



Coastal Vets

COASTAL VETERINARY SERVICES LTD.

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CALF MANAGEMENT TIPS

Shed

- Max of 10-20 calves per pen (1.5m² per calf = 15-24m² pen size)
- All in all out system – calves start and finish in the same pen and don't mix pens
- Keep shavings 200-300mm deep and don't allow them to become soiled: top up as required
- No free lying water, mud, drains or effluent near the sheds
- Spray pens twice a week with antibacterial and antiviral product (e.g. Sterigene)
- Always scrub hands, boots and leggings in a tub of clean water and disinfectant when entering sheds and moving between pens
- Keep Bobby calf pen away from the replacements
- Clean and disinfect the calf trailer daily

Calves

- **Pick up** calves twice a day from the paddock
- Spray all navels with Iodine tincture before being placed in trailer and again on entry to calf pen
- **It has been shown that up to 50% of calves fail to get enough colostrum from their mothers**
- First milking colostrum = Gold
 - Calves are born without antibodies due to the separation of the maternal and foetal blood supplies in the placenta of the cow. Colostrum has high levels of antibodies and high energy levels and vitamins. The intestine of the newborn calf is only able to absorb this colostrum for around 24 hours following birth and it's absorbed far better within the first 6 hours after birth.
 - New calves tube fed or bottle fed 2 litres in the first 6 hours of life = on entry into shed
 - Total of 4 litres in first 12 hours (10% of the calf's body weight within 12 hours of birth)
 - Use clean buckets with lids to collect and store for short periods
- Second milking to Eighth milking colostrum
 - Store in a clean vat and always stir
 - Don't mix antibiotic milk in this vat
 - Keep feeding colostrum to calves for at least 4 days (2 weeks if using rotavirus vaccination)
- Ensure calves always have access to fresh drinking water, hay/straw, and Optiguard; offer meal from one week of age
- Isolate and treat sick calves as quickly as possible and spray sick pen every day
- Ensure feed changes are made gradually over 3 or more days, monitor the calves for nutritional "white" scours/over feeding

On a farm that routinely vaccinates for Rotavirus, drenching newborn calves with first milking colostrum is an important step in protecting these calves.