

Calf Risk Assessment Checklist

1. Calving Area

- **Cleanliness of the calving area**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(clean, dry, well-bedded, bedding changed regularly)

- **Frequency of calving area observation**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(heifers and cows are monitored, dystocia cases are assisted)

- **Post delivery procedures**

- **Prompt removal of calf from contaminated surroundings**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(calving pen, dirty dam, adult cow manure, and air-borne pathogens)

- **Navel dipped with 7% tincture of iodine**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(timing, tincture used, redipping as needed)

2. Colostrum management

- **Colostrum feeding schedule delivers 150g IgG within 12 hours**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(1st feeding ASAP, quantity is related to quality & timing)

- **Colostrum quality is monitored regularly**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(Colostrometer)

- **Colostrum bacteria content is monitored regularly**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(quantity & species of bacteria, coliform count < 5,000 cfu/ml)

- **As needed, only colostrum from disease-free cows is fed**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(Johne's, BVD, salmonella, mycoplasma)

- **As needed, colostrum is chilled and stored properly to preserve quality**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(clean, chilled, bacteria count monitored regularly)

- **Colostrum is warmed correctly and fed at calf's body temperature**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(thawing frozen, warming, feeding temperature monitored)

- **Immunoglobulin (IgG) absorption is monitored regularly**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(written records kept on BSTP values of sampled calves)

- **Colostrum supplements and or replacers are used properly**

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor
(manufacturer's mixing instructions followed, given ASAP after birth)

3. Housing environment

Housing minimizes spread of pathogens from calf to calf

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(individual pens or hutches, minimal contact, or small pen size)

Housing minimizes exposure to moisture and manure to keep calves hair coat clean and dry

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(dry bedding, enough bedding, clean bedding, minimizes MUD exposure)

Housing minimizes exposure to airborne pathogens

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(low ammonia levels, minimal exposure to adult cow air)

Housing is free of drafts

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(calves are not hunched up, hair coat on end, shivering)

Housing minimizes passing pathogens from one generation to the next

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(at least one week between calves, cleaned with 160 plus water)

Good biosecurity practices are followed consistently

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(clean clothes, boots, hands; sick calves separated, sick calves cared for last, gloves for sick calves)

4. Nutrition

Free choice clean water is provided for all calves all the time

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

Feeding program provides adequate energy levels

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(energy adjusted to deal with stresses of heat, cold, changing weather, sickness, and for developmental needs)

As needed, waste milk feeding practices minimize bacterial exposure

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(monitor bacteria levels)

Equipment cleaning procedures minimize bacterial exposure

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(feeding equip. scrubbed and allowed to dry between every feeding)

Milk or milk replacer is prepared consistently every feeding

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor

(consistent feeding temperature, consistent dry matter content)

Calves are fed at the same time each day, youngest to oldest

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Poor