

PROGRESS IS IN OUR GENES

At **De Heus Animal Nutrition**, we contribute to the availability and accessibility of safe and healthy food in a sustainable manner. Through our products, knowledge and experience, we help livestock and fish farmers all over the world. As a family-owned company, we are entrepreneurs. We actively seek opportunities to create value and impact in the animal protein production chain. We have an experienced team of **thousands of professionals**, working in over **20 countries** all over the world.

This is how we contribute to the development of the agricultural sector.

We call it '**powering progress**'.



REARING PRECOCIOUS HEIFERS WITH THE RIGHT APPROACH

KALIBER BEEF.
A REARING AND GESTATION PLAN



THE KALIBER BEEF PLAN WILL HELP YOU:

- Increase average daily gain after weaning
- Reduce age at first calving to 21-24 months
- Produce 'precocious' heifers
- Increase pregnancy rate at first calving
- Increase economic and biological efficiency of the system

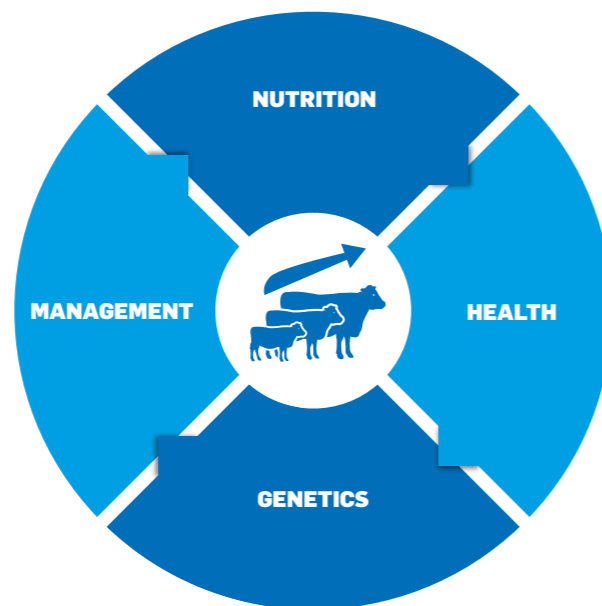
As a beef farmer, your aim is to reduce the heifer's age at first calving and improve fertility rates by increasing the average daily gain of your replacement heifers. However, rearing well-developed and productive cows requires a long-term approach. The entire rearing period is important, from weaning until calving – not only the months after weaning. This is because a heifer's nutritional needs differ at each stage of its life.

OPTIMISING THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR COW-CALF PRODUCTION SYSTEM

The rearing and gestation phases are important to replacement heifers in the beef cattle system. Decreasing your heifers' age at first calving is an important management strategy that can increase the economic and biological efficiency of your cow-calf production system. The De Heus' Kaliber Beef Plan helps to optimise your heifers' average daily gain and pregnancy rates by defining the best nutritional approach during the rearing and gestation phases. This allows your heifers to enjoy superior growth conditions, increasing their performance and reducing their calving age to 21-24 months. This is why we call these heifers 'precocious'.

MANY FACTORS INFLUENCE A HEIFER'S FERTILITY RATE

The Kaliber Beef Plan helps to optimise your heifers' performance and reproductive cycles by improving your year-round nutritional approach. Each animal requires specific amounts of energy, protein, minerals, and vitamins, depending on its stage in the reproductive cycle. It is essential to support these nutritional requirements with the right quality and availability of grass, as well as the recommended supplements. Besides a good nutritional programme, we offer the right management strategies to help each animal perform at its full potential.



THE BEST HEIFER BECOMES THE BEST COW

Average daily weight gain after weaning is dependent on the nutritional programme, age, final body weight (mature cows), and genetics (see Graph 1). After weaning at seven months, the body weight will be different depending on the breed, nutritional management, age at first conception, and mature body weight.

THE GOALS FOR AN EFFICIENT HEIFER SYSTEM ARE:

- a) Average daily gain (ADG) should be measured frequently, and at least twice a year. Weighing can be carried out at weaning and thereafter at the beginning of each season.
- a) Maintain the stability of your reproductive heifers' body condition score (BCS) as much as possible.
- b) Maintain a minimum body weight after the first calving, depending on breed.
- c) Age of first conception will depend on the nutritional strategies used (either 14 or 26 months).

A COMPLETE YEAR-ROUND SOLUTION

Our tailor-made Kaliber Beef Plan meets your heifer's precise requirements from rearing all the way through to calving. It increases profitability by improving heifer fertility and increasing the number of high-quality calves per year.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Get in touch with the De Heus team today for more information about the Kaliber Beef Plan or for a tailor-made consultation.

