

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 (min 1.5m²/calf)
- All-in, all-out pens
- Dry and draught free, well-drained
- Regularly clean and disinfect equipment
- Disinfect pens between calf batches





DAY ONE - GOLD COLOSTRUM

Collected at 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 - use gloves and clean equipment
- Isolate sick calves, use separate feeding equipment, boots and overalls
- Sufficient rehydration and energy - electrolytes plus milk
- Treat scouring calves with pain relief (such as Melovem/KetoMax) to get them drinking faster

Talk to your vet about

Melovem



Evidence based vet medicines

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