

Selecting Sanitation Procedures For Preweaned Calves: A Checklist

Have you selected the appropriate procedures? Do they provide the opportunity for your calves to be healthy and to grow into their genetic potential?

Let's consider how you decide which procedures to use. Compare your decisions with the standards in this checklist. When making this evaluation I like to use these scores: 1=never done this, 2=have started to do this, 3=have completed this.

- _____ 1. At each point of pathogen exposure (calving, calf housing, colostrum, milk replacer), I have identified the primary **parasitic** pathogens that threaten calf health at my business. (See list of pathogens at the bottom of this page.)
- _____ 2. At each point of pathogen exposure (calving, calf housing, colostrum, milk replacer), I have identified the primary **bacterial** pathogens that threaten calf health at my business.
- _____ 3. At each point of pathogen exposure (calving, calf housing, colostrum, milk replacer), I have identified the primary **viral** pathogens that threaten calf health at my business.
- _____ 4. Working with my veterinarian and/or my advisor on sanitation, I have identified procedures to reduce pathogen exposure at **calving**.
- _____ 5. Working with my veterinarian and/or my advisor on sanitation, I have identified procedures to reduce pathogen exposure in **calf housing**.
- _____ 6. Working with my veterinarian and/or my advisor on sanitation, I have identified procedures to reduce pathogen exposure in **colostrum**.
- _____ 7. Working with my veterinarian and/or my advisor on sanitation, I have identified procedures to reduce pathogen exposure in **milk/milk replacer**.

Consult with the farm veterinarian for the best local information regarding pathogens.

Common parasitic pathogens: *Coccidia*, *Cryptosporidia*, and *Giardia*

Common bacterial pathogens: Staph species, Strep species, gram positive Bacillus, coliforms including *E. coli*, salmonella, and clostridial bacteria, Pasteurella Multocida, Mannheimia Haemolytica and *Mycoplasma* (the last is not actually a bacteria).

Common viral pathogens: IBR, PI3, BRSV, and BVD

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For Calves with Sam blog go to dairycalfcare.blogspot.com

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