

# CALF REARING

**DID YOU KNOW**  
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.

## Vaccinate

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 calves.



## Mob Numbers

- Segregate age groups and have no more than 10 - 12 per pen
- Calves require 1.5 m<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
- DO NOT return these calves to original pen.

## 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 nor Twins
- Purchased from as few sources as possible

## 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).

## 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).

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

## 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.

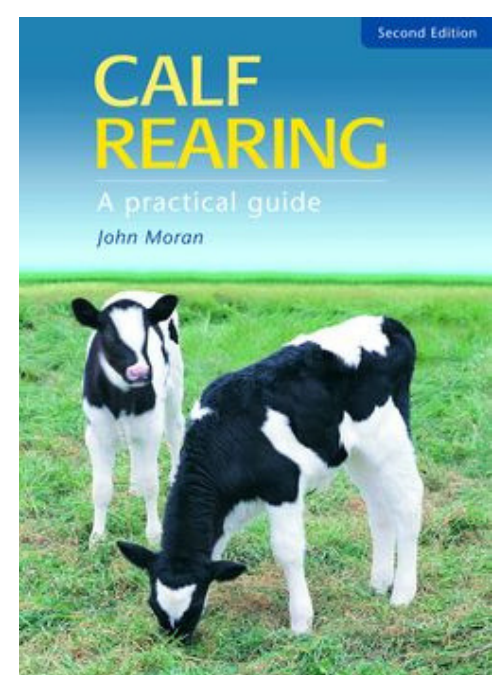


Disinfect regularly



## USEFUL LINKS:

- [www.calfcare.co.nz](http://www.calfcare.co.nz)
- [www.nrm.co.nz](http://www.nrm.co.nz)
- <http://www.ezicalve.co.nz/calf-rearing-calculator/>
- [www.ngahiwifarms.co.nz](http://www.ngahiwifarms.co.nz) (POUKAWA CALF RAISING SYSTEM)
- <https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/profitable-calf-rearing>
- [www.bell-booth.co.nz](http://www.bell-booth.co.nz) (QUEEN OF CALVES REARING SYSTEM)
- <https://www.paperplus.co.nz/book/calf-rearing-9780643098725> (Calf rearing guide by John Moran)



For more information:  
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