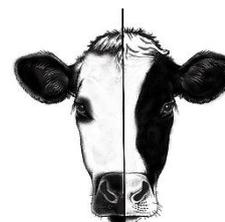


Dairy Calves: Husbandry And Management Checklist



Pre-calving/ calving management

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| Do cows receive neonatal scour preventive vaccines? If so, when? | |
| Do cows receive "7 in 1" vaccine? If so, when? | |
| Do cows receive Salmonella vaccine? If so, when? | |
| Are cows fed a transition diet? | |
| What is the BCS of the calving animals? | |
| Are the cows calved down in a clean environment? | |
| At calving, are the calving details recorded? (date, assistance required, sex of calf/ calves, live or dead, peri-parturient disease issues) | |

Colostrum Management

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| When are the cows milked to collect their colostrum? | |
| Is colostrum pooled? | |
| How is colostrum stored after collection? | |
| How are buckets etc cleaned before and after colostrum collection/storage? | |
| Is colostrum quality measured? If so with what instrument? | |
| Is a preservative used in the colostrum? | |
| How long is colostrum stored for? | |

Calf management at calving

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|---|---------|
| When are calves removed from their dam? | |
| Are calves' navels dipped or sprayed? If so, what with? | |
| How are calves supplemented with colostrum? | |
| Is the colostrum heated before feeding to calves? If so, how? | |
| What volume of colostrum are fed to calves? | |
| How long are the calves fed colostrum/ transition milk? | |
| Are the calves treated with halofuginone lactate? If so, when and for how long? | |
| When are calves tagged with NLIS and VID tags? | |

Calf shed design

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| Purpose built calf shed? Retro-fitted an existing building? Calf hutches? Igloo? | |
| Fully enclosed? Opened housed? | |
| Location- away from effluent? Proximity to water, electricity, bedding materials? | |
| Orientation- faces away from prevailing winds/north-facing? | |
| Roof pitch - 1:4 or 1:3 (warm climates) | |
| Ridge openings - 50 - 75mm/3m shed width | |
| Eave overhang- open sided sheds 900mm | |
| Roof colour - white or opaque (reflects radiation more than transparent materials)? | |
| Ventilation - Is the odour pleasant? Ammonia smell? Windows? Doors? Vents? Open sided? | |
| Are the draughts minimised at calf level? (0.5m/s at calf level predisposes to respiratory disease) | |
| Air space (minimum 10m ³ /100kgs or 6 - 8m ³ /calf) = (Shed length x width x height (m))/ no. of calves | |
| Flooring- concrete? Earth base? Raised mesh/slatted? | |

Calf management in the shed

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| How are calves feed milk? (Teats? Bucket? Calfeteria?) | |
| Is the milk heated prior to feeding? | |
| Is the feeding equipment cleaned and disinfected? | |
| With what? Sodium hypochlorite? Potassium monopersulfate (Virkon)? | |
| Contact time for disinfectant? (recommended 30 min) | |
| Teats are in good condition/not perished | |
| Pen design? Ideally 1m tall, solid panels up to 50cm between calf pens | |
| Feed and water troughs accessed outside of the pen? (Avoid soiling and wetting bed material) | |
| Is there enough trough space (minimum 35cm/calf) | |
| Are calves offered clean fresh water? If so at what age? | |
| Are the calves offering a roughage source? If so, what? | |
| Are the calves offered a concentrate feed? If so, what? | |
| Stocking density (1.5m ² /calf group and 2m ² individual) | |
| How many calves/ pen? (Ideally 6 - 8, max 10) | |
| Age of calves in each pen? (Ideally 7 d range only) | |
| Shed capacity (aim for max of 75 %) | |
| Bedding type used? Straw? Rice hulls? Wood shavings? Sawdust? (Not sand or tanalised products) | |
| Bedding clean, dry and adequate (when < 10C, calves need to nestle down into the bedding (15 cm deep)) | |
| How often are pens topped up with bedding/ cleaned out? | |
| Are their signs of heat stress (summer) - panting, sweating etc? | |
| Are calf coats on sick calves (cooler months)? | |
| What age are the calves moved from the shed to the paddocks? | |
| Is shelter provided in the paddocks? | |

Calf treatments

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| Staff wearing appropriate PPE (Gumboots/ coveralls etc) | |
| Are footbaths used? | |
| Are hand sanitisers used? | |
| Are there sick pens? | |
| Are sick calves isolated? | |
| How are sick calves identified? | |
| How are sick calves' treatments recorded? | |
| Medicines stored correctly - vaccines in fridge, medications on shelf and expiry check | |

Further calf husbandry

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|--|---------|
| What age are calves disbudded? | |
| What vaccines are used? | |
| What age do calves receive their primary vaccinations? | |
| What age to calves receive their booster vaccination? | |
| Is BVDV Ag testing carried out? | |
| What are the criteria for weaning calves? | |

Calf shed management at the end of a season

| Checklist Item | Comment |
|---|---------|
| Are sheds mucked out at the end of a calving batch? | |
| Are sheds disinfected at the end of a calving batch? If so what disinfectant? And for how long is it left on the surface? | |
| Are the solid surfaces cleaned with the pressure washer? | |
| Is the ground treated with anything prior to new bedding being applied? | |
| How long are the sheds rested for? | |

Additional notes: