

Hygiene & Facility Check

Stay Safe

Personal hygiene is important when working with animals. Avoid eating and drinking while you are working with the calves.

Wash your hands

Make sure you are careful to wash your hands **before** and **after** you have been in contact with the calves:

- Rinse your hands with running water.
- Apply soap and lather vigorously.
- Dry hands thoroughly with fresh paper towel or air dry.

It is preferable that you do not 'KISS' the calves – keep personal hygiene in mind!

Facilities

Keep your calves safe: What do they need? What sort of facilities do your calves require to keep safe, warm and healthy? Use these learnings as part of your research.

Please ask your farmer to write down the feeding ratios for the calves...

- Milk powder formula _____
- Water requirements _____
- Calf meal ration _____
- Farmer contact number _____

NOTE: If a vet is required, approval of vet expenses must be authorised by calling 03 5659 4219.

Facilities for Calf Rearing

- Fenced, secure area (calves don't need access to a paddock).
- Protected area that is warm and dry (covered).
- Access to clean water.
- Storage area for supplies.
- Separate facilities – removed from any other farm animals.
- Clean of rubbish (remember the calves will chew anything!).

It is important to keep the calves in a similar environment with the same feeding regime that they have had at home.



Health Check

If you have any questions or concerns about your calves please give your farmer a call!



Emergency procedures

The order of contact for schools in case of animal husbandry questions are:

1. Farmer
2. Project Manager/s
3. Veterinary Surgeon

What's normal?

Eyes Bright, alert
Not sunken
50 breaths per minute for 14-day-old calves

Breathing 37 breaths per minute for 35-day-old calves
Calm, rhythmic breathing, not laboured
No rattles, gurgles or raspy sounds

Ears Perky
Not droopy

Muzzle Warm (not hot) and wet to touch

Coat Clean and shiny
Quickly returns to a flat position when you pinch a bit of skin near the ribs and twist it 90 degrees

Navel Dry
No signs of swelling

Behaviour Running around the pen
Bellowing, particularly close to feed times
Strong suck, aggressive feeder
Sucking items in its environment
Resting in a curled position with feet tucked under and heads back along the body, often about an hour after feed time
Gets up immediately with prodding
Calves that are ill will be slow to rise

Manure Soft but formed
Colour will vary with diet from milky to brown
Free from blood
Not watery or very loose
Not hard
No straining when manure is passed

Holstein/Jersey Growth Rates 0.1-0.2 kg/day at 1-2 weeks
0.5-0.7 kg/day at 3-5 weeks