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104.25	94.25	86.00	88.75		12					61.50	
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26	22	16	12	10	8	6	4			
109.49 ±4.23	92.23 ±3.21	83.75 ±1.97	65.50 ±1.25	57.21 ±5.57	49.00 ±2.49	41.10 ±3.40	36.64 ±2.12	31.38 ±2.24	27.13 ±1.43	<b>12</b>
112.00 ±2.13	96.42 ±2.23	86.25 ±3.24	70.00 ±4.32	61.80 ±3.30	53.50 ±3.73	45.30 ±3.72	38.12 ±2.42	33.50 ±3.24	28.25 ±2.50	<b>10</b>
110.75 ±1.42	93.31 ±1.11	81.23 <b>1.22±</b>	67.75 ±2.96	58.50 ±3.22	51.20 ±4.69	43.80 ±3.69	38.90 ±4.22	34.75 ±3.30	30.75 ±3.225	<b>8</b>
112.00 ±3.20	96.75 ±3.22	85.43 ±2.11	68.30 ±4.30	<b>58.30</b> <b>3.23±</b>	50.20 ±4.69	43.00 ±5.54	36.09 ±1.23	30.82 ±2.73	27.25 ±3.22	<b>6</b>

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26	22	16	12	10	8	6	4		
0.45 ±0.02	0.42 ±0.08	0.48 ±0.07	0.46 ±0.03	0.43 0.06±	0.39 0.02±	0.33 ±0.03	0.34 ±0.01	0.30 ±0.05	12
0.46 ±0.02	0.44 ±0.22	0.52 ±0.01	0.50 ±0.03	0.48 ±0.17	0.45 ±0.03	0.40 ±0.05	0.35 ±0.01	0.38 ±0.03	10
0.45 ±0.01	0.41 ±0.06	0.45 ±0.04	0.44 ±0.09	0.40 ±0.17	0.36 ±0.18	0.31 ±0.02	0.29 ±0.02	0.29 ±0.02	8
0.47 ±0.08	0.45 ±0.06	0.52 ±0.11	0.49 ±0.10	0.44 ±0.06	0.41 ±0.06	0.39 ±0.10	0.32 ±0.03	0.38 ±0.07	6

: (4)

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12 ( ) 22			( ) 12					
56.55	8.22	48.33	95.98	12.72	40.92	42.33	336.00	12
72.95	8.52	64.45	111.86	13.36	63.22	35.28	280.00	10
65.62	8.10	57.53	106.81	17.81	60.78	28.22	224.00	8
78.97	8.50	70.47	125.86	14.73	89.97	21.168	168.00	6

± : (5)

22	12	12	
2.45±0.06		b 2.50±0.03	12
2.78±0.06		b 2.67±0.04	10
2.56±0.03		b 2.88±0.03	8
2.78±0.02		a 3.07±0.01	6

(p < 0.01)

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65.00 ±3.5	73.50 ±2.32	71.25 ±2.35	66.50 ±1.32	68.5 ±1.64	12
63.50 ±2.7	71.20 ±3.88	74.50 ±1.23	68.25 ±2.32	70.75 ±2.4	10
66.25 ±	76.50 ±2.53	72.25 ±0.75	75.25 ±0.47	74.00 ±1.41	8
61.50 ±2.9	68.50 ±3.9	67.25 ±3.09	62.75 ±0.32	64.50 ±8.26	6

. ( ) 6 ± : (7)

79.25 ±3.88	96.75 ±1.31	77.00 ±1.5	73.25 ±1.10	76.25 ±1.5	12
79.25 ±3.88	90.25 ±1.05	76.00 ±2.73	78.00 ±1.63	80.50 ±1.70	10
77.75 ±1.89	85.25 ±0.85	76.00 ±1.60	80.75 ±0.94	83 ±1.80	8
75.25 ±0.75	83.50 ±2.46	73.0 ±3.34	75.75 ±2.22	77.00 ±1.92	6

. ( ) 8 ± : (8)

84.50 ±2.17	96.25 ±1.31	84.50 ±1.77	78.00 ±0.70	80.25 ±1.10	12
82.50 ±3.17	96.80 ±1.65	88.50 ±2.92	81.50 ±0.64	85.20 ±0.75	10
82.50 ±1.84	91.75 ±0.47	88.00 ±2.33	84.25 ±1.18	87.20 ±0.75	8
78.25 ±1.03	90.50 ±2.46	87.00 ±1.53	80.20 ±1.79	83.00 ±3.69	6

. ( ) 10 ± : (9)

86.00 ±2.51	102.00 ±1.0	90.25 ±1.6	81.75 ±0.42	85.75 ±0.75	12
85.75 ±2.28	104.25 ±2.4	92.00 ±3.47	85.25 ±1.43	88.50 ±1.32	10
85.75 ±2.28	100.75 ±1.65	93.00 ±1.77	87.75 ±1.49	91.00 ±1.08	8
82.00 ±1.47	99.00 ±7.73	91.25 ±1.88	83.25 ±2.83	86.0 ±3.19	6

.( ) 12 ± :(10)

89.75 ±1.2	107.50 ±1.22	94.00 ±2.59	84.75 ±4.2	87.00 ±1.08	12
89.50 ±2.39	112.50 ±2.72	96.50 ±1.65	88.75 ±1.10	91.50 ±1.65	10
89.50 ±2.83	108.25 ±2.72	95.50 ±2.70	91.25 ±1.49	94.25 ±1.79	8
85.25 ±1.6	104.25 ±1.29	94.25 ±2.83	86.00 ±2.73	88.75 ±1.75	6

.( ) 26 ± :(11)

108.50 ±1.95	131.50 ±1.84	115.50 ±4.9	98.50 ±0.95	102.00 ±1.22	12
105.50 ±1.41	131.50 ±2.84	119.50 ±3.6	103.00 ±2.04	105.00 ±1.68	10
108.25 ±2.13	134.20 ±2.50	117.50 ±2.10	105.00 ±1.93	107.75 ±1.37	8
105.50 ±2.13	134.25 ±2.50	119.00 ±1.49	104.00 ±0.60	108.00 ±0.64	6

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## Effect of Weaning Age on Weights and Some Body Measurements in Friesian Female Calves

*Natiq H. Al-Kudsi and Ali. S. Ahmed \**

### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted at the dairy cattle station that belongs to the Iraqi –Arabian Company in Al-Nahrawan (20 km south to Baghdad) to evaluate the growth of calves that were subjected to an early weaning system on the basis of restricted quantity of milk in different ages, through their weights and body measurements. Sixteen Friesian female calves of three days age were randomly divided into four equal groups. Calves were fed 4 liters of milk /calf for 12 (group 1), 10 (group 2), 8 (group three) and 6 weeks (group 4) twice a day for 30 days, then milk was fed once a day (at morning) in addition to the concentrated feed (starter). Body weight and some measurements (e.g. withers and rump heights, heart girth, barrel length as well as body length) were determined every 2 weeks. The results were as follows:

1. No significant differences were observed among the groups in live body weights which were 65.50, 70.00, 67.75 and 68.30 kg/calf at 12 weeks of age, and 109.49, 112.00, 110.75 and 112.00 kg/calf at 26 weeks of age, respectively.
2. No significant differences were observed among calf groups in average daily gain values which were 0.456, 0.497, 0.440 and 0.488 kg/calf at 12 weeks of age and 0.452, 0.460, 0.435 and 0.465 kg/calf at 26 weeks of age, respectively.
3. Body measurements (withers and rumps height, heart girth, barrel length as well as body length) of group four were reduced at the beginning of the experiment (64.50, 62.75, 67.25, 68.50 and 61.50cm, respectively), while they were increased at 12 weeks of age (88.75, 86.00, 94.25, 104.25 and 85.35 cm, respectively).
4. Feed conversion ratio of group four was significantly ( $p > 0.05$ ) decreased as compared with the group one at the age of 12 weeks (3.07 vs 2.5), but feed conversion ratio was not significantly different during the period of 12-22 weeks.

**Keywords:** Early weaning, Calves, Body weight and measurements.

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