

# FACTS

## Livestock Nutrition Center

Livestock Nutrition Center specializes in custom-blended livestock feeds. We are dedicated to two things. Providing you superior feed options that are better for your cattle - at the most competitive prices. And, superior service, including sharing our knowledge of the livestock feed industry to help you produce superior livestock and maximize profits.

Savvy cattlemen know the importance of an organized weaning program and see it as another potential profit center. The healthier and more developed your calves are when taken to the market, the higher your prices and your profits will be. Buyers will pay a premium for calves they know are pre-conditioned for the feed yard - calves they know will have fewer problems down the road.

### Three Steps For A Better Weaning Program

**Step #1:** Don't be afraid to challenge old myths and break bad habits. Current product knowledge is critical to a successful and profitable range-feeding program.

**Step #2:** Study the factors. You'll learn that LNC SureStart, an innovative blended and fortified weaning ration, is less expensive and a better product for pre-conditioning your calves

**Step #3:** Call the Livestock Nutrition Center in Guthrie, Fletcher or Keota, OK. LNC is a full service feed supplier offering convenient state-wide delivery and contract pricing. LNC will produce a custom fortified ration for your cattle that will supply the vitamins/minerals they need for good health and development in the SW.

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# Weaning Calves

## 7 Practices for A Successful Weaning Program

**LIVESTOCK  
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## A Managed Weaning Program Leads to

# Greater Profits.

An important, but often overlooked part of a cow-calf operation is a managed weaning program. It's usually under-emphasized partly because weaning on the ranch just doesn't carry the risks that receiving calves does. Calves ready for weaning are not usually depleted of vitamins and minerals and suffering from the effects of stress like calves that have traveled long distances. However, weaning is still stressful to the calf in different ways and taking certain proactive measures is recommended. It pays to provide a good blended and fortified weaning ration like LNC SureStart.

### The results:

# Better Feed, Better Livestock, Better Profits!

## 7 Practices for A Successful Weaning Program.

- #1: Develop a managed weaning program.** New industry standards point to a managed program of weaning and readying calves for sale. *Cattle known to have been properly handled get much better prices at the sale barn.*
- #2: Pre-condition those calves.** Buyers are looking for pre-conditioned calves! Why? Because studies show that properly weaned calves eat faster after arriving at growing operations. Providing a constant source of palatable fiber roughage will encourage calves to eat before they are fully weaned. Make sure they are consuming a fortified blended weaning ration like LNC SureStart 2-3 weeks before weaning. *The key - the faster they learn to eat, the faster they get the vitamins and minerals needed for healthy development and to prevent problems at destination.*
- #3: Mineral deficiency can lead to disease.** It is now known that mineral deficiencies in calves can cause health problems later at the feed yard. Buyers will pay a premium for pre-conditioned calves! To ensure your calves are getting the minerals they need - use a fortified weaning ration like LNC SureStart. *Free-choice mineral supplementing is not good enough!*
- #4: Stimulate calves to eat and drink as soon as possible.** It is extremely important to provide a highly desirable/palatable feed that will quickly stimulate appetite. Avoid the frustration of a weaning ration that calves are very slow to take to. *Studies show when calves quickly begin to eat a good, fortified weaning ration like LNC SureStart, they experience better health and improved weight gain.*

**#5: Full-feed or supplement a fortified feed.** The quicker the proper weaning process begins for calves of the appropriate weight, the less health problems occur and the faster they begin to gain weight. Buyers want to know your calves are pre-conditioned. If they are fed properly, health problems are reduced dramatically. *Getting calves on LNC SafeStart means faster weight gains... and greater profits in your pocket.*

**#6: Pack feed with vitamin E and use a coccidiosis prevention program.** As an antioxidant, vitamin E will reduce sickness, improving gain. Also, since coccidiosis is the most common health problem in freshly weaned calves, implement a good coccidiosis prevention program. Feeding antibiotics for respiratory problems is not nearly as important. On-farm weaned calves usually don't have the respiratory problems of calves that have been shipped. *Eliminating the high incidence of coccidiosis in receiving calves will improve immune response, feed efficiency and rate of gain.*

**#7: Make sure feed has ample roughage.** When calves are weaned and stop eating, rumen fermentation can drop and linger at low levels. Calves then lose their appetite and feed intake goes down. *LNC's SureStart, a fortified weaning ration, is an effective source of rumen "scratch" and will stimulate rumen motility.*

# LIVESTOCK NUTRITION CENTER



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