

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, hard-calving 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, 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 200g IgG within 6 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, Brix refractometer)

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 or small group pens)

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)

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 70°C 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

Ad lib 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 or pasteurize)

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

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