

# CALFBLOG.COM

## KNOW-HOW FOR YOUR CALF REARING

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

One of the great things about autofeeders is that weaning can and should be less traumatic for the calf. This is accomplished by some simple rules to follow in developing feeding plans for the autofeeder.

- The calf should receive at least 8L / day when on the full allotment. However, I commonly recommend the 40-fit program for at least the first 28 days on the autofeeder. This means allowing the calf to drink as much as they want in 24 hours. However, milk intake is limited to a maximum of 2L every two hours.
  - **P1 28 days from 6.0 to 8.0 F** is what you will see for the 40fit section. The 6.0 to 8.0 are only used to show alarms for calves consuming less than these amounts. The term 40 Fit was developed by Foerster Technik where ad libitum milk feeding for a longer time (40days) is more common in Europe . The length of the 40 fit period can be customized for each farm depending on the growth expectations for the youngest calves.
  - **P2 4 days 12.0 to 8.0 R** - We reduce the allocation from 12.0 L to 8.0 L over 4 days. The R signifies restricted! This change typically encourages the calf to begin consuming calf starter as milk is being reduced. Some calves may only be eating 8L/ day. In this case you can reduce the 8L to 7 or 6L /day to encourage starter intake.
  - **P3 10 days 8L to 8L R**. Hold intake at 8L unless you reduced this to 7L or 6L in the previous period. If so, then this number should be the lower of the number during the P2 period.
  - **P4 14 days 8L to 2L R**. Milk is gradually reduced in a linear fashion over 14 days. By the end of this period, calves have adjusted to less milk and should be eating adequate amounts of starter grains.

One final note. Make sure that the calves have plenty of fresh clean water! Clean waterers daily and have your water tested every six months Check our November 2023 blog post on water!  
<https://calfblog.foerster-technik.com/water-is-important/>

Give this feeding plan a try! It provides plenty of milk during early life and the triggers to encourage calf starter intake. For a step-by-step guide to programming your feeder check out the Quick Start Guides on calfblog.com.

<https://calfblog.foerster-technik.com/quick-start-guides-fur-the-forster-technik-automatic-feeder-system/testquick-start-guides-for-the-forster-technik-automatic-feeder-system/>

Examples are provided for both powder and combi feeders.

Let your calves enjoy stress free weaning!