



TARGET 1: WEANING

- Highest feed efficiency during this period
- Increase pre-wean ADG proven to have positive impact on first lactation milk yield
- Mammary cell and gut development
- Immune status function development
- Underestimation of calf development during the pre-weaned period
- Are calves being fed accordingly to take full advantage?
- Only 42% of live born heifers reached 3rd lactation (RVC Study)
- Not included is the perinatal mortality (born dead or died within 24 hours of life) - that figure is 8%



TARGET 2: BREEDING

- Heifers must be in calf by 15 months if they are to calve at 24 months
- Crucial time to monitor these heifers

Fit not fat

- Monitor on a regular basis – growth rate
- Heifers must be bred at 55%-60% of their mature bodyweight
- Irish data shows body weight cannot be accurately determined by eye
- Breed on weight to ensure heifers are at optimal size at calving ie. not too small and not too fat (fit not fat)



TARGET 3: CALVING

- Age at first calving has a considerable impact on the number of replacement carried on a dairy farm.
- Less replacements means less feed, less time and less space
- 15% of potential dairy replacements born alive on UK farms and 20% in Ireland fail to even reach first calving due to calf mortality and conception failure as heifers.
- Calving weight should be 85-90% mature body weight

AFC 24 v AFC 30 Months

- Increase fertility
- Increase milk yield
- Increase longevity
- Becomes profitable earlier

Longevity:

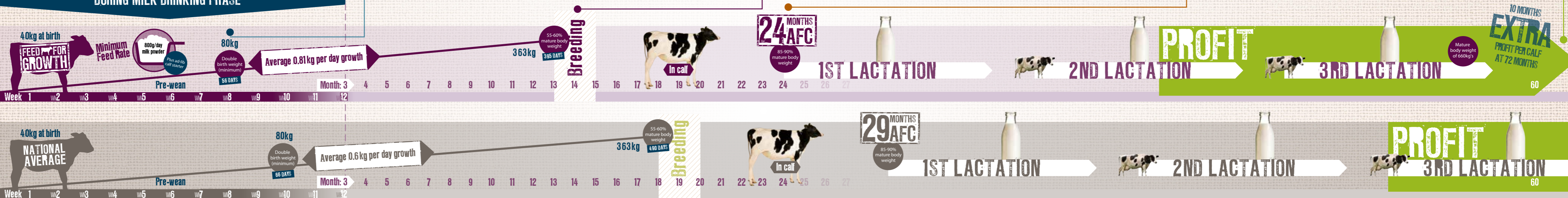
- 70% reach 3rd lactation if AFC 24 months
- 59% reach 3rd lactation if AFC 26-30 months
- 50% reach 3rd lactation if AFC >30

Profit generation

- 10 months additional profit generation at 72 months
- Only 42% of live born heifers reached 3rd lactation (RVC Study)

FIRST 3 MONTHS
MAXIMUM WEIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
DURING MILK DRINKING PHASE

VOLAC'S FEED FOR GROWTH PROGRAMME WILL MAXIMISE YOUR CHANCES OF GROWING BETTER COWS
MORE LACTATIONS = MORE MILK BECOME PROFITABLE EARLIER IMPROVED FERTILITY IMPROVED LONGEVITY



2:1 Feed conversion efficiency
100g of FEED = 50g of GROWTH

3:1
100g of FEED = 36g of GROWTH

5:1
100g of FEED = 19g of GROWTH

10:1
100g of FEED = 9g of GROWTH

MISSED OPPORTUNITY
EXPENSIVE TO CATCH UP Ref: Bach and Ahedo (2008)

PLOT YOUR HEIFER ROAD MAP

NATIONAL AVERAGE REF: NMR