

## CALF REARING:

### SELECTION CRITERIA

5 days old and at least 40kg

Fed sufficient colostrum (2ls in first 24 hours of life)

Dry umbilical cords

Bright and alert, not lame

Neither Induced nor Twins

Purchased from as few sources as possible

Dry and draught free (growth rate of sheltered calves can be up to 20% higher than those exposed to the weather)

### TRANSPORT:

Ensure sufficient room for all to lie down in transit, soft bedding, minimal draughts. Weigh before and after transport as a gauge of stress during the process.

### MOB NUMBERS

Segregate age groups and have no more than 10-12 per pen

Calves require 1.5m<sup>2</sup> space around them each

**DO NOT** mix animals from different pens

Run a hospital pen completely separate (ie **no communication**) from other pens

and **DO NOT** return these calves to original pen.



The time to vaccinate pregnant cows is between 12 and 3 weeks prior to calving, this timing is important to protect this spring's crop of calves. For effective transfer of the protective antibodies from the dam to calf, **colostrum feeding is vital.**

A planned calf rearing programme that includes annual vaccination of your herd with Rotavec® Corona can minimise the effects of infectious scours on your



### FEEDING:

Same routine each day, ideally same person each day. Milk should be brought to the calves (NOT vice versa)

Calves should all receive 2L of colostrum when they enter the shed for the first time

### HOUSING

A calf shed should be twice as deep as it is wide or high so that calves at the back will be sheltered no matter what the conditions. It should be positioned so the calves get some sun. There should be good ventilation (to prevent pneumonia due to ammonia from wastes)

### Disinfect regularly



### FLOORING:

Should facilitate removal of waste, Not concrete as this is slippery and can help spread infection

Waste should **not** drain away from one pen to another (can spread disease)

Untreated shavings or sawdust 300mm or more deep works well (can be raked and topped easily and absorbs waste well)

### USEFUL LINKS: (can link this page to calf scour page?)

[www.calfcare.co.nz](http://www.calfcare.co.nz)

[www.nrm.co.nz](http://www.nrm.co.nz)

[www.agri-fax.co.nz](http://www.agri-fax.co.nz) (Calf profit calculator)

[www.ngahiwifarms.co.nz](http://www.ngahiwifarms.co.nz) (POUKAWA CALF RAISING SYSTEM)

[www.bell-booth.co.nz](http://www.bell-booth.co.nz) (QUEEN OF CALVES REARING SYSTEM)

<http://www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=342> (Calf rearing guide by John Moran)

