

OPTIMAL CALF REARING GUIDE



COW FACTORS

- Maximise colostrum quality (vaccinate pre-calving to boost rotavirus, coronavirus and *E. coli* antibodies)
- Optimal transition cow management (minimise metabolic disease / down cows)
- Minimise calving difficulties (as protracted delivery often leads to weak calves)

NEWBORN CALVES

- Accurately identify calf and dam
- Ensure 2L gold colostrum ingested on arrival at calf shed
- Picking up calves twice a day is considered best practice
- Spray navel with iodine
- Gentle handling and transport to calf shed

CALF REARING SHED

- Hygiene and biosecurity are essential
- Sufficient pen space (minimum 1.5m²/calf)
- All-in, all-out pens
- Dry and draught free, well-drained
- Regularly clean and disinfect equipment
- Disinfect pens between calf batches



VET LOGO

Kolibin **Neo**



DAY ONE - GOLD COLOSTRUM

Gold Colostrum - collected at the first milking after calving

- 2L gold colostrum immediately on arrival at calf shed
- 10% of calf's bodyweight (e.g. 4L) within 12 hours of birth
- Maximum absorption of antibodies prior to closure of the gut wall

DAY TWO ON - POOLED COLOSTRUM

- Ensures on-going local gut protection

NUTRITION

- Clean drinking water always available
- Calves should be milk-fed until consuming approx. 1kg meal per day
- Quality calf meal (with coccidiostat included) should continue to be fed (to supplement grass) until at least 8 – 10 weeks of age

Note: risk of coccidiosis increases when meal feeding stops.

Talk to your vet about

Toltrox

DEALING WITH SICK CALVES

- Hygiene - gloves and cleanliness of equipment
- Biosecurity - specific boots and overalls for calf pens
- Early recognition and isolation - remove sick calves and keep away from healthy animals (even once symptom-free). Dedicated feeding equipment, boots, and overalls for sick pens
- Sufficient rehydration and energy - electrolytes plus milk



Evidence based vet medicines

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