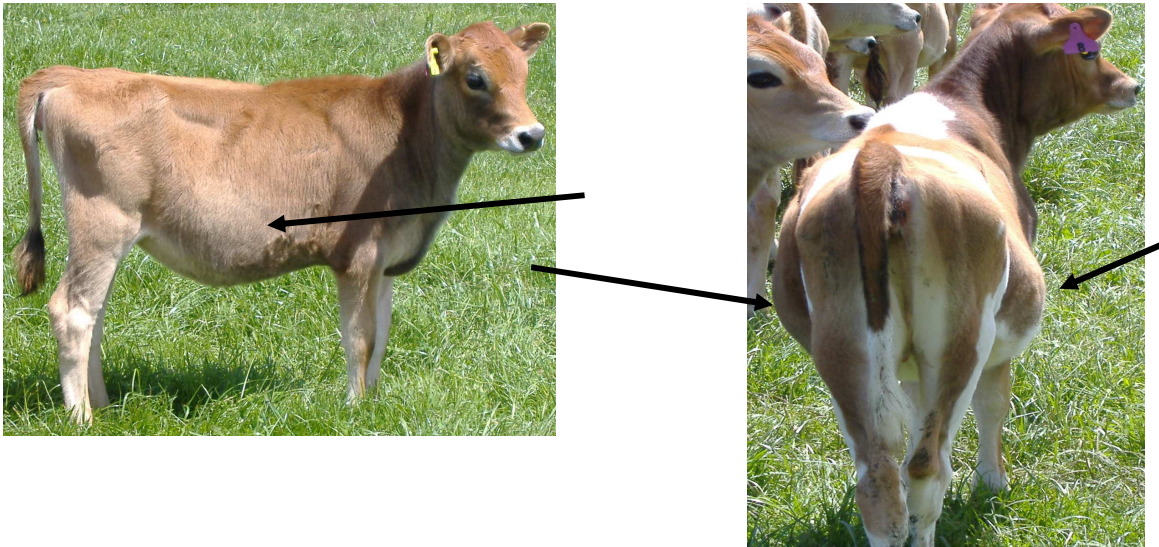


WEANING CALVES

In order for a calf to be weaned it must be able to consume sufficient energy to maintain target growth rates. In order to digest non-milk based feeds the calf has to have a functional rumen. The most obvious sign of a functional rumen is a pear shaped belly (see pictures below). Calves which are still obviously slab sided need to stay on milk until they are consuming adequate amounts of dry-matter (a good indicator is intakes of at least 1kg meal/calf/day).



After weaning, keep an eye on the growth rates of your calves to ensure that they are eating enough pasture & meal. A good growth rate in order to achieve target live weights is 0.7kg/day.

Finally, ensure you have a programme in place for disease control (vaccinations) as well as regular drenching and mineral supplementation to avoid growth rate restrictions.