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TRIAL REPORT



Olympian Beef Trial

Objective

To generate calf performance data for dairy origin beef calves reared on Olympian milk replacer.

Trial Site	Commercial Unit (Sussex, England)
Calf type	Dairy origin Angus beef calves
Number of Calves	30 (born Jan to Feb 25)
Milk Powder	Olympian (22% crude protein, 20% fat; whey-based milk powder; contains Progut®, Butyrate & Gardion)
Feeder Type	Milk bars with teats (10 calves per pen)

Management & Feed

Milk Replacer:

- On entry, calves (aged 2 to 5 weeks) were fed Olympian milk replacer twice daily via milk bars with teats (Table 1).
- Olympian was mixed at 150g/L (150g powder + 850ml water = 1 litre of mixed milk).

Table 1. Milk Feeding Plan

Days	CMR (g/litre)	CMR (litres/d)	CMR (g/d)
1-28	150	6	900
29-35	150	3 (once daily, am)	450
36-42	150	2 (once daily, am)	300

Total days on milk, 42 days; Total milk powder, 30.5kg. Milk Temperature, 37–39°C.

Water & Dry Feed:

- Fresh water (1 water bowl per 10 calves), calf starter pellets, and – (17% CP), straw bedding was available ad-libitum.

Weaning:

- Milk was reduced initially to 3 and then to 2 litres over 14 days and calves were weaned after a total of 42 days on milk.



Results

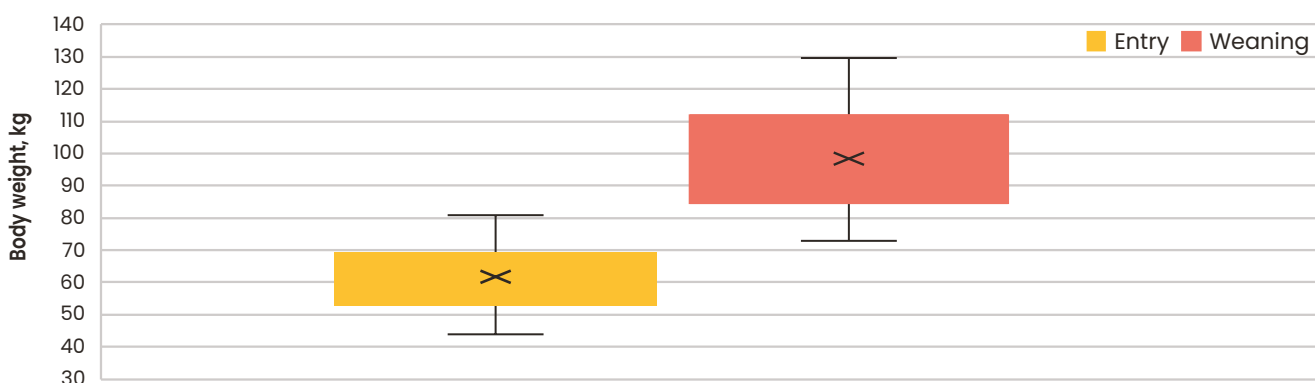
- Calves weighed on average 62kg (range 44 to 81kg) on entry & 99kg (range 73 to 130kg) at weaning (Table 2, Figure 1).
- Calves had a daily live weight gain (DLWG) of 0.95kg/d (range 0.6 to 1.4kg/d) from entry to weaning (Table 2).

Table 2. Calf body weight & daily live weight gain (DLWG) up to weaning (day 42)

	Mean \pm SE	Range
Body weight on entry*, kg	61.6 \pm 1.8	44 - 81
Body weight at weaning (d42), kg	98.5 \pm 3.0	73 - 130
Body weight gain, kg	36.9 \pm 1.6	22 - 56
DLWG entry to weaning, kg/d	0.95 \pm 0.04	0.6 - 1.4

*Calves were aged 2 to 5 weeks on entry.

Figure 1. Calf body weight at entry (2 to 5 weeks of age) & weaning (day 42)



Cost per kg body weight gain

Milk powder intake per calf	30.5 kg
Milk powder cost per 1000kg	£ 2100
Total milk powder cost per calf	£ 64.05
Mean body weight gain to weaning	37 kg
Milk powder cost per kg BW gain	£ 1.73

Based on March 2025 costings

Conclusions

- Calves fed a total of 30.5kg Olympian milk replacer over 42 days weighed on average 99kg at weaning.
- Calves had excellent growth rates up to weaning of 0.95kg per day.