

## 1. Dietary nutrient composition

Table 1. Dietary nutrient composition of milk replacer, DM basis

Item	Milk replacer*
DM	95.13%
OM	91.81%
CP	21.55%
EE	12.17%
NDF	4.03%
ADF	2.29%
Ca	1.17%
P	0.58%
GE	18.49 MJ/kg

Milk replacer used in the present studies was purchased from Beijing Precision Animal Nutrition Research Center, which is a patented product registered in China (ZL201210366241.9).

The 8-mm diameter starter pellet has similar nutrient value to milk replacer, which was also provided by the same commercial company.

## 2. Feed intake of Holstein calves subjected to different feeding systems

Table 2. Feed intake of Holstein calves subjected to different feeding systems

	Treatments			SEM	P-value
	CWS	CWL	EWS		
Preweaning	887.54	900.43	859.41	8.904	0.667
Postweaning	2042.51 <sup>a</sup>	1798.77 <sup>b</sup>	1959.01 <sup>a</sup>	4.742	0.036

Unit for feed intake is g/d on DM basis.

Data are means of 3 replicates ( $n=3$ ). In the same row, values with different small letter superscripts mean significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## 3. Body weight of Holstein calves subjected to different feeding systems

Table 3. Body weight of Holstein calves subjected to different feeding systems

	Treatments			SEM	P-value
	CWS	CWL	EWS		

Overall	79.91	76.73	79.26	1.894	0.4126
28 d	46.70	45.95	46.43	0.913	0.7797
42 d	60.20	59.04	59.39	0.956	0.6686
56 d	78.42	76.13	77.52	1.100	0.3988

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Unit for body weight is kg; Data are means of 3 replicates ( $n=3$ ).