

# Calf Care-Maternity Pen Management SOP

Work with your veterinarian to provide protocols for maternity management and to reduce the prevalence of still births, neonatal disease and metritis.

Review the plan annually with your veterinarian and the employees responsible for maternity management.

**Objectives:** (1) To ensure calf survival and cow health by providing proper assistance during calving in a timely manner (2) To promote the welfare of all calves by feeding colostrum in a timely manner

**Principles:** All calves, regardless of sex, will be provided proper care including adequate colostrum and feed to promote good health and welfare

<b>Farm:</b>	
<b>Veterinarian:</b>	
<b>Person to call if additional assistance is needed:</b>	
<u>After Hours Emergency Contact:</u>	
<b>Signs of Calving:</b> Maternity Management Team members will be instructed on the signs of calving and how to respond, either by assisting with the calving themselves or by contacting the appropriate person.	
* <b>Signs of active labor</b>	
1.	Tail is sunken/Relaxation of ligaments
2.	“Strutting of teats” – Tight bag, full udder
3.	Solitude – cow is off by herself
4.	Mucus plug passed
5.	Vulva is loose and swollen +/-discharge
6.	Abdominal Pushing*
7.	Cow is uncomfortable/gets up and down
8.	Water bag is showing*
9.	Water bag has broke*
10.	Feet and/or nose showing from vulva*

- ✓ After rupture of the water bag, heifers should calve in 1 to 4 hours and cows in ½ to 2 hours.
- ✓ For safety of the cow and calf, it is best to call the veterinarian if a heifer goes past 2 hours and cows past 1 hour and assistance on the farm has failed.

Maternity Management Team			
1.		Shift:	
2.		Shift:	
3.		Shift:	
Each member of the team will be provided training on how to monitor, respond and assist with calving prior to working without direct supervision.			

Close-Up & Maternity Pen Management Procedures	
1.	<u>Close-Up and maternity pens are maintained so that they are clean, dry and well bedded.</u>
2.	Each pen will be checked twice daily for proper feed and clean water.
3.	<u>Close-Up cow pen is monitored throughout the day,</u> every _____ hours at a minimum. Once a cow is in active labor she is moved to a clean maternity pen if used/available.
4.	Once water bag appears/active labor moved to the maternity pen the cow/heifer will be checked every 1-2 hours
5.	Calf delivery protocols include proper sanitation of the cow and equipment prior to assisting. Employees will be trained on identifying when the veterinarian should be called for assistance.
6.	Monitor the expulsion of fetal membranes and their removal from the area.
7.	All calving related events will be recording in the calf health record book

Veterinarian of Record Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### New Born Calf Team

1.			Shift:	
2.			Shift:	
3.			Shift:	
Each member of the team will be provided training on how to care for newborn calves, including feeding, handling and transporting.				

### Newborn Calf Management Procedures

1.	If calf does not breathe readily, rub the calf with dry towel to stimulate breathing, wipe nose and mouth clean.
2.	Treat/dip the umbilical cord with iodine.
3.	<u>Calves of both sexes will be fed qts. of quality colostrum within hours of birth.</u> Best practice is to feed colostrum within 1-4 hours. No calf should exceed 6 hours without colostrum.
4.	All heifers and bull calves will be identified with an ear tag or ear clip.
5.	All data will be recorded in the calf health record book, including any health products that may have been administered according to farm and/or veterinarian protocols.
6.	<p><b>Moving Calves:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calves will be moved to a clean, warm, dry, and heavily bedded calf specific area. If the temperature is below 60 F°, an external heat source will be provided.</li> <li>If the calf can walk, it will be moved to its pen using gentle pressure on its rump while guiding the calf by its head with one hand under its jaw.</li> <li>A calf will never be moved by the pulling on tail or by the ear, or by dragging.</li> <li>If not walking easily, the calf will be moved by carrying it with both hands, supporting the calf with both arms around the chest and rump or by placing it gently in a clean calf transport vehicle (sled, wheel barrow or cart) to its home pen.</li> </ul>
7.	All calving related events will be recording in the calf health record book
8.	<b>CALF TRANSPORT:</b> If transported to an offsite location, calves will not be transported until they are DRY, able to stand squarely on all four feet and fed.

Veterinarian of Record Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_