

Newborn Calf Management Guidelines

Maternity Pens

- Ideally one animal at a time.
- Do not use for hospital cows, including Johne's positive cows.
- Maintain clean, dry bedding. Test the dryness by kneeling in the bedding and if your knee is wet or dirty, add more bedding.
- Pen should be cleaned and disinfected between cows.

Birth

- Move the cow to calving pen when she starts calving.
- Assist cow with calving if necessary.
- Wear latex gloves when dealing with the newborn calf. Change them as needed.
- Remove calf from dam immediately after calving.
- Dry calf with clean towels (i.e. bath towels).
- Dip navel with 7% iodine.
- Administer any vaccines determined by you and your veterinarian.
- Offer the cow warm fresh water.

First Minutes after Birth

- Milk cow as soon as possible after birth, ideally within the first hour. Delaying milking will lower colostrum quality. If time does not permit milking immediately, use Secure® Calf Colostrum Replacer.
- Use proper udder preparation techniques.
- Check milking equipment to ensure cleanliness.
- Do not use colostrum from cows tested positive for Johne's, BVD, BLV, Salmonella sp., and cows with Mycoplasma bovis and Staph. aureus mastitis.
- Use Secure® if colostrum quality or quantity are compromised.

First Hour after Birth

- Feed 4 quarts of high quality colostrum within the first hour after birth.
- When feeding Secure®, mix one package with 2 quarts of 110° warm water in a clean pail used only for this purpose. Administer the full 2 quarts within the hour of birth.
- Feed calf with a bottle or an esophageal feeder as needed.
- After feeding, move the calf to a clean, well bedded, draft free hutch or individual calf pen.

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August 2008



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