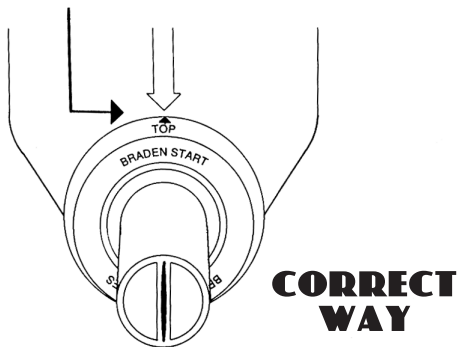
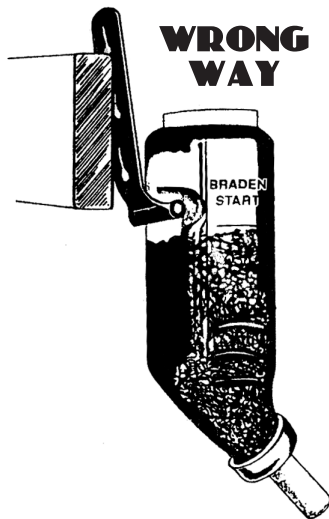
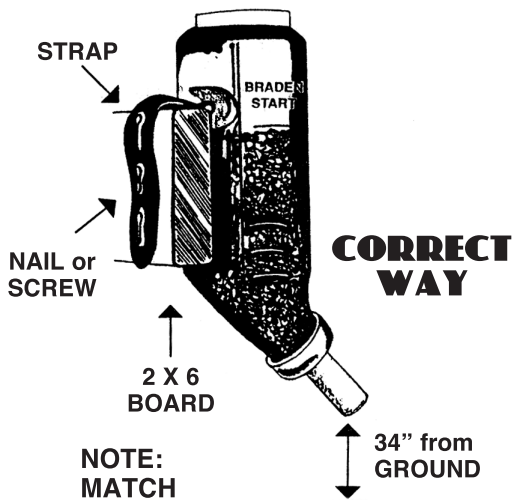




BRADEN START™ GRAIN FEEDING BOTTLE



Start calves early. Hang bottle the first day calf is brought to pen.

Hang bottle in corner of pen with nipple approximately 34" from ground. Calf should reach up slightly.

Pull bottle firmly against 2 X 6 board with strap running up and over the board. Secure with nail or screw in slotted key hole in strap.

Nipple opening must always be vertical. Match arrows on the nipple to those on the bottle.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

on the BRADEN START™ GRAIN FEEDING BOTTLE

Q. Do I have to use pellet type feed with the Braden bottle?

A. No. Most types of grain will flow through the bottle. Feeds containing corn that has been flattened out larger than the end of the nipple will not work. Feeds with molasses are too sticky and will not flow.

Q. How do I hang the Braden bottle?

A. Pull the bottle firmly against a 2 x 6 board and secure with a nail or screw in the slotted key hole in the rubber strap. On cattle panels or wire, attach a foot long 2 x 6 to the wire with one inch fence staples, then hang bottle normally. Proper installation should allow the bottle to be jostled and the feed to flow freely.

Q. Does it matter how high or low I hang the Braden bottle?

A. Yes. Hang the bottle in the corner of the pen with the nipple approximately 34" from the ground. The calf should reach up slightly for the nipple. If the bottle is hung too low, the calf will not go to it as often, therefore, reducing feed intake.

Q. The nipples aren't lasting two or three calves. What am I doing wrong?

A. The bottle should be hung in the corner of the pen so that the calf won't get the nipple in its mouth sideways. The bottle should always have feed in it to keep the calf from chewing on the nipples because nothing comes out.

Q. How will I know that it is time to replace the nipple?

A. The nipple must be replaced when the end is no longer flexible and does not retain its shape or the nipple loses the soft feel of the natural mother's teat. When the nipple becomes hard and coarse-feeling, the calf will not go to the nipple as often.

Q. When should I put the Braden bottle in the pen with the calf?

A. The bottle should be hung the first day the calf is brought to the pen because the nursing instinct is strongest during the first three days of life.

Q. What if I have an older calf? Will the Braden bottle still work?

A. Yes. You will have to show the calf the bottle the first few days, but most will figure it out on their own.

Q. We group our calves. How many calves can use one Braden bottle?

A. We recommend no more than two calves per bottle. If there are not enough bottles, they will always be empty, and the smaller, less aggressive calves may not be getting enough feed.

Q. How does the Braden bottle stand up to cold or hot weather?

A. The bottle is made of Lexan with a UV inhibitor. This durable material is guaranteed for one year, as are the strap and lid. The nipple will last for two to three baby calves and the bottle can last up to two years. Cold weather should not cause any problems. However, hot weather will cause a small amount of moisture to condense inside the bottle. If this causes a problem, simply vent the bottle with a small hole drilled in the top or side.

Q. Will a calf being raised on a nurse cow use the Braden bottle?

A. How a calf is nursing (cow, bottle, or milk from a bucket) makes no difference. What matters is where the calf is housed. As opposed to running loose in a pasture, a calf kept in a confined area will easily find the bottle. Depending on the size of the pen, the calf may need to be shown where the bottle is a few times.

Q. Can the Braden bottle be hung in a totally enclosed poly-dome hutch?

A. No, because there is no place to hang the bottle in this type of hutch. Some poly-dome hutch users place the Braden bottle nipple on a suckle milk bottle that is inserted in the hutch's built-in milk bottle slot. While this does start calves on feed faster than the old method, it is not as effective. A correctly-installed Braden bottle at the corrected angle and in the locked-in position allows feed to flow freely.

Q. How long should I keep the calf on the Braden bottle?

A. We recommend feeding with the Braden bottle until six weeks of age. At this point, we remove the calves from the hutches and place them in groups in small pastures. Because the calves are used to getting their feed from the Braden bottle, we recommend hanging one over the feed trough to attract their attention. Calves usually do not lose weight at weaning when they have been started on the Braden bottle.

Q. Should water be given to newborn calves?

A. Yes. Fresh water is very important and should be available at all times.

Q. How much feed will the calves eat?

A. At the end of the first week, calves should be eating an average of 3/4 to one pound of grain per day. At the end of two weeks, the average should be two pounds. It should continue this way up to six weeks (at the end of three weeks, three pounds, at the end of four weeks, four pounds, etc.)

Q. Will nursing with the Braden bottle keep calves from eating out of a bucket?

A. No. Setting a bucket under the Braden bottle is a good way to save feed that falls out of the calf's mouth. However, intentionally feeding out of a bucket reduces the benefits of the Braden bottle.

Q. Can I take the Braden bottle away from the calf once I get them eating feed at two or three weeks?

A. We recommend using the Braden bottle for a full six weeks to gain the full advantage of early weaning and less stress at weaning.

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Earlier consumption of dry feed means earlier rumen development. Earlier rumen development means healthier calves and earlier weaning.

1. Hang the Braden bottle as soon as the calf is brought to pen because the nursing instinct is strongest during the first three days of the calf's life. Older calves must be shown the nipple.
2. Hang the Braden bottle in a corner of the pen with the nipple approximately 34" from the ground (this may vary with size of calf, but calves should reach up slightly for the nipple).
3. Nipple opening should be vertical. Align the arrows on the nipple with the arrows on the bottle.
4. Calf feeds that flow easily should be fed with the Braden bottle. Textured feeds with rolled or flaked corn and molasses tend to feed out slowly.
5. Nipple must be replaced when the end is no longer flexible and does not retain its shape or loses the natural soft feel of the cows' teat.

BB90 Braden Start™ Grain Feeding Bottle

BN90 Braden Start™ Replacement Nipple

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