

# CALFBLOG.COM

## KNOW-HOW FOR YOUR CALF REARING

### Management tips – The little things are the big things!

#### Let's get the DM% correct!

Milk from the cow contains approximately 13 to 14% solids.

It's important to note how the autofeeder calculates % solids (dry matter %).

The diagram below is from the quick start guides which is available on calfblog.com

**3 Concentration** milk replacer per liter of water

< group	A - D	>
	days	from to g/L
▶ P 1 :	[ 56	150 150 ]
P 2 :	0	0 0
duration :		56 days

The diagram illustrates the process of creating milk replacer. It shows four stages: 1. A glass containing 1 liter of water. 2. A glass containing 1 liter of water with 150g of milk powder (MP) added. 3. A glass containing 1 liter of water + 150g milk replacer. 4. A glass containing ~1.1 kg of feed.

Remember that in this example 150 g of powder is added to a liter of water. The DM% of the final solution is not 15%! One calculates the DM% as follows. 150g added to 1000 ml of water = a final weight of 1150. Therefore, the DM% is calculated as follows –  $150 / 1150g = 13.0\%$  solids.

If the setting had been 135 g then the DM% would be  $135/1135$  or 10%! This level of solids would create some rather dilute milk replacer solution for the calf.

Most of the time it's safe to leave this concentration setting at 150 g. It's probably not recommended to exceed 170 g / 1000 ml which would be 14.5% DM%. Higher concentration settings can lead to some "osmotic" scours with some milk replacers that have high ash content. Another concern would be the mineral content of water.

See our post on calfblog.com for a discussion on water quality! <https://calfblog.foerster-technik.com/water-is-important/>