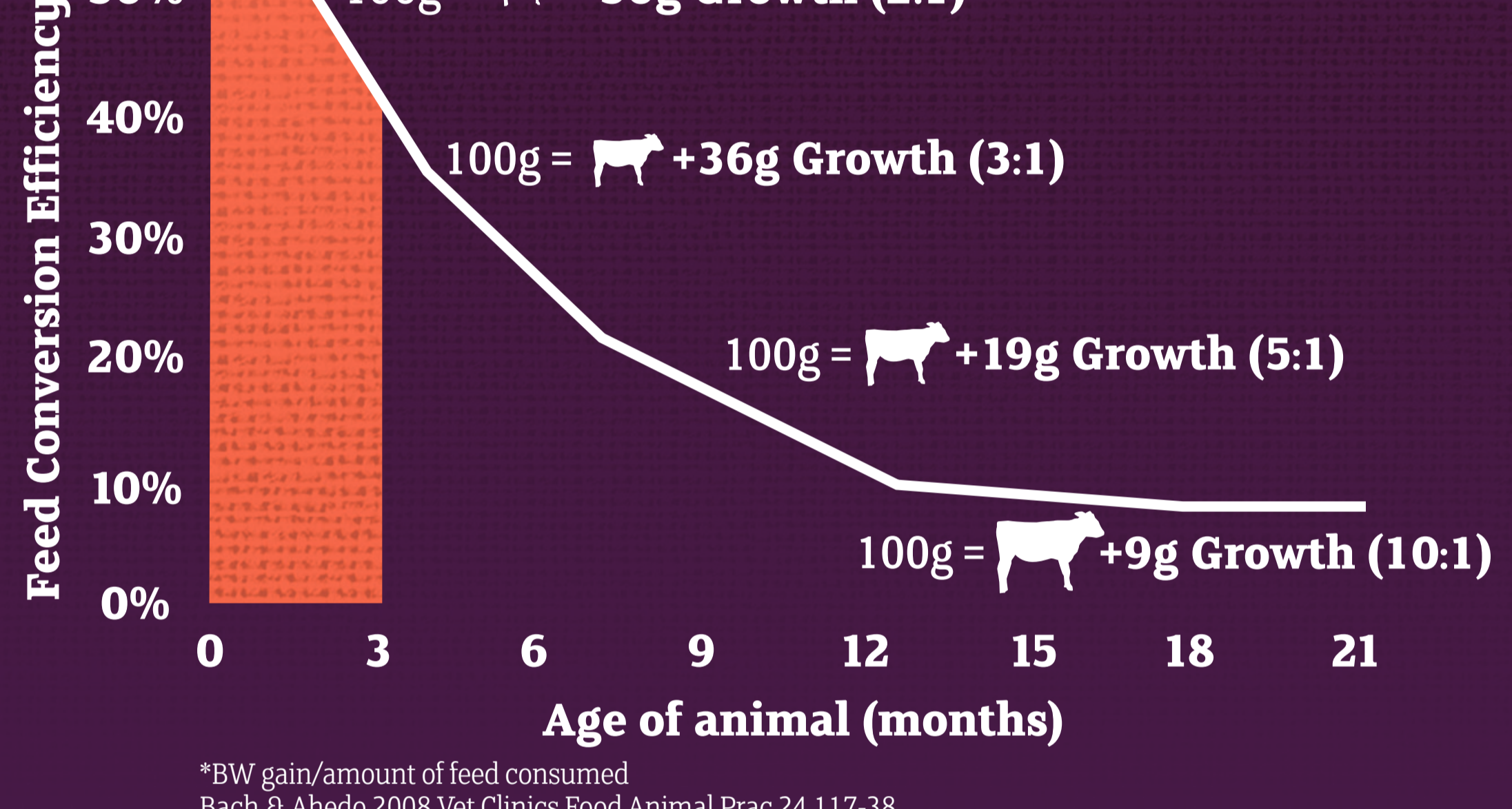
- Maximise feed efficiency
- Prevent early weight loss
- Maximise early growth potential
- Improve health
- Improve future performance



# Maximising feed efficiency

Feed efficiency (def: the relative ability of the animal to turn feed nutrients into growth) is at its highest during the milk feeding period.

For the same amount of feed intake, as the animal ages, you get less growth back out, so take advantage of the high feed efficiency in the first two months of life to maximise growth.



\*BW gain/amount of feed consumed  
Bach & Ahedo 2008 Vet Clinics Food Animal Prac 24 117-38

## More about Imunopro®

Imunopro® is our blend of super-concentrated functional milk proteins, which make up most of the protein content in colostrum and carry most of the biologically valuable ingredients to the calf including immunoglobins and amino acids.



### Did you know?

Volac's Imunopro® contains 35% concentrated milk protein, whereas whey powder only contains 12.5 – 13% protein – that's less than half of the protein in Imunopro®.

Imunopro® contains high levels of lysine and leucine – the same amino acids that pro athletes need to build and repair muscles.

Lysine is a vital amino acid for growth.

Leucine is critical in driving the rate of muscle protein synthesis.



# Not all milk replacer is the same



The type and quality of ingredients in a milk replacer will also help determine calf performance.

Calves fed milk replacer with a high inclusion level of Imunopro® grew faster compared to those fed milk replacer with a low-level inclusion of Imunopro®.

Cow	Body Weight, kg	
	Low Imunopro®	High Imunopro®
Birth	39.7	38.5
Day 14	46.6	47.1
Day 28	54.0	53.9
Day 42	61.9	64.1
Day 56 (weaning)	74.1	77.7
Day 70	91.8	94.9

Volac Calf Trial 2019/20 – AFBI, Hillsborough, NI

# The 3 pillars of Feed for Future



Feed for Future is an initiative set up by Volac in which we want to encourage the industry to do better for the future. Beginning with looking after the future of our planet by using sustainable raw ingredients, the future of our industry by helping give back where we can and the future of your herd and your business by encouraging efficient and sustainable practices on farm to increase the longevity of your herd and increase the profitability of your business.

# The benefits of high-quality milk replacer

Feeding a precise level of high-quality, precision formulation milk replacer that has been balance with the optimum level of vitamins and trace minerals will ensure your calves will reach their full potential and meet your targets.



Benefit to calf	Benefit to farmer
Maximising growth and development during the milk drinking phase will help with overall development and assist in a strong immune system ensuring your calves remain healthy and will meet their full potential.	Stronger immune systems mean a healthier herd, resulting in less illness, better growth rates and fewer losses.
The whey fraction of colostrum contains the bioactive content for calf success, we take liquid whey and concentrate it up to make our unique Imunopro® which is present in all our milk replacers.	Feeding 800g per day of Volac milk replacer leads to an average growth of 0.81kg per day. Increasing the pre-wean average daily growth is proven to have a positive impact on age at first calving and the first lactation milk yield.
High-quality milk replacer leads to healthier, bigger and better developed calves, keeping them healthy and strong.	Feeding high quality milk replacer ensures your calves get off to the best start for an efficient and sustainable systems.

Photo credit – Bertie Newman, Manor Farm Bungalow, Dorset

# #FeedForEfficiency

