

Directions: This template covers the basics of calf/heifer care. It is the responsibility of the farmer to complete this form in accordance to their dairy operation. It should be reviewed on an annual basis to address any changes that have occurred with individual practices.

Farm Name: _____

Date last reviewed: _____

Individual or position responsible for this process: _____

Objective: To raise healthy replacement animals viable for entry into the lactating herd.

Daily and Weekly Procedures

Objective: To maintain the upkeep of the heifer unit and the herd through daily and weekly procedures.

Daily Procedures

1. Check all calves and heifers for health problems, foot problems, and general appearance.
2. Feed per schedule.
3. Check that clean water is available.
4. Pick up all trash and litter.
5. Clean all workrooms.

Weekly Procedures

1. Clean all waterers associated with the unit.
 - a. Before cleaning, shut off water and drain.
 - b. Scrub the waterer with the brush and rinse thoroughly.
 - c. Put the stopper back in if needed.
 - d. Turn the water back on; check for leaks.
2. Wipe down the counter tops and clean the sink with water and soap.
3. Sweep and dust the office and treatment rooms.
4. Watch for excessive rats or other rodents. Report increased rodent activity to supervisor.
5. Wash out the trailer using the high-pressure washer (do not wash in extremely cold weather).

Sick Calf Treatment Procedures

Objective: To provide comfort and support to animals aiding in their recovery from injury or illness.

REMEMBER: When treating an animal with an antibiotic **with a milk or meat withholding**, put red leg band on rear leg, move to hospital string, and record all actions in treatment log. **All medications require the withholding instructions be followed!**

Scours: When a calf is not drinking milk, the following steps need to be taken:

1. If the calf has normal manure....
2. If the calf has runny manure....
3. If the calf has cold ears as well as the symptoms expressed in 1 and 2.....

Pneumonia: When a calf is found to be coughing, take the following steps:

1. If the calf is still drinking, ...
2. If the calf is not drinking, ...
3. If coughing persists, contact the manager for further instruction.

Breeding, Calving, Weaning, and Herd Health Procedures

Objective: To ensure proper breeding and calving records are kept and to prevent calving problems through proper management.

Breeding

1. The breeding program is established by the...
2. Breeding records for heifers are on file...

Calf Processing

1. If a calf is born at night, process the calf no later than 8:00 a.m. the next morning.
2. Before initial processing, update the calving log.

Weaning

1. The weaning protocol is...

Herd Health

1. The herd health program is established by management and the herd veterinarian.
2. Consult the herd manager for the current herd health protocol.

Cattle Culling

1. All culling decisions are made by...
2. Culling records are maintained...

Night-Check Procedures

1. Check on heifer pens. Move and treat calves accordingly
2. Any questions or emergencies, call the herd manager for help!